



## Pandemic Guidance for the Safety of All as of August 1, 2021

New uncertainty about positive pandemic trends and conflicting interpretations of data and news now require a new phase of adaptation. Parish guidance here at Ascension will be more frequently evaluated and may need to be more frequently revised. Following is an overview of the Rector's present guidance.

### Revised Guidance

- All in attendance at any mass are asked to wear masks.
- Those leading worship, including clergy, lectors and choir members, may remove masks when reading/singing/chanting and should otherwise wear them.
- Members of the congregation are asked to remain masked even when responding in the liturgy and singing.
- Masks may of course be briefly removed at the Communion rail to receive the Sacrament.
- Masks should be worn inside any part of the church but may be removed outdoors (including in the event of a garden coffee hour).
- Pleated masks and KN95 masks are available at no cost at the church.

### Continued Guidance/Restrictions

- If you are unwell, whether with COVID-like symptoms or otherwise, please return home. Ask for help if at the church, feeling unwell and needing assistance.
- We will continue to register those at masses upon arrival in the event that later notifications may be necessary.
- Please continue to observe sensible practices to protect your health and the health of others.
  - Frequently wash and/or sanitize your hands.
  - Consider your proximity to others – in the pews, during Communion, at coffee hour and elsewhere.
  - Refrain from close or direct contact at the Peace.
  - Offering plates are not being used. Please do use the offering boxes at the rear of the side aisles in the church to make your offerings to God and to support Ascension's mission & ministries.
- Regrettably, the chalice may not be shared with all at this time.

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* BCP, p. 817

### Continued Eased Guidance

#### *For now ...*

- We have resumed and are continuing in-person masses.
- We have discontinued pre-registration requirements.
- We have discontinued temperature checks.
- We have discontinued every other pew seating and limits on attendance.
- We have resumed Communion for the People at the Communion rail in the sanctuary.
- We have resumed and are continuing coffee hour fellowship.
- We have resumed normal parish office hours and operations.
- We continue to pray.

Please be patient with inevitable further changes and stay up-to-date with revised guidance by way of the weekly parish newsletter and the front pages of the Sunday bulletin.