

July 10, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As you are aware St. Louis County has issued a public health order requiring all individuals to wear a face mask or covering at all times when in indoor facilities and outside when social distancing is not possible. The requirement applies to everyone over the age of nine (9).

As the regulations regarding the safety procedures for dealing with COVID-19 change, I want to assure you that your health and safety are paramount to me as you come to the St Francis of Assisi Parish and School campus.

Beginning immediately, in compliance with the mandate from St. Louis County, we will be requiring everyone over the age of nine to wear a mask anytime they are in church. The only time the mask may be removed is for the brief moment of receiving Communion when you should pull your mask down to receive and replace it after consuming the Host.

In addition to wearing a mask in church, I am asking for all who enter buildings on our campus to be aware of the following precautions and policies:

Attendance requirements for Mass and Adoration:

1. Everyone must enter church through the front doors of church that face Telegraph.
2. We are leaving every other pew empty. Do not sit in pews that are marked with a sign stating "This pew is to remain empty." This is to provide social distancing and also to allow for the distribution of Holy Communion to each pew during Mass.
3. You may sit in any pew in church that is not marked off as long as you maintain at least 6-foot social distancing between you and any non-family members.
4. Following Mass you may exit through any of the doors to church as long as you maintain social distancing from others.

Additional reminders:

1. Archbishop Carlson has granted a general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation; therefore you are not required to attend Mass.

2. Parishioners who are symptomatic or have been exposed to another with the virus should not come to church.

3. Attendees should take their temperature at home before determining whether they should come to church.

4. Anyone over 60 years-old and those with underlying health complications are encouraged to participate in Mass via live-stream only at www.sfastl.org/live. All parish Masses will be livestreamed using that web address as well as on the parishes Facebook, Twitter and YouTube platforms. Worship aids for Sunday Masses can be found at www.sfastl.org/mass.

As we continue to navigate this challenging time, I ask that you continue to pray for an end to this pandemic and for all who have been most affected. Pray for those who have suffered economic hardship and loss of employment. Pray for the men and women who serve our community in government, in police and firefighting, in hospitals and nursing homes, in our military, in our food preparation and delivery services, for our priests and deacons, and for the poor and those most in need.

Asking God's blessing upon you, I am

Sincerely,

Fr. Anthony R. Yates
Pastor