



## SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

REV. FATHER HERMAN ACKER, PASTOR

33384 Mackenzie Way Lewes DE 19958  
302-645-5791 (C) 215-527-8571

frherman1@gmail.com  
orthodoxdelmar.org

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**Greetings to all the Faithful of St. Andrew's,  
Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen!**

In light of recently updated guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of DE guidelines and our Archdiocese directives regarding Churches, I would like to share an update on St. Andrew's mask and social distancing policy. **In order to provide those attending services with more time to become fully vaccinated, if they so choose, we will continue to require masks at all Church Services until June 13, 2021.**

*Beginning on Sunday June 13*, St. Andrew's will be adopting the following updated CDC mask guidelines. Those attending services who are fully vaccinated will not be required to wear a mask in Church. We will, of course, continue to monitor the guidance and requirements coming from the CDC and our state Government and will provide any additional policy updates, as necessary.

Also, in order to provide those who want to attend services but feel they need more time to become fully vaccinated, if they so choose, we will continue to **require social distancing in Church services until July 4.**

*Beginning on Sunday, July 4*, St. Andrew's will be eliminating all social distancing requirements during worship services. By this date, all who choose to do so will have had ample time to become fully vaccinated. Until then we will continue to have our church pews marked off to provide for social distancing. Since social distancing requirements will end at this time, there will be no more signups beginning July 4.

Of course, those who wish to continue to wear masks after June 13 and July 4 should feel free to do so. Mask or no mask, let us come together in Church and lift our hearts together in praise of the God who made us.

This approach is meant as a transition to bring us back into a more normal mode of being in Church. There may be those who feel this is too fast of a transition, while others may feel it is too slow. I fit in both categories and neither one at the same time; but keep in mind an individual's feelings should be outweighed by concern for the whole Church and not those of any one individual. No one person or small group of people can address and satisfy everyone's feelings and certainly not at the same time, but be assured that the approach mentioned above is intended for the benefit of the community as a whole.

As we move forward, please keep the following in mind. To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to protect our community of St. Andrew's, please do not attend Church services if any of the following are true:

- You are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
- You have cared for or been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. (This does not apply to health care professionals).
- You have been advised to self-quarantine.
- You are currently infected with COVID-19 or are undergoing treatment for COVID-19.

We will continue our live streaming of all services. You may find the streaming on the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC92kWjQSsteyEGIR8lNnRsA/live>

On behalf of myself and the Parish Council, we thank you for the patience and steadfastness which you have exhibited during this past year as we have navigated through several challenges presented by the pandemic. The approach presented here is intended to provide enough time for all those who attend St. Andrews to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 if they so choose before all restrictions have been lifted.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Herman