

FACEMASK POLICY

(Effective: March 13, 2022)

We want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable at Advent. We also believe it's time to relax our facemask policy — while balancing the safety and other concerns of all our congregation's members, and after considering the following:

- 1) The recently updated COVID policies of our Diocese, the State of Pennsylvania and neighboring states, most nearby churches, most local businesses, and schools, and the declining COVID risks in our community.
- 2) Advent's measures to provide a safe environment that include the sanctuary's advanced air-exchange system which circulates the indoor air at least seven times an hour, with germ-killing ultraviolet light and other enhanced filtration components. In addition, when weather permits, the sanctuary windows can be opened for an added boost to air circulation.
- 3) The importance of offering multiple worship options for members who may be uncomfortable with these less-restrictive facemask requirements.

The Vestry has, therefore, decided upon the following policy:

- A. Facemasks shall no longer be required indoors, other than as noted. It is understood that this move is made on the basis that people opting to go mask less have had the appropriate vaccinations and booster where appropriate.
- B. The first eight rows on the left side of the sanctuary shall be designated to require facemasks (“the designated area”). (The number of

designated rows may be adjusted per the number of parishioners who opt to sit in this area.)

- C. Anyone (with or without a facemask) may choose to sit in any area of the sanctuary, other than the designated area.
- D. Choir members are not required to wear a facemask, but when singing should maintain a distance of about fifteen feet from the rest of the congregation. At the moment the Choir have voluntarily agreed to wear face masks.
- E. Especially for those worshipers who may be uncomfortable with this less-restrictive mask policy, we will continue to offer worship alternatives such as the outdoor service now at 9:00 a.m., live-streaming services, and recorded services available later on-line.
- F. The choir should continue to receive communion first, and at the rail, with other indoor worshipers receiving communion thereafter in the aisle at the front of the sanctuary (as per recent practice.) When feasible, the worshipers in the designated area should receive communion prior to those in the rest of the sanctuary.
- G. The worshipers in the designated area should be given an opportunity to be the first released at the end of a service.

The Vestry will try to revisit and revise these practices, as circumstances warrant. We look forward to seeing everyone's faces.

Thanks.