



## Parish Update #30 - Christmas Service Changes

Dear Parishioners:

The return to expanded restrictions announced by Public Health on Monday, Dec. 13 is the reason for this second Christmas communication by the parish. **The Christmas plan agreed to by your Parish Council and released by us in early December is now no longer possible.** The parish Wardens and Rector met on Monday evening and decided on this Plan B. When gathering limits and physical distancing come into effect on Friday, Dec. 17, we will return to worship by invitation only. We will return to assigned seating and the delivery of the sacrament to you in your seats. We will return to singing with our musicians only, as we are not able to physically distance our choir. This will continue until further notice.

The following will be the plan for the Christmas season:

**Sunday, Dec. 19 – Advent 4:** Because of the short notice of these changes, we will use the standard attendance pool which was in use before Thanksgiving for this Sunday. If you were part of that pool, you will be part of the draw for this Sunday's service. You will receive an email or phone call on Wed. Dec. 15 if you are going to be invited.

**Christmas Eve – Friday, Dec. 24:** We will still hold two services of Holy Eucharist at 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. but there will not be a children's and an adult service as advertised – simply two services of Holy Eucharist. Each will be limited to the size of a Sunday service. You must register separately to attend the Christmas Eve services, even if you are in the regular Sunday attendance pool. In order to be fair to those who will receive this notice by regular mail, registration will open at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 17 and will close at 5:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20. You may phone the parish office (902-897-0566) and leave a message (if after hours) or email to [lramseyis@gmail.com](mailto:lramseyis@gmail.com) in order to include your name in the selection pool. As you can appreciate, this will be a challenge to organize at short notice, so in order to simplify the pool, you will not be able to specify which service you wish to attend. You will be notified on Wednesday, Dec. 22 by email or phone if you are chosen to attend and which service. Proof of vaccination and identification with masking will still be required to attend.

As originally planned, **a brief online service** will be available on the parish website and YouTube by **noon on Christmas Eve** for those who are unable or uncomfortable attending the in-person worship.

**Sunday, Dec. 26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas:** There will be a service of Holy Communion using our regular Sunday attendance pool. You will be notified by Thursday, Dec. 23 if you are chosen to attend this service.

For Sunday services beginning Jan. 2 and until the restrictions are lifted by public health, we will continue to use our regular Sunday pool for invitations. A reminder that you can join the pool at any time by calling Rev. Lori or the parish office.

This is a regretful development and comes at the last minute in terms of planning and communication. Many have called the parish office before these restrictions and were told they were welcome to attend. So, please help us to spread the word of the changes in our community. We know that this is inconvenient and disappointing for many people. However, it is necessary to protect our community and especially the most vulnerable in our midst. I know that you will understand what we have done. Blessings to you and yours in what is shaping up to be another strange Covid-19 Christmas!

In his peace,  
Rev. Lori