



## DIOCESAN COVID PRECAUTIONS UPDATE – OCTOBER 9, 2020

Dear Friends,

I know that many of you have read the October 8, 2020 issue of *Canon News* and are reacting to its various entries, including the COVID-19 protocols update requiring that celebrants wear face masks at all times. I am sure you are aware of the rising numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in Central Florida and across the state. We are joining others in doing our best to avoid the worst of a “second wave” as the weather gets cooler. From my perspective, anyone who is a part of a public church service in any capacity should be wearing a mask at all times, including when in front of a microphone. You will notice that is, and has been, my practice.

Blessedly, most of our churches are experiencing low numbers of cases and only a couple of our churches have had to temporarily shut down at times because of a coronavirus outbreak. That said, the virus has particularly hit congregations where social distancing is less possible, either because of parishioners’ job requirements or because of limited housing space. And I am also aware of a few congregations which have experienced the double whammy of unemployment among younger working people and the loss of elderly and more financially stable givers - all due to COVID-19 and the resulting present financial recession. We are definitely not out of the woods yet. So we wear masks both for our own protection and as a way of caring for our neighbors.

I know some will consider this move politically motivated. Nothing could be further from the truth, and I grieve that a desire to protect one another could be seen as tainted by political desire. Such is the horrid state of our present political life. Others might consider this move as seriously misguided. If so, I am open to learning more.

We are in this together and I certainly do not want the issue of masks, medicine, or politics to divide us further, if that is at all possible. But I bear the final responsibility to protect our flock. That is a responsibility I must not neglect.

Peace and Mercy,

+Greg Brewer