

ST. ISIDORE PARISH
QUAKERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

CHRISTMAS 2020 – NEW YEAR 2021



Dear friends,

I hope and pray that this letter finds you well! It's now only mere hours until we begin our joy-filled celebration of our Lord's birth, can you believe it? With each year that passes, the Advent season seems to go by faster and faster, and that has certainly been true during this truly unique and sometimes difficult year of 2020. In this letter I will be offering you just a few reminders, updates, and one particularly exciting announcement for the coming year...

LITURGIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SOLEMNITIES

Allow me to begin here by again sharing the full schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, I will also include here the Mass times for the feast of the Holy Family, which is celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, as well as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday – 24 December 2020 – Christmas Eve

*4:00 PM – Vigil Mass

*6:00 PM – Vigil Mass

8:00 PM – Vigil Mass (*Celebrated in Spanish*)

10:00 PM – Mass During the Night

Friday – 25 December 2020 – Christmas Day

7:00 AM – Mass at Dawn

9:00 AM – Mass During the Day

11:00 AM – Mass During the Day

* This year, because of the current circumstances of the pandemic, we do not anticipate excessively large Christmas crowds attending Masses in-person, such as we may have experienced in past years. Additionally, every reasonable precaution has been taken to encourage appropriate social distancing and safe conditions for all who will be choosing to participate in Christmas Masses in-person this year. Even so, I have strongly encouraged our senior parishioners and any others who may be concerned about attending Christmas Mass with slightly larger groups of people to consider avoiding the 4:00 and 6:00 PM Vigil Masses this year, as these occasions have been typically more crowded in the past. As an alternative, I have suggested that such individuals might consider attending the 10:00 PM Vigil Mass or the any of

the three Masses of Christmas Morning, which have customarily had significantly lighter attendance in previous years.

Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday after Christmas)

Saturday – 26 December 2020

5:00 PM – Anticipated Mass

Sunday – 27 December 2020

7:00 AM – Mass

9:00 AM – Mass

11:00 AM – Mass

1:00 PM – Mass (*Celebrated in Spanish*)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday – 31 December 2020

5:00 PM – Vigil Mass

8:00 PM – Vigil Mass (*Celebrated in Spanish*)

Friday – 1 January 2021

7:30 AM – Mass

9:00 AM – Mass

UPDATE OF PARISH MASS SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Looking to the beginning of the new calendar year, it is important to note that our parish Mass schedule will be changing slightly. We have already adjusted our Sunday schedule, back in mid-December, to now include a weekly celebration of Mass in Spanish at 1:00 PM. This weekly Mass in Spanish has replaced our former 5:00 PM Mass that would only take place on the first and third Sundays of each month. To be clear, we will no longer have an occasional 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday evenings in Spanish. Therefore, going forward, our schedule of Sunday Masses will be as follows; Saturday Evening Mass (in English) at 5:00 PM, Sunday morning Masses (in English) at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM, and Sunday afternoon Mass (in Spanish) at 1:00 PM.

Additionally, with the week starting January 3rd, our daily Mass schedule will be slightly adjusted. Daily Masses on Tuesday will now be celebrated at 4:30 PM. This allows me to adjust my personal day off to better suit the pastoral needs of our parish community. Therefore, going forward, our daily Mass schedule will be as follows; Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7:30 AM, Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:30 PM, and Saturdays at 9:00 AM.

It is very much my hope that our updated Mass schedule for the New Year will prove to be beneficial for our whole parish community.

SOMETHING NEW TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2021...

Now, I wish to share with you what I believe to be a very exciting announcement. For about a year now, I have been working together with our Parish Finance Council and Pastoral Council to bring to completion a plan that was started, here at St. Isidore Parish, nearly 15 years ago, under the amazing leadership of Fr. Riegler.

Back in 2006, work began on our Church campus to repurpose the simple old barn structure located near our Rectory. At that time, a three-phased plan was envisioned to bring about the restoration and renovation of the existing structure and to eventually add additional meeting spaces and facilities for the use of our various parish apostolates. By the end of 2007, the first two phases of construction were completed on what we currently call our Parish Youth Center. The final and most substantial phase of construction, had to be temporarily delayed while our parish was diligently working toward paying off the mortgage on our new Church building.

With our Church mortgage debt having been paid off in 2019, it is now time to bring to completion the work that was begun in 2006. This final phase of construction at our current Youth Center will provide our parish community with a much larger and more versatile meeting room, additional bathrooms, storage spaces, an ADA compliant ramp, and added HVAC infrastructure, etc. I am including with this letter a slightly more thorough explanation of the project and a description of how we plan to fund construction through our regular second collection at our Sunday Masses, during the coming year. Of course, in the days ahead, we would also certainly welcome any and all generous donations to help with the completion of this exciting project.

It's a particular blessing to know that we are a growing community and that this opportunity is possible because of your goodness to St. Isidore Church and because of our common desire to provide even more excellent opportunities for faith-formation, Christian fellowship, and social outreach within and beyond our parish community.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Finally, I cannot begin to express my immense gratitude to our many generous parishioners who, in so many ways have made an extra effort to support the parish financially and prayerfully during the unique and oftentimes difficult days of this past year. We are all in this together, and the Lord is our help and our strength through everything!

As I keep you all in my prayers, please remember me in your prayers too.
Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ken