



Media Advisory:

Archdiocese of Toronto Shares Faith & Hope with Special Christmas Services

TORONTO, ONT. (December 22, 2020) – In the midst of pandemic and unprecedented challenges, the Archdiocese of Toronto will continue to celebrate Christmas at its churches throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Things will look different this year but as Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, faith and hope are needed in our community more than ever.

Close to [100 parishes will continue to livestream Masses](#) (celebrated privately by the local priest) as they have been doing throughout the pandemic. In accordance with provincial restrictions for lockdown areas (Peel, Toronto & York Regions), no more than 10 people may be present in a church at one time. Parishes in lockdown regions will either be open for private prayer or offer special Holy Communion Services (short 10 minute prayer services) beginning at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve and continuing through Christmas Day, based on schedules determined by each parish.

Parishes in red zones (Durham Region, Orangeville and Simcoe County) will celebrate Christmas Masses with 30 per cent capacity while following our strict WorshipSafe COVID-19 protocols.

For in-person Christmas services, most parishes will be employing reservation systems to manage capacity. Parishioners are encouraged to check with their local church to see what is being planned in their area. Catholics in the GTA are also asked not to travel outside of their own region to places where public Christmas Masses may be offered.

Since re-opening our parishes in June, with attendance of more than 1.5 million, parishes throughout the archdiocese have safely welcomed the faithful back to church. In our own tracking and through dialogue with local public health officials, we have not been made aware of any cases of community transmission of COVID-19 in our churches thanks to the strict protocols employed.

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, will speak to the media on Thursday, December 24 from St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica at 1 p.m. Please contact the archdiocese for more information.

Christmas Schedule at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond St., Toronto):

Christmas Eve (Thursday, December 24)

- Holy Communion services (limited to 10 people per service) 3 to 7 p.m.
- [Livestream Christmas carols](#) with Cathedral Vespers Choir 7:40 p.m.
- [Livestream Mass](#) celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins 8 p.m.

Christmas Day (Friday, December 25)

- [Livestream Mass](#) celebrated by cathedral rector, Rev. Edward J. Curtis 9 a.m.
- Holy Communion services (limited to 10 people per service) 10 am. to 1 p.m.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 2 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 languages each week.

Media Contacts:

Neil MacCarthy, Director of PR & Communications
Mark Brosens, Communications Manager

416-879-2846 neilm@archtoronto.org
647-389-5050 markb@archtoronto.org