

15 December 2021

Dear friends,

As promised in the letter we sent to you last month, the clergy and Vestry of St Thomas's continue to monitor public health conditions to safeguard those attending worship and other church events. Like many of you, we have watched the spread of the Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19 with concern, and have looked ahead to the possibility that the combination of colder weather (with more indoor events) and the holidays (with more events in general) will fuel another wave of illness.

To respond to these concerns, the Vestry at its December meeting voted to make the **wearing of face coverings mandatory at worship and church-sponsored meetings**. Masks should cover the nose and mouth completely. The church will have a supply of surgical and/or KN95 masks (those that seem to be the most effective) available for anyone who may forget to bring one or who needs a replacement. The familiar exceptions – for those reading lessons or otherwise speaking to a group, small groups singing from the choir area of the church, those working alone, and while eating and drinking – remain in place.

The Vestry also voted to renew its encouragement to everyone who is eligible to be immunized to do so. All other COVID-19 precautions that are presently in place will remain as they are. Sunday services will continue to be livestreamed via YouTube for the benefit of anyone who is unable to attend church in person, including those who may be feeling unwell.

Your leaders have pledged to do everything we can to keep the church safe while also continuing the worship and mission that are at the heart of our common life. We will review our COVID-19 measures periodically and adjust as the available data guide us.

You remain in our prayers. Please continue to pray for St Thomas's and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek and serve Christ.

Peace and be well.

Father Howell Sasser, Rector
Deacon Cecily Sawyer-Harmon
Connie Cooper, Senior Warden
Jill Jensen, Junior Warden
Larry Duggan
Barbara Graham
Madeline Johnson

Rue Manning
Kristin Sausville
Cami Seward
Jamie Sloan
Philippa Sunnergren
Kelly Tompkins