



November 11, 2021

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by again telling you how grateful I am for your support, your prayers, and your positive attitudes over the last twenty months. When COVID-19 first closed our doors back in March of 2020, we were planning for 60 or 90 days, not months, let alone years. That I would still be writing you a letter like this never crossed my mind. Still, there is much to be joyful about. Sunday's service of Confirmation brought both the 8 and the 10 o'clock services together in celebration of our mission and ministry. It was delightful to host the Bishop and to see so many of our siblings in Christ welcomed into our community of faith.

I was hopeful that last Sunday might be our last one with a mask mandate in place. We'd had almost a week in the orange zone, and things were looking pretty good. I'm not typically a glass-half-full kind of person, but every time we creep out of the red, I assume we're never going back. I've been wrong before, and lo and behold, I was wrong again. Yesterday, after almost two weeks in the orange we crept back into red with new cases per 100,000 at 25.4 and a positivity rate of 5.51%. The Restart Task Force held a hybrid meeting this morning to discuss where things stand, and we agree that A) we're sick of wearing masks and B) we should keep wearing them anyway. Additionally, we decided that before we move to mask optional worship, Warren County will need to be in the orange (or better) for 14 straight days. Groups of twenty or less can continue to meet with masks optional.

With that in mind, now seems like a good time to give a rundown of the next six weeks or so.

**Wednesday, November 24 at 6:00 pm**

- Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist in the Nave (also live-streamed)

**Advent 1 – Sunday, November 28**

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)
- 9 am Intergenerational Advent Wreath Making
- 10 am Holy Eucharist with Baptism (also live-streamed)

**Advent 2 – Sunday, December 5**

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)
- 9 am Breakfast with Saint Nicholas (seating by family unit rather than Sunday School class)
- 10 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)

**Advent 3 – Sunday, December 12**

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)
- 9 am Sunday School with Pageant Music Rehearsal for Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 10 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)

**Advent 4 – Sunday, December 19**

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)
- 9 am Sunday School with Pageant Music Rehearsal for Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 10 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)

**TBD – Pageant Dress Rehearsal**

**Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24**

- 4:15 pm Pageant Costuming Begins
- 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant
- 10:45 pm Midnight Mass Preludes Begin
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Festival Eucharist

**Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25**

- No service

**Christmas 1 – Sunday, December 26**

- 10 am **Live-stream Only** Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

**Christmas 2 – Sunday, January 2**

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)
- 9 am No Sunday School
- 10 am Holy Eucharist (also live-streamed)

**Epiphany Day – Thursday, January 6**

- 6 pm Holy Eucharist with the Blessing of Chalk

I can't wait to celebrate this holy and joyful season with you.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.