



## Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis

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### **Area Faith Leaders Tout Vaccination as Quickest Path to Gathering Safely, Serving, and Protecting Others Amid Covid-19**

*Faith leaders join to encourage worshippers of all faiths to protect families, neighbors, and communities by getting vaccinated in public service announcement.*

ST. LOUIS – Area faith leaders—including Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis—join to encourage vaccination among St. Louis area worshippers. In an approximately 2.5-minute [video](#), various leaders tout vaccination as the quickest, safest way to come back together, serve one another, and protect others.

“Vaccination means freedom,” says Rev. Rodrick Burton, Senior Pastor of New Northside Missionary Baptist Church, “freedom to serve your community, to interact in community, to protect other people.”

The video includes Archbishop Rozanski (the Archdiocese of St. Louis), Rev. Burton (New Northside Missionary Baptist Church), Rabbi Amy Feder (Temple Israel; St. Louis Rabbinical & Cantorial Association), Imam Muhamed Hasic (Islamic Community Center), Rev. Gabrielle NS Kennedy (Buren Chapel AME Church; Faith & For the Sake of All).

“We know that all religions exist so they can help us figure out how to live in a just and healthy society together,” said Rabbi Feder.

Religious communities have an important role to play in overcoming the different barriers to getting vaccinated. The religious representatives offer a safe return to practices, rituals, and community as motivation for unvaccinated worshippers. The video urges viewers to find out more about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and where to get it at [MOStopsCovid.com](http://MOStopsCovid.com).

“[By getting vaccinated] we are looking out not only for self, but looking out for neighbor,” says Archbishop Rozanski.

The video will be distributed to religious communities throughout the St. Louis metro area and broadcast on social media platforms, with emphasis on houses of worship in areas of St. Louis City and St. Louis County with low vaccination rates. It is part of a larger effort by the Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis to educate religious communities about the vaccine and encourage vaccination. The effort has already distributed educational materials to dozens of religious groups and organizations in 11 different languages and created a [website](#) that includes different religious perspectives on vaccination.

Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis represents 34 religious communities of faith and conscience in the St. Louis area, providing platforms for diverse religious voices to be heard and providing interfaith collaboration through understanding, engagement, and advocacy.

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