

**Dear Parish Family,**

Bishop Caggiano has issued updated guidelines in response to the State's announcement that fully vaccinated residents of Connecticut are no longer required to wear masks indoors after May 19. You can read the update on the [Diocesan website](#).

**What does this mean for us here at St. Matthew? Please read our new mask guidelines, beginning this weekend, May 22-23:**

**Parking lot**

Masks are not required in the parking lot.

**Entering the Church**

We're requesting that when you enter the church, please wear your mask until you are seated, to respect those who are physically compromised.

**Center Section of the Church (the Nave)**

If you are fully vaccinated, masks are not required when seated in the main body of the church. Masks are required for those who are not fully vaccinated who wish to sit in the center section of the church.

**Two Sides of the Church Reserved for those who are compromised**

The Choirside and Candleside of the church are reserved for all those who need to wear masks and to social distance. The choir will continue to wear masks.

**Communion**

We're requesting that you please put on your mask when processing to receive the Eucharist, if possible. Eucharistic Ministers are required to wear masks when distributing Communion.

**Use of Bathrooms**

We're requesting that you wear your mask when moving through the church to use the bathrooms since you will be passing the two side sections which are reserved for mask-wearing.

**Ushers**

All ushers will wear masks out of respect for those who are compromised.

**Parish Office**

We're requesting that you wear a mask when entering the Parish Office.

I want to thank you for your cooperation as we make this adjustment, and for helping us to be cautious as we remember those parishioners who are physically compromised. We look forward to welcoming back those who have been away, as we celebrate Pentecost, with the obligation to attend Mass returning this weekend.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff