

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

This week we received a memo from Bishop O'Connell reminding us of the Governor's announcement regarding the use of masks indoors. The announcement "recommended" the use of masks indoors when the following conditions were present:

- 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

In addition to this recommendation, the Bishop also reminded us that masks should be worn by all Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers for the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass. Hand sanitization before and after distribution should be observed.

In light of this recommendation from the Governor and the word of encouragement from the Bishop regarding the use of masks indoors under these circumstances, I wish to inform you that I have made the personal decision to wear a mask after Sunday Mass when greeting people in the vestibule. I do this for my own personal safety as well as for the safety of those I have the honor of greeting and speaking with and the safety of those they will be in close contact with as they leave the Church.

In these difficult times, let us continue to be vigilant and cautious, careful and respectful of one another. Let us continue to keep in our prayers all those who are suffering from the effects of the Coronavirus and Delta Variant and those who are caring for them.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless and protect us,

*Father John*