

Wear a mask and come back to Church!

[Bishop Michael Duca issued some new guidance on Thursday, April 29th regarding COVID 19 protocols in our parishes. Below is a summary of his recommendations.]

This week, Governor Edwards gave some new guidance concerning our response to the COVID pandemic. In considering these, I want us to be aware that COVID is still spreading, even if at low and stable levels, and this should be a part of our consideration when charting a path forward. To pretend that the danger is completely over could sabotage all our efforts thus far. I wish to propose a proactive point of view in moving to a more normal Church life again while still respecting the present guidelines presented this week.

The Governor has modified the guidelines for the wearing of masks in two ways – regarding gatherings outside and regarding those inside a building. Each of these is modified depending on the number of persons present and the possibility of physical distancing.

When gatherings take place outside and where there is much free space and people are able to keep physical distancing from those outside of their family/household, they should feel free to gather without masks, especially if vaccinated. When people are gathered into a small area outside where there is little or no physical distancing, masks should still be used.

Since our desire is to move to a full Church, ***I have decided that we keep the mandate to wear masks and begin to lessen the physical distancing as more parishioners return to Church.*** I think wearing the mask and reducing physical distancing as needed reflects our experience that even in parishes where physical distancing has mostly disappeared (but masks are mostly worn), the virus is not easily spread at Mass, if at all.

Bishop Michael Duca

From Fr. Yi:

I thank Bishop Duca for his guidance on this issue. While there are many diverse opinions about continued mask use in church, we will continue to request everyone attending mass at St. George to wear masks. This will not be forever. We are in a transition period where social distancing and seating restrictions have been reduced greatly. People are returning to church in large numbers, and we want everyone to feel safe and protected while attending mass. So, please continue to wear masks while inside the church and socially distance from those who do not live within your household. We will revisit this issue in the coming weeks as more and more people are vaccinated.

I am grateful for the cooperation of our St. George parishioners for your support and compliance during this pandemic. I thank you in advance for your cooperation as we move through the final stages of this pandemic.