Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate

April 10, 2020
04/004

To the Clergy of the Stavropegial Institutions, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Albanian Archdiocese, and the Diocese of New England

Christ is in our midst!

Thank you so much for your time and input in our video/phone conferences over the last two days. You called some points to my attention that helped me clarify my thinking. Based on that, I am offering these brief clarifications/expansions of my previous guidelines:

1. Clergy may perform (and live-stream, if they have the capability) all non-Eucharistic services throughout the Holy Week - Paschal cycle in their homes. They may not celebrate any Eucharistic services in their homes or churches in the spirit of co-suffering with their parishioners who also cannot receive the Eucharist at this time.
2. Laity may also celebrate these non-Eucharistic services at home using the Reader's Service to be provided on oca.org. These services do not require a tonsured reader, they may be served by any Orthodox Christian.
3. The priest and his family living in the same household -- and only them -- may serve (and live-stream if they wish) these non-Eucharistic services in a locked church on behalf of their local community. This does not entail any added health risk to the community. Nevertheless, all Synodal and CDC guidelines concerning persons in at-risk categories and church cleaning must still be observed.
4. The traditional blessing of graves that takes place after Thomas Sunday is postponed to a more opportune time later this year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

P.O. Box 675 Syosset, New York, 11791
516-922-0550 - metropolitan@oca.org - www.oca.org