

**This directive takes effect on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>  
and remains in effect until further notice.**

Dear Parishioners:

I am sure that you know that the Governor has mandated that masks must be worn while indoors when six feet distance cannot be maintained. The Diocese has issued a directive requiring that masks be worn during the duration of Mass.

I share with you how this directive will be applied to our parish. All persons attending Mass (aged 2 years and older) are required to wear a mask for the duration of Mass – upon entrance into church until leaving church. This does not apply to those who have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask.

Social distancing will not be required during Mass. Therefore, we will continue to use the holy water fonts, music, altar servers, lectors, take up the collection, have a gift procession, and exchange the sign of peace. We will use two lines for distribution of Holy Communion. Communion may be received in the hand or on the tongue. Please lower your mask as your approach the communion rail. Ropes at the pews and extensive cleaning between Masses will not be employed. The 9am Mass will continue to be livestreamed and outdoor distribution will continue as usual after the 4pm and 9am Masses. Overall, Mass will continue in the usual manner, but masks are required.

I kindly ask that you provide your own mask. Masks will be available near the doors of the church. Hand sanitizer will be provided near the doors of the church.

This directive raises a particular issue for me personally. I suffer from balance issues. Wearing a mask for a prolonged period aggravates my balance issues. Therefore, I intend to wear a mask only during the entrance procession, distribution of Holy Communion, and the recessional procession. During most of the Mass, I will not wear a mask. Generally, this is not an issue because I will be six feet away from people. I hope this does not cause discomfort for your attendance at Mass.

I am well aware that there are many opinions regarding the wearing of masks. Despite these opinions, the Governor's mandate and directive from the Diocese must be followed. At this time the obligation to attend Mass continues to be dispensed. Although the obligation to attend Mass is not in place and we are required to wear masks, I truly hope that you will continue to attend Mass.

Nearly all of us have grown weary and frustrated by this on-going pandemic. This new mandate is a good occasion to re-double our prayers for an end to pandemic and prayers for our civil and church leaders. May God's grace and our efforts bring an end to this pandemic.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need more clarification regarding this new directive. Please know of my prayers for all of you. Thank you.

Msgr. Kruse