

Dear Parishioners of St. Paul's,

Due to the highly aggressive increase in cases of Covid and the delta variant, I want to **highly recommend** that we follow the suggestions of our County Executive, our County Health Commissioner, as well as the CDC, and wear face coverings when we come together for Mass even if we have been vaccinated. I also recommend that we voluntarily continue social distancing when sitting (at least 3 feet from non-family members) and when processing up for communion. I remind you that masks **must** be worn in Deacon John Hall.

My desire from the very beginning has been the health and safety of our parishioners. This desire will continue to be the case as we move forward.

On this Feast of Mary, I want to encourage everyone to be filled with grace toward others. This grace could include the fact that you are a staunch believer in the value of a mask or face covering while someone else might not be. Your “social distancing” may be a lot different than someone else's, and we begin to become quite legalistic about the events that will possibly take place as we gather for worship.

While we may have some challenges ahead, I believe with all my heart that we are up to the task because as believers, we are filled with grace. We want this time to be a tremendous witness

to the world of how things can be accomplished when seasoned with the grace God gives to us believers.

Let us continue to pray for one another during these difficult times so that all that we do might be done out of faith and not out of fear!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Sean, O.Carm.