

ALL SAINTS PARISH

WE ARE
ONE



LORD, FAITH, CHURCH, BAPTISM, HEART, MISSION.

Forming the saints God is calling us to be by providing faithful teaching, authentic worship, and compassionate service. Our faith and actions nourish engaged Catholics, inspire unengaged Catholics, and invite all to Christ's Church.

25743 State Route 1, Guilford, IN 47022
812 576 4302 www.allsaintscatholic.net

Greetings in the Lord,

On the weekend of July 25-26, I made an announcement at the weekend Masses that beginning Monday the 27th, facemasks would be **encouraged at indoor Masses at All Saints**. I made this announcement after the Executive Order from Governor Holcomb and the communication that came to us from Fr. Michael Keucher, Dean of the Batesville Deanery (statement included below).

I hope that you know that I love you all terribly. I do not desire to cause more division in a Church and Country that are already in peril. The science behind face coverings can be confusing, argued, debated and become a place of deep divide and division. This debate is causing confusion in our world and now in our parish. I have prayed about this and I feel it is necessary to be very clear about people's rights and what is allowed by law, while at the same time striving to be compassionate and understanding.

Face Mask Fans- You are very welcome at Holy Mass inside and outside. However, please be kind and understanding to those that have medical conditions or objections to wearing face coverings and do not judge them. They are at Mass for the same reason as you- to Love the Lord. Please remember that face coverings are NOT required in religious buildings, there is a very clear exemption in the Executive Order from Governor Holcomb (Number 4-o). No one is bound to wear a face covering by state or church law in a Church building if they practice a 6-foot social distance; they are encouraged and expected, but not required. Those who are choosing to not wear one will do all that they can to practice social distancing in our church buildings in order to not prohibit people from coming to indoor Masses. We live in a very broken world, please be kind.

If you do not want to wear a Face Mask- You are encouraged to wear one for the sake of those who feel that face masks are important. However, at the same time, I realize there are individuals who are unable to wear a facemask due to health issues or other convictions. It is very clear from the Executive Order that you are free to do as you wish in a religious building, as long as you practice a 6-foot social distance. So, if you are not wearing a face covering, I ask that you go out of your way to socially distance yourself so individuals who think contrary will feel welcome and safe. You have the right to not wear a face covering, just be all the more attentive to people who feel the need to wear one themselves and desire you to wear one. Please note that many people are in different places, listen to different news media, have different underlying conditions, and are at Mass for the same reason- they love Jesus. We are all in this for the Lord.

Please note, when you come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. John in Dover, please wear a facemask while entering and leaving the Church, but once you have spaced yourself away from others in the pews, you can remove your facemask. I will wear a face Mask during indoor Masses and even when distributing Holy Communion outside. I will be asking individuals assisting with liturgical ministries to do the same, in order to create a place where people feel safe and welcome back at Mass.

If you have questions or concerns please communicate directly with me. Since March 17th, I have tried to be as clear a communicator as possible. I apparently have failed in this area; I accept responsibility and blame. Thanks and God Bless you!

In His service,

Fr. Jonathan Meyer

25 July 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, Governor Eric Holcomb issued an Executive Order on July 24, 2020, which requires the use of face coverings for everyone over the age of 7 in places open to the public. Since our parishes are open to the public, the priests and PLCs of the Batesville Deanery believe that unified obedience to this order in our churches and other parish buildings is in the best interest of all. Effective July 27, everyone entering a church, adoration chapel, school building, parish office, or other parish building, should wear a face covering of some kind until the Governor changes the expected practice. Those who have medical concerns should speak with their pastor or PLC. We appreciate everyone's assistance in following the Archbishop's guidelines and the Governor's order.

Blessings and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Mike Keucher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Fr. Mike Keucher, VF