Dear All Saints' Family,

Last week I asked you to stay tuned for updates on changes in mask requirements here at All Saints' following Governor McKee's new mask guidelines. We have been following the Rhode Island Department of Health Covid data closely. Cases and other indicators continue to trend downward. Yesterday RIDOH reported a 3.3% positivity rate and 233 new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days. Given this promising trend and in the light of the updated State policy, we are changing our mask requirements at All Saints' effective this Sunday, February 20th. Here is our new policy:
1. Effective this Sunday, February 20th, we are lifting the mask requirement in the church for those who are fully vaccinated.

We want to encourage anyone who wishes to wear a mask to do so. You may prefer to continue wearing a mask in the church for many reasons.

The Choir may sing on Sunday mornings starting this Sunday, February 20th, masked or unmasked. The Choir may practice Sunday mornings in the church before our 9:30 Service.

2. Masks are still required for everyone downstairs including on the stairs, in the elevator, in Rose Hall, the offices, the choir room, and the rest rooms.

3. In early March we will review Covid data once again. As long as cases and indicators are stable or trending downward, we plan to lift the mask requirement in Rose Hall on March 9th, at which time Wednesday choir practice in the Choir room may resume along with Coffee Hour.

On a very different note, but promising news as well, Charlotte Burgess passed along this photo of snowdrops coming up under the ice in her yard. You may remember last year Charlotte wrote a lovely piece for this e-messenger about the annual joy of seeing the first snowdrops. I looked
up that piece and realized that it was exactly on this day last year, February 17th, that Charlotte sent a photo of the same. I include her timely piece from last year below her snowdrop photo of today.

"Snowdrops are the physical manifestation of joy for me. These little white beauties blossom in mid-February, just about the time when we
are all ready to leave behind a winter that has dragged on long enough. They are my hardy, brave harbingers of spring and I look for them eagerly every year as soon as the snow gets patchy. There are other signals that winter will not last much longer, especially evident to those who live in a more rural setting. My grandson in Maine helped tap the sugar maples on the family farm last week to catch the sap that’s just started to rise in the trees. They will boil this liquid that looks and tastes like plain water into golden syrup, a process that takes hours of faithful attention. Many look for the first robin, the swamp cabbage greening, or the almost magical appearance of silky pussy willow buds. I watch for those sturdy snowdrops to poke up through soil that is still close to frozen. They are weeks earlier than even the first crocus, and they aren’t daunted by heavy snow or days of temperatures below freezing.

I love snowdrops so much I always take a picture of the first ones to share with others suffering winter doldrums. I also encourage everyone to find a spot they’ll pass as they attend to their errands and plant a few bulbs there. You might even forget you planted them but there they will be next year, ready to cheer you as you go in and out.

On February 17th this year, when most of my garden was still choked with snow, there, in the one place where the sun had warmed the earth next to my little stone wall and the drifts had receded, was the dependable, precious white blossom just unfolding, surrounded by its
green robe of tender leaves, a lovely, tiny reminder that spring IS on its way and with it, the promise of a positive change."

~ Charlotte Burgess

As many of you know, I am having a knee replacement tomorrow, February 18th (prayers appreciated!). The surgeon tells me that I should plan on being out on medical leave for four weeks. We have engaged supply clergy for those weeks including clergy available for emergency pastoral care. If an emergency pastoral need arises while I am on medical leave please call or text our Senior Warden Musa Goll or Junior Warden Chip Smith. Musa or Chip will connect you with the clergy person on call. You may also call our parish administrator Linda Moss during office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9am-12:00pm).

Blessings and Peace,
Julie

All are invited and warmly welcomed to our Service of Morning Prayer Sunday, February 20th at 9:30 am in-person or Zoom.

Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKekorMGVzMFEEc1FiUT09
Meeting ID: 854 8400 6164
Password: 674674

Service Program Link:

Our Services are also live streamed through our Facebook page.

Notes from the Music Program

Choir will resume singing this Sunday. Rehearsals are expected to resume on March 9th.
Outreach News

The next Outreach meeting is this Sunday, February 20th in the church following the 9:30 am Service. You may join in-person or Zoom. If you wish to participate via Zoom, simply remain on Zoom after the Service.
All Saints' Snow Policy

If the city of Providence declares a parking ban or the State of RI declares a weather emergency urging people to stay off the roads, our 9:30 a.m. Sunday service will be canceled.

We will post a cancellation notification on our website and our Facebook page.
Our Wednesday Bible Study is on pause until March when we will begin a Lenten Book, *The Hope of Glory* by Jon Meacham. Linda still has a few copies in the office if you'd like one.

In the meantime, we have decided on name change for the Bible Study. As you can see from the above book, our focus is not exclusively the Bible although we will spend a lot of time with scripture.

Why is the name important to us? We have been meeting each Wednesday for over a year now. We want the name of the group to reflect our purpose and be an open invitation to anyone who wishes to drop in for a short time (perhaps a few weeks) or a longer time. Several names
were proposed such as Faith Journeys, Walking in Faith, All Saints' Goodreads, and "I don't know".

We decided that "Faith Inquirers" is most expressive of us as we delve more deeply into Holy Scripture and take up other readings. We see our weekly reading and discussions as a shared inquiry and exploration of our faith as we seek to deepen our relationship with God, in Christ, and with one another. We invite you to join us on Wednesdays at noon. You may wish to participate in-person or via Zoom. We resume weekly discussions on Wednesday, March 23.

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**Food Collection**

Each week All Saints’ collects food to be distributed monthly to food pantries in our area. We welcome donations of any pre-packaged, non-expired food. Thank you for your generosity!

- February: Peanut Butter
Upcoming Events

**February 20:** Outreach meeting, in-person/Zoom

**February 18 through March 18:**
Rev. Julie is on medical leave
We have engaged supply clergy for those weeks including clergy available for emergency pastoral care.
If an emergency pastoral need arises while Rev. Julie is on medical leave, please call or text our Senior Warden Musa Goll (401-265-4866) or Junior Warden Chip Smith (401-556-0036).
Musa or Chip will connect you with the clergy person on call.
You may also call our parish administrator Linda Moss (401-751-1747) during office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9am-12pm).
PRAYERS

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Gus, Marie, Trish, Victor, Rose, Marisa, Susan, Pam and Gloria.
We also pray for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Mary Tryforos, Margaret Barney, Michael Blake, Clarence Scott, Germaine, Naida Thomas, Merynn Flynn, Karen L., Stephen, Barbara K., Rena, David, Frank, and Lusaynie Sirleaf.

We pray for those we love, but see no longer especially Richard J. Northrop who died this week. Grant them your peace. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We pray for all who work for peace and members of our armed forces.

We pray for those who celebrate birthdays this week especially Anne Tait.

Share All Saints’ With Friends
SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 20, 2022
Morning Prayer
Officiants: Musa Goll, Eric Hirsch
First Reading: Proverbs 1:20-33 Deirdre Greelish
Second Reading: Mark 10:35-45 Dan Mechnig
Prayers: Eric Hirsch

February 27, 2022
First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35 April Donahower
Response: Psalm 99
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4,4:2 Janelle Evans
Prayers: Rosetta Evans

March 2, 2022
Ash Wednesday
First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 Monika Kraemer
Response: Psalm 103:8-14
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Barbara Badio
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Rev Bill Locke
Publishing information:

The next regular edition of the e-messenger will be emailed on Thursday, February 24th. Please submit any articles or info you may have to allsaintsprovidence@gmail.com

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Diocese of RI · The Episcopal Church

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Dr. Barry Turley, Director of Music  
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allsaintsprovidence@gmail.com

The Vestry:

**Senior Warden**  
Musa Goll

**Finance Chair**  
Dan Mechnig

**Junior Warden**  
Chip Smith

**Members**  
Rosetta Evans  
Charlotte Burgess  
Pattie Marshall  
Theo Muhlenburg  
Gloria Perry  
Elizabeth Toby

**Treasurer**  
Becky Silliman
Clerk
Anne Tait

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