

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church,

Please find on the next page an excerpt from the letter released by Governor Murphy and Commissioner Persichilli regarding Masking in Indoor Settings with Increased Risk. As the Governor makes very clear and our Bishop wishes to remind us: This is a simple announcement of the “recommendation that is not a mandate at this time.”

Bishop O’Connell has asked all of us to consider getting the COVID-19 vaccination if we haven’t done so already. Please remember this is a request and not a mandate.

Pope Francis recently stated: “Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love. Love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people. I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love; no matter how small, love is always great. Contribute with these small gestures for a better future. God bless you, and thank you.”

You can view a video of the Holy Father’s statement about the vaccine [here at this link](#).

Let us continue to remain vigilant, cautious and careful with respect for one another.

Let us continue to pray for our loved ones, our parish and all people who continue to be affected, in any way, by the Coronavirus and the Delta variant and those who are caring for them.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to bless us and keep us in His care.

Father John

Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli strongly recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents wear masks in indoor settings when there is increased risk.

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(You can read the entirety of the letter at this link:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/20210728a.shtml>)

Examples of such situations include:

- Crowded indoor settings
- Indoor settings involving activities with close contact with others who may not be fully vaccinated
- Indoor settings where the vaccine status of other individuals in the setting is unknown
- Where an individual is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease

“And we equally encourage every unvaccinated resident or visitor to get vaccinated. The vaccines are proven safe and highly effective, and are the surest way we can end this pandemic.”