

March 11, 2022

Dear friends,

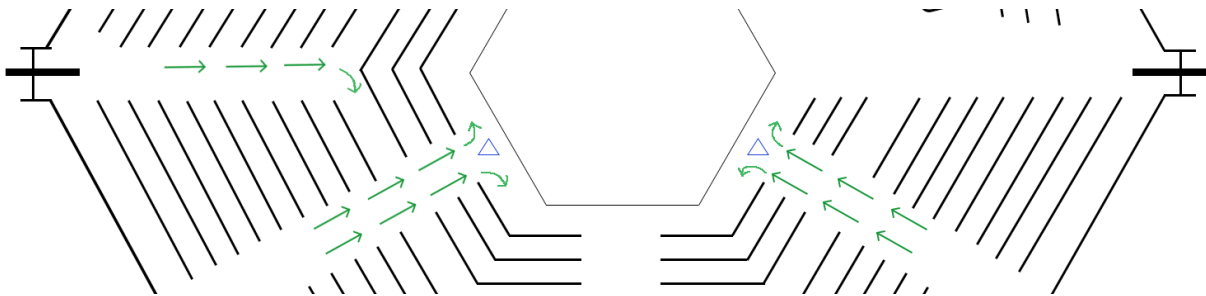
I hope you're doing well as we move into the second week of Lent. As you may have heard, **face masks will be optional** across Washington state and at all functions at Saint Mark parish starting tomorrow (March 12, 2022).

For many, this is long-anticipated and very welcome news. For others, this is a change that will need to be carefully discerned and considered. Nervous or eager, **this is an opportunity for us to take care and respect each other's decisions.**

We will continue to provide face masks for those who desire them and to reserve the section of pews closest to the choir for socially distanced seating. Additionally, whoever is distributing communion on that side of the church will wear a face mask.

**We will also take this opportunity to update how communion is distributed.**

During the height of the pandemic, I decided to move to a sort of altar-rail style distribution. This allowed for communicants to distance themselves as needed, in addition to dramatically cutting down on the time needed to distribute communion. With this next step towards normalcy, we will return to a communion procession. Distribution will still be limited to myself and Deacon Kirk for the foreseeable future. I've included a rough sketch here of how the flow of traffic that will look.



I look forward to seeing you all this weekend – masked or unmasked! Let us continue to pray that the Lord will send us His graces through all of this, especially that we may grow in unity as a parish family.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Maurer