

## From the Desk of the Pastoral Administrator – August 13, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Earlier this week Mayor Luke Bronin of Hartford issued an executive order mandating that that all individuals, aged 2 and above—unless exempt as provided for in the actual text of the executive order—are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings at all times while in public indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.

We note that text of this executive order explicitly includes house of worship as being under its purview, and, to date, our bishop has instructed us to live in obedience to public health directives issued by the civil authorities in response to COVID-19.

We have read the actual text of the order to understand the exemptions, and, having done so, at All Saints Church we will comply with the Mayor's executive order, as follows:

All those, aged 2 and above, attending in-person, indoor, services and events at All Saints Church, Hartford, are asked, respectfully, to comply with the Mayor's masking mandate. The only exceptions to this will be the presiding Priest (while he is presiding at liturgical services), the members of the Choir (while they are performing their liturgical duties), and those exercising the ministry of Reader (while they are performing their liturgical duties). These exceptions are made only for vaccinated individuals, though we will not be asking about vaccinated status, but operating on the "honor system."

Please understand that this decision to comply with the Mayor's executive order concerning masking follows the guidance of our bishop, who has instructed us to live in obedience to public health directives issued in response to COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please, contact me, Fr. John Hopko, Pastoral Administrator of All Saints Church. I am the person with whom you should discuss this matter. I can be contacted by text or voice at 860-944-3486, or by email at [terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In Christ,



Archpriest John Hopko, Pastoral Administrator  
All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT