

February 28th, 2022

To the members of St. Paul's and visitors to our church –

In August 2021, the decision was made to reinstitute St. Paul's Church's mask policy. This was based upon the uptick of COVID-19 cases in the Capital Region. At that time, it was unknown how long this policy would remain in place.

It's been six months since then, and during that time we have seen COVID-19 cases rise and drop several times. However, statistics have confirmed infection rates are on a downward trend with vaccination/booster rates continuing to increase.

In response to the Governor's mask mandate expiring in early February 2022, the Standing Committee of the Albany Episcopal Diocese supported individual congregations determining the best way forward with COVID-19 protocols. With that, St. Paul's Church has decided to loosen their mask requirement.

Effective March 1st, 2022, St. Paul's COVID-19 protocols are now as follows:

- Fully vaccinated parishioners will no longer be required to wear a mask while within St. Paul's Church buildings.
- Masks are still mandatory however for those who are not fully vaccinated and boosted.
- The procedure for bread-only communion from the center isle with usher(s) administering hand sanitizer will continue.
- The exchange of peace will continue to be non-contact.
- The offertory plate will remain at the rear of the Church.
- Parishioners may elect to continue the use of a mask, social distance or follow other safety procedures. Please respect their decision!

On behalf of Father John Scott, Wardens Jeff Vunck and Kelly Dalton, we would like to extend our thanks to the members and visitors of St. Paul Church for their understanding, compliance, and support of these refreshed safety protocols.

God bless!

Warden Jeff Vunck

Warden Kelly Dalton