

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT OLP

This year has been a very difficult one, for many reasons, not the least of which is Covid-19. The requirements dictated by the government and the diocese have had a significant impact on our ability to celebrate our Faith. We have all struggled with attendance limitations and sanitation requirements (among others), all leading to the modification or cancellation of both liturgical and social events. Unfortunately, those regulations and restrictions will continue through the Christmas season.

Here's the situation

There are four Holy Days of Obligation that happen around Christmas:

- 12/24 and 12/25: Christmas (Vigil/Day)
- 12/26 and 12/27: Sunday (Vigil/Day)
- 12/31 and 1/1: The Solemnity of Mary (Vigil/Day)
- 1/2 and 1/3: Sunday (Vigil/Day)

We are referring to these as the 'Christmas Suite of Masses'.

We are limited to (about) 80-100 people at Mass in church, and about the same number in the School Aud (depending on the number of households that can sit together). At Christmas Eve and Christmas day alone, we typically welcome 600-800 people. To help us out, St Mary's High School has generously offered the use of their gym for our 4:00PM Christmas Eve Mass. This will enable us to increase our capacity while still maintaining all the required safety protocols. We are very grateful to Mr. Kevin Kelleher, Head of St Mary's, for his thoughtfulness and generosity in this difficult time.

Specifically, here's where we need help

Special Support ministries:

- Parking Lot ministry: Assist with directing traffic into and out of St Mary's HS parking lots Christmas Eve for 4:00 Mass
 - 10 people needed; Meet at front entrance of St Mary's HS on 12/24 at 2:30PM
- Ushers needed for Christmas Eve 4:00 Mass at St Mary's HS
 - 8 Ushers needed; meet in St Mary's gym on 12/24 at 3:00PM
- Take down chairs at St Mary's HS (from the 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass)
 - 15-20 people needed; Meet at 10:00AM on Sat 12/26 at St Mary's front entrance

Additionally, in order to meet the regulations, **each Mass needs volunteers** for the following roles:

- 2-3 Ushers per Mass: to help guide people to their seats; assist with collection; direct Communion lines
- Purification Team (3-4 people per Mass): to sanitize the seats before/after each Mass
- **Anywhere Volunteers:** Willing to work any role, as needed... the ultimate gift!

Be 'the Gift!'

We anticipate that we will need to hold as many as **25 Masses** over this time period to accommodate all those who want to attend Mass during the Christmas season. That means that we will need at least **150 volunteers** to help us meet the health and liturgical requirements for holding this number of Masses.

We would like to encourage parishioners and families to volunteer to help us in providing for all those who will come to us during this time, parishioners and visitors. Please complete the form on the reverse side. We would very much appreciate it if you could volunteer for multiple Masses across the time period, helping to ensure we are covered.

Please return your Gift Certificate by **Sunday, December 6th**, so we'll know that we have fully staffed the support roles so that we can offer the number of Masses planned.

THIS YEAR, LET'S GIVE IN A SPECIAL WAY TO OUR LORD AND THOSE WHOM HE IS CALLING TO BE WITH HIM AT THIS MOST HOLY TIME OF THE YEAR. GIVE THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME, AND LEAD YOUR FAMILY TO EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS GIVING IN A UNIQUE AND POWERFUL WAY. MAKE THIS A CHRISTMAS OF SERVICE AND LOVE, TO THOSE WHO WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE NOR BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU...

“AND YOUR FATHER WHO SEES IN SECRET WILL REWARD YOU.” (Mt 6:18b)

Thanks and God bless!
Father Dave

Father Dave, here's my/our Christmas Gift Certificate to Jesus!

Family Name _____

Contact Name _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

(please print clearly)

Here's where I/We will help¹...

SPECIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Ministry	Number of Volunteers
Assist with directing traffic into and out of St Mary's HS parking lots (10 people needed) for 4:00 Mass. Meet at front entrance of St Mary's HS at 2:30...	
8 Ushers needed for 4:00 Mass at St Mary's HS; meet in St Mary's gym at 3:00	
Take down chairs at St Mary's HS (from the 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass) Meet at 10:00AM on Sat 12/26 at St Mary's front entrance; 15-20 people needed	

MASS- SPECIFIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Date	Time	Number ² of Anywhere	Number of Sanitizers	Number of Ushers	<p>Please return to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection Basket • Online • Email • or Call the Office (683-6522) <p>by <u>DECEMBER 6, 2020</u></p> <p>Thank You!</p>
Christmas					
12/24	2:00				
	4:00			See Above	
	10:00				
12/25	9:00				
	10:30				
Sat/Sun					
12/26	4:30				
12/27	8:30				
	10:00				
	11:30				
Solemnity					
12/31	6:30				
1/1	10:00				
Sat/Sun					
1/2	4:30				
1/3	8:30				
	10:00				
	11:30				

Note: Special Christmas Email Address for Gift Certificates and Mass reservations:

Christmas2020@OLPparish.com

Purification Teams, Parking Lot Team, and Usher Volunteers:

- You do not need experience to volunteer
- There will be a special meeting for Purification Teams and Ushers on Tuesday, 12/8 at 7:15 in the church

Lectors

- Information and training meeting for lectors – current and new – Tuesday, 12/17 at 7:00 in church

¹ Volunteers and their families will be automatically reserved seats for the assigned Masses.

² Please enter the **NUMBER** of volunteers, so we have a good count. Thank you...