

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

I have received a phone call from a long time member of the parish. He was concerned of the increasing number of people being tested positive for the delta variant of the coronavirus. He recently talked to a friend who belonged to another congregation and who told him of the number of people being affected in their church.

I certainly share his concerns. Every day we hear from the media stories of illness and death as a result of this virus. It is scary. In fact, I shared with you last Sunday that the pastor from St Anthony de Padua in Danbury and ten members of their parish tested positive for the virus. I just hope and pray that they are all better now. I would like to encourage you to consider wearing a mask when attending Sunday mass to protect yourselves and others. However, I would like to be clear and let it be known that this is not an enforced directive but simply a loving and gentle encouragement. We are told that wearing a mask is very effective protection and I am sure this is not something new to us. Some though, may be uncomfortable even with a mask. So please remember that dispensation of the obligation to attend mass on Sundays and holy days is still offered by the Cardinal and so you may stay at home and join the 10:00am mass through the live stream on YouTube.

Secondly, allow me to again encourage those who have not yet received the vaccine to consider taking this step to protect yourself and others. I am sorry if I sound like a broken record but I am just as concerned as that long time parishioner who called and shared his worries. It seems a consistent finding that those whose condition is serious enough to be hospitalized due to the virus were not vaccinated. Maybe this is a wake up call. Holy Father Pope Francis was recently quoted as saying, "Getting vaccinated is a simple and yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable."

Sincerely,

Fr. Dwight