



Saturday, October 03, 2020

Dear Members of St. John
Greetings in the name of Christ!

Please either watch this short video or read the following guidelines regarding the protocol for COVID-19 at St. John: <https://youtu.be/0xtR2gms5MA>

With the increase in numbers we are seeing regarding COVID in Wisconsin, and the surrounding area, and with the schools recently going virtual we wanted to send out a reminder of our expectations of our members.

St. Paul reminds us, “*As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.*” (Romans 14:1-3) And he tells us in Philippians, “*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*” (2:3-4)

So regardless of your personal opinions or stance on whether to mask or not to mask – on social distancing or not social distancing – or what precautions one should or should not take; I ask pleading that you please consider your brother and sister in Christ. Consider the one who is weaker in the faith as St. Paul says. So we’re reminding all members to please help us in the following areas so that all members feel safe and are kept safe while worshipping at St. John.

We desire to continue to meet in person even in the midst of rising numbers, but that will only be possible if you help us not only be safe, but help others feel safe as well.

MASKS

We are asking that as you are able, please wear a mask into worship. We are not here to debate the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of mask, instead we are here to worship.

So please wear a mask, you may remove the mask while worshipping if you like. However, if your neighbor in the pew is wearing a mask, please ask them if it's okay if you take yours off.

If it bothers them then out of Christian love, please either wear one or move to another pew.

SANITIZE:

Please remember to sanitize your hands when entering the building and after using the restroom – and when approaching the Lord’s table for communion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION

We are asking that all youth please wear a mask during our education hour. We have seen a number of kids become lax in this area, please out of concern for your neighbor have your child wear their mask as they are able to.

Teachers will be able to remove their mask while teaching / talking – and students may pull them down while reading if necessary, but otherwise we ask that they remain on during class. Masks are available for anyone who forgets one.

SYMPTOMS / EXPOSURE

If you are showing symptoms of COVID (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) Or you have first-hand / direct exposure to someone who is showing symptoms, being tested for COVID-19 or has tested positive.

I.E. – if a parent or sibling has either shown signs or tested positive, the rest of the direct immediate family who had contact with this individual for more than 15 minutes and less than 6 feet should all avoid contact with others.

Please stay home from worship & Sunday school. And follow the quarantine guidelines as found on the CDC website.



NOT ABLE TO MASK UP

If you are unable to mask up for any reason, we will respect that – but we also ask that you please respect those who do mask up.

I know this is a divisive topic, but as St. Paul says, “*count others more significant than yourselves*”

Let us stop being divided as fellow Christians, and instead let us continue to unite around the very word of God and His blessed sacrament.

Therefore, if you are a must mask person, consider your brother in Christ who doesn't mask as more significant than yourself. And if you are a never-mask person, consider your brother in Christ as more significant than yourself – be respectful and understanding of one another, for God has welcomed us all.

Thank you!

In Christ,

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