



ST. BARTHOLOMEW the APOSTLE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

After careful consideration and prayerful discernment, the Parish Staff has decided to require masks for all parishioners attending mass at St. Bartholomew's, beginning on Christmas Eve. We believe this is the safe and responsible course of action given the growing resurgence of COVID and the Omicron variant. Unfortunately, COVID is spreading rapidly across the nation but particularly in the NY/NJ region. Even those who are vaccinated and boosted have been impacted. In fact, I am currently recovering myself from it.

These are very trying times for our community and nation. But we believe it is a matter of Christian Charity to protect our fellow citizens and parishioners. We do not want our masses to become "super spreader" events nor return to completely virtual programming. This mask requirement will be in place until further notice. If you forget to bring a mask we will have them available on site.

Rest assured we are monitoring the situation and will lift the requirement as soon as it is safe doing so. We kindly ask for your patience and cooperation during this period and to pray for all those impacted by this virus.

My friends, whom I love very much and whom I feel so privileged to serve as your pastor, I pray that the Christ child be with you and your loved ones in a very special way this Holy Season. May He give you:

His **peace** in your soul,
His **presence** in your heart,
His **power** in your life!
Merry Christmas!

Fr. John J. Paladino,
Pastor