

Hello and Merry Christmas!

For the past week, the daily count of new COVID-19 cases in Duval County has been rapidly increasing. We are now at the point where I regretfully must declare that a mask requirement for all people - regardless of vaccination status - as well as social distancing, again is in effect for Saint Marks and will remain in effect until Duval County no longer has a substantial threat for transmission of COVID-19.

This decision is in accordance with the policy adopted by the church Council on November 3, which requires us to follow the recommendation of the Center for Disease Control. The CDC's recommendation is based on statistics which are updated and published online daily. Please be assured that I monitor these statistics every day and I will declare an end to the mask and social distancing requirement for those who are vaccinated as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

I share in your disappointment that this is happening shortly before Christmas Day, but we are celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus! I trust that nothing will dampen our spirit and enthusiasm for the message of hope and the promise of salvation for all of those who believe. I look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve but if you can't be with us in person, please stay safe and join us online.

Peace!

Ray Booth
Congregation President