

COVID-19 Protective Face Mask Project at St. Stephen Church  
Winter Springs, FL  
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The only thing consistent these past few weeks has been constant change as we all experience this pandemic. The St. Stephen Face Mask project started with a conversation our pastor, Fr. John Bluett had with Todd Husty, Seminole County Medical Director who shared the critical need for protective face masks for our local medical personnel. Fr. John tends to move into action quickly when a need arises. Within 24 hours, I received a call from Fr. John as did others in leadership roles within our parish with the details of the project and the final instruction of, "We need all boots on the ground and as Nike says, *Just Do It.*"

After the phone call, I immediately sent out all the details with the link to the YouTube video asking for those who were willing to donate, cut fabric, cut cord or sew to reply and let me know what task they were willing to do. Many of us began the same day with visits to our local fabric/craft stores and dusting off our sewing machines. Within 48 hours I had replies from over 20 Blessed Sacrament Associates and LITE team members who were donating materials, offering to cut the fabrics and elastic cording, while others were willing to sew. My front porch settee became a safe pick-up and drop-off site.

Since we began this project with our first outbound email on [Sunday March 22](#), we have produced over 1500 masks along with others from our parish. To date, we have donated masks to Seminole County medical personnel, Pathways to Care residents and staff, Catholic Charities of Central Florida, local area senior living facilities, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and a local fire department. We are continuing to sew masks and won't stop until there is no longer a need for these washable fabric masks.

Fr. George Dunne, s.s.s, mentioned recently, "As we face this crisis together we are all asked to play our part for the greater good of the world wide community of God's children." This is one way that some of us have responded.

There are many instructional videos online, the one we are following is at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9RWI12-5\\_4&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9RWI12-5_4&app=desktop)

The measurements for the materials we used: Cut 1 panel of 100% cotton fabric 9 ½" x 7 ½" and 2 pieces 5" x 7", non-woven interfacing fabric cut to 4" x 6" to fit inside after you finish the sewing of the mask as shown in the 3.5 minute video. Cut the elastic cording in 10" lengths.