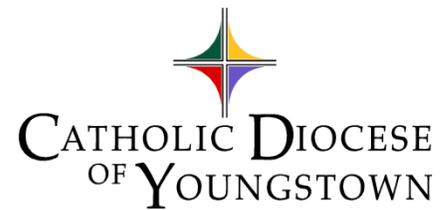


NEWS



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FOR RELEASE: Immediate **DATE SENT:** December 22, 2021
SUBJECT: Christmas Masses in the Diocese of Youngstown

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YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Parishes throughout the six-county Diocese of Youngstown will celebrate Christmas Masses on Friday, December 24, 2021 and Saturday, December 25, 2021. The Most Rev. David J. Bonnar, Bishop of Youngstown, will celebrate Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at Saint Columba Cathedral, his first Midnight Mass as Bishop of Youngstown.

Bishop Bonnar will also celebrate a Christmas Mass with parishioners of St. Patrick Parish in Hubbard, as the parish continues to recover from a January 2021 fire. (During the recovery, the community continues to celebrate Mass at the parish’s Parish Center, with one Christmas Mass celebrated in the Hubbard High School Auditorium.) Additionally, Blessed Sacrament Parish in Warren, whose parishioners are attending neighboring churches after a smaller fire impacted its Church earlier this month, will hold some Christmas Masses in its gymnasium.

In light of the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bishop Bonnar notes that “We all want to celebrate the joy of Christmas. At the same time, we need to be prudent and keep each other safe by wearing face coverings, staying home when sick, and doing everything we can to care for one another.” The Diocese of Youngstown’s current COVID-19 worship guidelines, updated in August 2021, remain in effect. These guidelines encourage all (vaccinated and unvaccinated) to wear face coverings, with face coverings required and expected for those who are unvaccinated. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the diocese’s pandemic policies have been developed in collaboration with the other Catholic dioceses in Ohio, and in conjunction with CDC, State of Ohio, and local public health directives and guidelines.

In his Christmas message to the faithful of the Diocese of Youngstown, Bishop Bonnar writes, “As I celebrate my first Christmas with you as Bishop of Youngstown, please know how grateful I am for the light and gift that you all are to this local Church and to me. I wish you many blessings and lots of light. Together as we continue our journey let us resolve to testify to the light and never stop praying: *That All May Be One*. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!”

Midnight Mass from St. Columba Cathedral with Bishop Bonnar, along with his full Christmas message and additional diocesan Christmas programming produced by the Catholic Television Network of Youngstown and the diocese’s Social Media Office, can be accessed at www.doy.org/Christmas2021/

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