



SPECIAL MAILING
**URGENT MESSAGE ABOUT MASK WEARING
AT MASS**

November 19, 2020

Please read this urgent message from Archbishop Alexander K. Sample regarding the importance of mask wearing during Mass.

Office of Archbishop Alexander Sample DATE: November 16, 2020 TO: Pastors and Administrators FROM: Archbishop Sample RE: Wearing of Masks at Mass

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It has come to my attention that in some parishes the wearing of masks during Mass is not being enforced. I have received multiple complaints about a number of parish situations in which persons are coming to Mass without masks or removing them once they enter the church building. We did not set this requirement arbitrarily nor for any political motivation. We put it in place because the state mandated us to do so and because the best medical evidence (supported by medical professionals, including devout and faithful Catholic physicians) tells us that wearing masks, social distancing and sanitizing are the most effective ways to curb the spread of COVID-19. We have repeatedly asked that this be done, as a matter of Christian charity and concern for your neighbor. Now I am telling you that you have the right and the duty to enforce the state-wide mask mandate in your parishes. If people come to Mass without a mask, they should not be allowed to enter. If they remove their masks inside the church, they should be asked to put them back on or leave. Failing to follow this requirement puts their fellow parishioners at medical risk and puts everyone's ability to worship in jeopardy. I must insist that you take this message seriously. We are continuing to work with state authorities to protect our right to worship. Now that I have gone public with my objections to the new restrictions, it is important that we clearly be seen to be following state requirements with respect to those things we know slow down the spread of the virus.