

Good Afternoon/Morning Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the joyous and busy season of Advent, we are thrilled to see so many more faces here at Mass, both in our main church or from our parish hall while maintaining a presence of our parishioners through livestream on Facebook and our parish website. This year has not only been a challenge unprecedented in the history of our parish, but for most of us, in our recent memory. And while we have weathered the storm so far, we find ourselves still in the midst of the pandemic.

It's a testament to the faith and resiliency of our Saint Jerome family that we can gather together every Sunday and we as the parish staff and the leadership team don't want to let Covid-19 stand in the way of that. But we still need your help to make attending mass a safe and hygienic experience for all of us. We must always be aware that this virus affects us all differently and while it's impacted all of us, the way it has impacted us varies from person to person. We as a parish staff want to be as welcoming and considerate as possible for everyone to fully participate in the Eucharist as we are able.

In the past couple of months, we have taken several steps to ensure that St. Jerome is doing all we can to provide cleanliness and safety. These steps include:

- Encouraging proper social distancing efforts at all masses.
- The Use of a Mask out of courtesy and love for others
- Allowing Jordan Hall as well as the Narthex to be used for optional seating.
- After each event held at St. Jerome, including all Masses, all door handles, pews, railings, bathroom doors and bathroom surfaces are sanitized.
- Providing a Livestream of our Masses to our Brothers and Sisters who cannot make it to church in person.

We, as the parish staff and parish leadership team cannot do this alone. We highly encourage everyone who comes to mass in person to please wear a mask as you enter the church. For communion, pull your mask down to receive then replace it as you walk away. For those wishing to receive the Eucharist on the tongue, kindly wait to go at the end of the line. We also ask that you be mindful of your distance from other parishioners while at mass and to consider this when forming the communion line. If we all take the time to wear a mask, we are visually showing our love and care to everyone in this Parish family.

Most Important of all, please remember in your prayers everyone who has suffered from covid-19, those who have passed away or have cared for those dealing with the effects of the virus. Let us also remember the individuals and families who are most at-risk to the virus. It's a burden to not be able to attend mass for any reason, and those members of our parish family should always be in our prayers and intentions.

Once again, we are so thankful for your presence, in person and online and for your continued support in our efforts. May God Bless you, your family and all who call St. Jerome Parish home.