



Hi Everybody, Father Joe here,

Now that we are back worshipping together both in-person and virtually, I want to take a moment to do a bit of coaching around our requirement to wear a mask when you are at Church and also “out in the world.” Mask wearing is a requirement, both in Governor Inslee’s Executive Order https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf and in our “Safe Church Plan” that we are currently operating under to be in compliance with all State of Washington, CDC and Diocesan requirements. Mask-wearing makes sense both scientifically and spiritually as we navigate these dangerous COVID-19 times together. The science, public health and medical community are all aligned in their support of masks wearing and that masks make a difference. The mask is not to protect us from the “outside world” but to protect “the outside world from us.” As you have all probably heard by now, this virus is extremely tricky, in that many folks do not exhibit any symptoms at all and are still testing positive for the virus. Part of our covenant to our God and to each other in following the Jesus Way is to, as Jesus said, “Love one another as I love you.” Mask wearing says, “I love you enough to sacrifice my short term discomfort to keep you safe.” I love you enough as relatives, and fellow human travelers to do my absolute best to not get you sick, possibly on my account. Mask wearing is a small thing, but like many small things, lovingly done, it can provide big blessings. You have all heard me say, “Each day be a blessing,” as the Indigenous Elders say it “Ankuntewakan.” Each day when you wear your mask, you make a silent statement, “I care what happens to you.” And Saints, in these times this world can use all the caring we can muster.

Be Positive, Like a Proton +,

Always,

Father Joe