

CLARIFICATION
Regarding Special COVID-19 Restrictions
In many municipalities and counties in Ontario

(Issued July 17, 2020)

This week we received some expressions of concern from a number of our faithful regarding how their parish is complying with government directives. We would like to reemphasize the following:

In areas where special COVID-19 restrictions have been ordered regarding the wearing of masks indoors, for Divine Liturgy:

1) All faithful must wear a mask without exception

2) In the sanctuary there are two options:

Option 1: EVERYONE in the sanctuary wears a mask throughout the service, including the celebrant, always maintaining a 2 m. physical distance between persons

Option 2: The celebrant can remove his mask at certain parts of the Divine Liturgy (as specified in our WorshipSafe guidelines) but ONLY if he is the only person in the sanctuary throughout the ENTIRE service. Otherwise, he is obliged to follow Option 1.

You must take care to be well informed of your local directives, as in some areas Option 1 is the ONLY OPTION.

3) When outside the sanctuary the priest should always be wearing a mask (eg. during Little and Great Entrance). In order to proclaim the Gospel and homily without a mask, we recommend to do so from the Royal Doors.

NOTE: If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Fr. Andrew Onuferko, Vicar General (aonuferko@yahoo.ca / 613-265-6047) or myself Fr. Zenon (holyprotection-burlington@cogeco.ca / 905-320-3974)

Fraternally in Christ,

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