



Keeping Christ in Christmas – Come Home to Your Parish Family

St. Martha Parish and St. Mary Parish are providing multiple chances to *step back from the busyness* this Advent, catch your breath and reflect on “the Reason for the Season!” As you plan and prepare for Christmas, *be good to yourself* and join us for one or more of these Advent opportunities.

The Remaining Weeks of Advent *(click on the links for more information)*

This Sunday is **Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday** when we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath. Bring your Baby Jesus this weekend (Dec. 11-12) for the **Bambinelli Sunday blessing**. Please join the St. Martha Knights of Columbus for a **Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus** in the St. Martha Parish Hall. This year our beautiful, uplifting **Lessons & Carols** are *live in-person* at St. Mary church this Sunday (Dec. 12) at 1:30pm (also by video online, and later in the week on cable). Individuals and families are invited to **This Year's Christmas Pageant** on Sunday, December 19, shortly after the 10am Mass in St. Martha church, followed by cookies and hot chocolate for adults and children alike! Try visiting our **Mary's Garden Prayer Group** on Tuesday, December 21, 7:30pm in St. Mary church for Scripture readings, reflection, prayer intentions, and the Rosary. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will be offered that same night (Dec. 21) from 7:00-8:30pm in the back of St. Mary church, in addition to Saturday afternoons before Christmas (3:00-3:45 at St. Mary) and Sunday mornings (9:15-9:45am at St. Martha).

“Wrapping-up” the Giving Tree

Please attach the tag to your **unwrapped gifts**, and place them under the tree by this Sunday (Dec. 12), or Monday at the latest, to ensure there is time to deliver them before Christmas. Deadlines for **gift cards** are not as strict, but please return them by next week in the collection basket or the locked box (at St. Martha: outside the office entrance; at St. Mary: near the giving tree, or through the office mail slot).

Christmas Plans - New Mass Schedule

Health and Safety Protocols: **No reservations or signup this year!** Surfaces will be sanitized and fresh air let in, so **please dress warmly and attend in person!** Anyone who feels sick or has been exposed to Covid should participate in Christmas Mass by video ([Plainville-Wrentham Catholic YouTube](#), [www.pwc.church](#), or Wrentham Cable) rather than in person. As pandemic statistics are climbing, there may be changes regarding who needs to wear face coverings in church; we will update you on this as Christmas approaches. Those who are vulnerable or concerned about being in a large gathering are **encouraged to come on Christmas Day (Saturday)** when attendance is typically much lighter.

Christmas Eve, Friday December 24:

4:00pm at St. Martha and St. Mary

6:00pm at St. Martha and St. Mary

Collaborative Midnight Mass: 12:00am at St. Mary

Christmas Day, Saturday December 25:

9:30am at St. Mary

New: 10:00am at St. Martha

Noon at St. Mary

(Note: **no** 3pm confessions, 4pm or 5:30 Saturday Masses on Christmas)

Sunday, December 26 - normal Sunday schedule:

8:00 & 10:00am at St. Martha

9:30am, Noon, and 5:00pm at St. Mary

Reminder: Your Parish Grand Annual needs your support!

If you haven't finished your charitable giving for 2021 yet, please consider helping your parish meet its 2021 Parish Grand Annual goal. This year-end special collection helps to fund capital improvements and any shortfall in the operating expenses of the parish. Don't miss the chance to get this charitable gift in before the end of the tax year. For a video update from your Parish Finance Council, please watch St. Martha PFC Report or St. Mary PFC Report (watch pwc.church for the links) to hear the good news and our hopes for 2022!