

June 24, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We hope this letter finds all of you well. While we have greatly missed gathering to pray with one another, we can now look forward to the re-opening of our church for Sunday services. To that end, we have prepared the following protocols which will provide for a safe re-opening, adhering to all guidelines established by both the state of Connecticut and the OCA. It will require our collective cooperation and respect for the guidelines as listed below. While some of these procedures may be burdensome, they must be followed out of compassion, safety, and love for the members of our parish family.

- Church services will resume at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 5th.
- Individuals who are symptomatic or ill will NOT be allowed to attend services. Parishioners will be required to have their temperature taken before entering the church, and those with a temperature above 100.4 may not attend.
- Elderly parishioners or those with compromised health conditions are encouraged to protect their health by continuing to forego church attendance at the current time.
- The front door of the church will be the only door being used for entering and exiting the church, excepting emergencies. The lower level of the church is not to be used at this time.
- Masks or face coverings will be required for all attendees before entering the church, while inside the church, and upon exiting the church. Please bring your own mask. No mask will be required for children under the age of 2.
- Hand sanitizer should be used prior to entering the church, and as necessary. It will be provided at the candle desk and at the rear of the church, and in the restroom, however, it would be helpful to bring your own as well.
- If you become ill, you must notify Laura Chadwick at 203.218.1552 or lchad@att.net . If someone who had been at church services becomes ill, we will be required to notify the local health authorities and close the church for disinfection as directed.
- We are limited to 25% approved capacity maximum. Parishioners must maintain a 6' physical distance between one another in seating areas which have been clearly marked. At this time, there will not be a regular choir, but limited chanter(s) and altar servers may be included. Members of the same household (not extended family) will be permitted to sit with one another. Maximum capacity is estimated to be 40. Please

understand that it may not be possible for you to sit in the pew you are used to. Please be patient and understanding of the process at this time.

- We will be implementing a sign up process for attendance in order to ensure compliance with the limited capacity. Parishioners will be allowed to attend on a first come first served basis by reserving a spot on a week by week basis by calling Laura Chadwick at 203.218.1552 (leave a voice message if necessary) or emailing her at lchad@att.net. She must be notified by 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the Divine Liturgy. If the limit has been reached, you will be notified by Laura and you will be placed on the list for the following week unless you indicate that you do not wish to attend the following week. You must provide the following information when reserving your place:

1. Names of those in your household that are attending
2. Your phone number and/or email address

This information is essential for potential contact tracing purposes. It is also important that you notify her if you have a change in plans and can no longer attend. Walk ins will only be allowed if capacity has not been reached, and the above information must be provided. Once capacity is reached, we will have to, unfortunately, turn subsequent arrivals away.

Please Note: By attending services at church, you assume the Inherent risk that COVID-19 presents.

- Collection baskets will be provided at the candle desk and will be clearly marked for candles, stewardship and general donations. Candles may NOT be handled by parishioners; a designated individual will be assigned the task of lighting candles. It will be helpful to use envelopes/checks whenever possible to limit the handling of cash.
- There should be no contact with icons, crosses, liturgical items, as well as the priest's hand at this time. You may venerate the icons by simply making the sign of the cross and bowing toward them.
- The Metropolitan has approved the temporary practice of using individual sanitized spoons for the distribution of Communion. Father Sergei will instruct those wishing to partake in the Holy Eucharist to ensure social distancing guidelines are maintained. You must wear a mask until you are about to receive Holy Communion. Do not touch the Communion cloth or kiss the priest's hand or the chalice, and put your mask back on.
- Guidelines for cleaning the church will be adhered to.
- Until further notice, there will be no socializing allowed within the church building.

Please note that these guidelines are NOT negotiable. We will strictly adhere to these procedures which have been provided to us in order to do our best to maintain everyone's safety and well being. We will explore the possibility of streaming services so that those who cannot attend can still be included.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we work through these procedures and possibly make adjustments as needed. We look forward to seeing our parish family once again. If you have any questions or would like to assist with any of the tasks involved in maintaining these protocols, please feel free to contact any member of the Parish Council as listed below.

With love in Christ,

Bill Kovachi, 203.449.4404

Peter Dacey 203.520.4439

Bob Lazar 203.452.0002

Louise Gallagher 203.268.3803

Joe Chadwick 203.260.5059

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Cathy Hotova 203.556.4061

Laura Coughlin 203.685.3839