

## COVID 19 PARISH SAFETY PLAN

As we begin to reopen the church for services, we recognize that Orthodox Christians participating in the life of the church and the sacraments are doing so of their own free will and will not be judged for the choices they make.

The safety plan below was developed with our greatest concern for the health and safety of our parish and parishioners as we move through this difficult time. The safety plan will be reviewed and updated regularly according to the most recent mandates as required by the State of Massachusetts.

The Parish Council: in consultation and with directives from the State of Massachusetts, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), Metropolis/Archdiocese, and medical professionals: has compiled the following:

### PARISHIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Advance registration weekly to attend church is highly recommended. The church secretary is available M, W, F from 9 am to 1 pm but a message can be left at anytime. While we are allowed up to 40% capacity, with social distancing required that number will be lower.
- b) A parishioner/guest will enter the church with a mask or face covering
- c) Limit what is brought into the church ie: handbags or personal belongings
- d) Assess personal health - if you or an immediate family member is not feeling well we ask that you stay home (symptoms of COVID 19 include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, loss of taste or smell)
- e) Please come to church with a prepared offering as there will be no change made
- f) Parishioners must be open to sitting in different places in the church as seats will be assigned (Families/those living in the same household may sit together).
- g) Other parts of the Parish are off limits - only access to the church and bathrooms will be allowed. There will be no use of the Fellowship Hall, classrooms or nursery.
- h) If you contract COVID 19 - must report to Fr Panteleimon, Church Office or a Parish Council Member as we obligated to contact the East Longmeadow Health Department

### PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Parish Council members will wear gloves and masks during the service
- b) Using a touch-less thermometer, a temperature will be taken of anyone entering the church. Any reading in excess of 100.5 will be retaken after one minute. If still high, the parishioner will be asked to consult with their physician and will not be able to attend services that day
- c) Parish Council members will hand candles to a parishioner
- d) No exchange of monies during church ie: there will be no change given
- e) A Parishioner may light a votive candle or may request a Parish Council member to do so.
- f) Parishioners will be escorted to their seats and guided by ushers throughout the Liturgy

## CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Parish Council Members will disinfect the church between services as required by the State of Massachusetts - pews, door knobs/handles
- b) Air filters have been changed and will be changed periodically
- c) All doors to the church will be open to provide fresh air circulation
- d) Fr Panteleimon will wear a mask or face shield during the Small and Great Entrances as well as during Holy Communion during Liturgy, or when Father will be in close proximity to a parishioner (e.g., weddings and baptisms).
- e) The Communion cloth will be placed under the chin to catch any drops. It is not to be used to wipe one's mouth
- f) Altar servers will wear masks and gloves throughout the service
- g) Antidoron and communion bread will be placed in paper bags on a tray
- h) An easel will be placed at the entrance of the church with key reminders

## Additional Information

- 1) Date of Opening Church - June 7<sup>th</sup> for all parishioners
- 2) How attendance is determined
  - a) Advance registration weekly to attend church is highly recommended. The church secretary is available M, W, F from 9 am to 1 pm but a message can be left at anytime. While we are allowed up to 40% capacity, with social distancing required that number will be lower.
  - b) Visitors, guests or Parishioners from other Parishes will be able to participate in accordance with the State of Massachusetts guidelines.
  - c) If there is a memorial service, seating priority will be given to the family who is having the memorial. Koliva may be provided by the family but may or may not be distributed to parishioners.
- 3) Funerals will be limited to 50 people.  
Weddings and Baptisms will be limited in consultation with Fr. Panteleimon.  
Fr. Panteleimon will provide a seating chart to the family and forward a completed chart to the Parish Council for ushering purposes.
- 4) Live streaming will continue during this unprecedented time
- 5) We will have in person ministry gatherings when social distancing can be maintained safely.