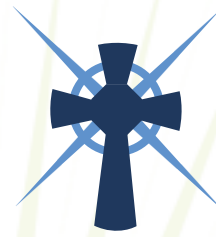




COMMITMENT * EXPERTISE * STABILITY



CATHOLIC
ERM

THE CATHOLIC MUTUAL CONNECTION

Take Care as You Prepare

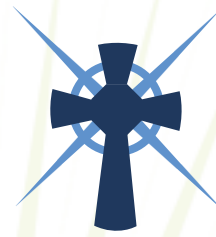
For many of us, some of our most cherished Christmas memories revolve around the buzz of preparation that Advent brings and the beautiful way we adorn our churches during this holy season. Time and time again, whether it's at Midnight Mass, during perpetual adoration or just in going about our daily tasks, it's impossible to not be moved by the shared spirit of serenity and celebration that fills a lovingly decorated church as its parishioners make way for the coming of Christ.

During this time, as with the introduction of anything new or seasonal to your parish buildings, it's important to review safety procedures, and to ensure that those who are responsible for the arrangement of the decorations and church maintenance have reviewed them as well.

For example, our [Candle Safety](#) information, which is important in Ordinary Time, becomes even more essential when you add Advent wreaths and holiday greenery to the mix. If your choir loft gets extra traffic during the holidays, we recommend taking the time to review our [Choir Loft Safety Survey](#). And if your décor involves adding more electric cords, our [Electrical Fire Safety](#) guidelines have pointers to help keep them running smoothly and safely. Before using live Christmas trees or wreaths, be sure to consult with your local or state fire authorities.

If you have questions about ways to better ensure the safety of your property and personnel as you celebrate the holidays, please contact your risk management representative.





THE CATHOLIC MUTUAL CONNECTION

SAFETY TIP

Because of all the extra people coming and going from our churches and schools during the holiday season, as well as the special collections of money and other donations, it is important to take extra measures to safeguard against potential theft. Here are some precautions to keep in mind:

- Make sure that no one counts the collection money alone. Consider appointing a team captain, who is a trusted parishioner, to oversee the counting process.
- Be wary of anyone who volunteers for the first time to count the collection money during the holiday season or other times when the baskets might be especially full.
- Take all collections to the bank as soon as possible.
- Use tamper-proof bags to protect the collections.
- Keep donated gifts for the needy locked up at night and after church/school hours.

It's Showtime

A Christmas pageant is such a special way to involve the youngest members of our Church family in honoring the “reason for the season.” Keeping in mind potential safety hazards such as slick floors, darkened rooms, bleacher seating and audience members who may be mobility impaired or unaccustomed to your building, consider reviewing our [Safety Survey](#) and [Ice and Snow Removal Procedures](#) to ensure that no one actually breaks a leg on opening night.



[To see an online version of this newsletter, please click here.](#)