

COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan

FAQ's

May I attend Church now that our State has moved to Yellow Phase and we have His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos' Blessing?

- a. Yes, however there are State and Metropolis of New Jersey Restrictions, we will attempt to convey these restrictions in the following FAQs.

How many can Attend services? Who can Attend?

Attendance is limited to **50%** of Church capacity and is further limited by social distancing requirements. Therefore, **75** people are can attend. You must meet the following criteria in order to eligible to Attend through a Registration Process:

- a. Have not tested positive for COVID-19 or have been cleared by physician.
- b. Have not been exposed in the past 14 days to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- c. Are not caring for someone who has tested positive or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- d. Do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 or any other type of cold / flu, or a fever above **98.6F**.
- e. Do not fall into high risk categories of over 65 years of age or has underlying chronic health issues. (Separate services will be scheduled for healthy elderly, but with further limits on the number of attendees.)

How do I register my attendance / reserve a spot?

Electronically via **Sign Up Genius** or by telephone-call to Church office. Reservations open Monday morning for the upcoming Sunday, reservations are first come first served.

For 40 Day Memorial services, a number of seats will be reserved for the family.

How many services are there each week?

- a. We will have at least 2 services per week: Sunday, and at least 1 Liturgy during the week.

I am over 65 years old, can I attend services?

- a. As people over 65 are considered high risk, we will offer a special service during the week for healthy seniors meeting all the other criteria.
- b. The number of people attending these services will be further reduced and seating arrangements will have additional social distancing measures.

What if I need a ride to Church?

- a. Do not use a ride sharing service.
- b. Please make arrangements with another Parishioner or call the Church office.

Do I need to wear a mask?

- a. You are required to put on your mask before entering the Narthex, and to keep your mask on at all times.
- b. The only time you may remove your mask is to receive Holy Communion.

What will happen if I show up and don't have a reservation?

- a. You will not be permitted to attend the services that day.

What do I need to do when I get to Church?

- a. Put on your mask.
- b. Your temperature will be taken outside the by non-contact thermometer. If you have a temperature above **98.6F**, you will not be able to enter the Church.
- c. Enter the Narthex and complete your registration with the PC member there. This includes certifying that you *still* meet all the attendance criteria.

What door do I use?

- a. The only entrance is through the front door. All other doors are either *emergency exits only* or are closed as normal.

How do I make a donation?

- a. No cash is to be exchanged, any donations should be made electronically via *Give+* or should be brought in a sealed envelope and placed in the basket.

Will I be able to light a candle?

- a. Yes, you will be handed a candle by the PC member that you can then light.

Will I be able to kiss the icons?

- a. You should venerate the icons *without* touching them.

Where do I sit in Church?

- a. There are designated pews and seating locations, please sit in the general area as directed by a PC member or Usher.
- b. Only 2 people allowed per pew, only every other pew is available.

Can I sit with my family?

- a. There is a separate family seating area.
- b. Immediate family members that live together may sit together without social distancing.
- c. Families must be socially distanced from each other in separate pews.

Am I allowed to sing along during hymns?

- a. No singing is permitted.

What if I need to use the restroom while at Church?

- a. You may leave your seat to use the restrooms, only the restrooms on the main floor are available.
- b. Only one person allowed in the restrooms at a time.
- c. Please wash your hands when finished.
- d. Please return to your seat immediately without walking through other parts of the facility.

How do I receive Holy Communion?

- a. Holy Communion will be offered in the traditional manner.
- b. Please remain seated *until* the Usher lets you enter the isle, *or until* any persons seated in the pews in front of you have received Communion.
- c. If standing in line, *stay 6 feet apart* as per the lines on the floor.

How do I receive Andithoron, the blessed bread at the end of Liturgy?

- a. At the end of the Liturgy please *remain seated until* the pews in front of you are emptied.
- b. Andithoron will be available on trays in *individual packages*, please only touch the package you are taking.

Will there be coffee hour?

- a. There is no coffee or social activity after the service.
- b. All parishioners are asked to exit the Church directly *without* lingering outside or in the parking lots.

How will memorial services be handled? Who can attend?

- a. Seats will be reserved for family members holding 40-D Memorial Services.
- b. Memorial services commemorating longer periods will be scheduled after restrictions are lifted.

How will funerals be handled?

- a. Funerals will be held in the Church for immediate family only.

Will weddings and baptisms be held?

- a. The Sacraments of Marriage and Baptism *will not* be scheduled until *only* after restrictions are lifted.

How are 40 day baby blessings held?

- a. 40-D Churchings are allowed to be scheduled *only* during the week.
- b. *Only* parents will be permitted to attend.

Can I schedule confession with Father John?

- a. Yes, to be coordinated between yourself and Father John with appropriate social distancing measures.

Will Divine Liturgy still be broadcast once we start allowing people to attend?

- a. Yes, we will continue to live stream all services even after restrictions are lifted, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos.

How long will the restrictions last?

- a. The restrictions will remain in place into the **GREEN** phase. Some restrictions, such as the number of people able to attend services, will be relaxed as we enter the **GREEN** phase, these will be communicated when appropriate.

When will other Church Ministry Activities such as bible study resume in person?

- a. We anticipate in-person Ministry Activities will be able to resume as we enter the **GREEN** phase, however there will still be limits on the number of people attending any event and directives from our Metropolis.
- b. Social distancing measures and wearing of masks will remain in place as recommended by public health officials.

When will Social Activities resume in person?

- a. We anticipate in-person social activities will be able to resume as we enter the **GREEN** Phase, however there will still be limits on the number of people attending any event and directives from our Metropolis.
- b. Social distancing measures and wearing of masks will remain in place as recommended by public health officials.

Key Guidelines

- To attend services, you must not have tested positive for COVID-19 or you have been cleared by a physician.
- You must not have been exposed in the past 14 days to anyone who tested positive.
- You must not be caring for someone testing positive or with symptoms of COVID-19.
- You must not have symptoms or a fever.
- You are not in a high-risk age group (over 65) or have an underlying chronic health condition.
- You will have to check in before entering the Church and your temperature will be checked. Those with a fever will be prohibited from entering.
- You must wear a mask at all times and follow all the social distancing guidelines of the Church's Plan, which limits where you may sit. There are designated areas for Family seating and Individual seating.
- There is no coffee hour or social gathering after Liturgy; the Social Hall and most of the facility will be closed to Parishioners.