



December 1, 2020

Dear St. John's Family,

**If you are planning to come to church this Sunday ~ December 6~ for our White Gift celebration, it is essential that you carefully read the information below and follow the directions provided.** Hospitality Team members (who will be easily identifiable because they will be wearing masks with our St. John's logo on them) will be present to guide you and respond to questions when you arrive, but the more you know ahead of time, the better. ***We are counting on you to carefully discern whether participating in person on Sunday is wise for you and safe for those with whom you may come into contact. Please err in the direction of safety, and remember: gifts may be dropped off at the church this week and next week, so should you choose to remain at home and listen to the worship service that will be recorded ahead of time, you will not miss out on the opportunity to share in the spirit of White Gift Sunday.***

~ After parking your car, proceed to Richardson Ave., where a line will be forming to enter the Sanctuary via the Narthex door at the corner of Main and Richardson. The sidewalk will be clearly marked to keep folks safely distanced while waiting. If you notice the line is long when you arrive, you may want to remain in your car until the crowd thins out. Because the celebration will be spread out over a two-hour time frame, we strongly encourage everyone NOT to come at 10:00am, but rather to come throughout the morning, up until Noon. Also, please remember that **you must always wear a mask when on St. John's property, both inside and outside.**

~ Upon entering the Narthex, there will be tables set up to receive your gifts. Because we will also be voting for the proposed budget for 2021, ballots will be available if you do not have the ballot you received with your December *Enlightener*. *If you will not be attending in person on Sunday, you may mail your ballot to the church or drop it off during the week.*

~ You will be invited to enter the Sanctuary via the center aisle so that you might enjoy the beautiful decorations and Christmas music. The Christmas carols Andrew will be playing on the chimes will be audible outside for those who are waiting to enter the building or who choose to remain in their cars to listen after leaving the building. Hospitality Team members will be monitoring the crowd and making sure that everyone keeps a safe distance from those who are not part of their family unit.

**~ When you reach the Chancel steps in the front of the Sanctuary, there will be a basket for receiving offering, as well as a box for depositing marked ballots.**

~ From the Sanctuary, you will be guided into the elevator lobby, where you will exit the building into the front courtyard. There you will be able to see the Holy Family, safely positioned in the glass-enclosed elevator entrance at street level. As you move toward Main St., there will be a table on which 2021 offering envelope boxes will be available and a second table where you will be able to pick up your 2021 St. John's calendar. To avoid congestion, we ask that you NOT linger in the courtyard, but rather return to your car after picking up your calendar and offering envelopes.

***\*\*\* Persons who are not able to navigate steps are asked to park behind the church upon arrival and enter the building via the ramp entrance. Hospitality Team members will guide you to the Sanctuary and help you with maneuvering gifts and accessing the things you need to access.***

~ In case of inclement weather, you will be notified via email that our White Gift celebration has been postponed until Sunday, December 13.

While this may feel like an overwhelming amount of information to absorb, please be assured there will be many folks on board on White Gift Sunday to help you navigate the logistics and enjoy the spirit of the day. The details are important because we want to ensure that everyone will be as safe as possible as we celebrate one of St. John's longest standing traditions amid a season when more than ever, the generous sharing of our gifts will make a difference in the lives of many.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sue