



COVID 19 REOPENING GUIDELINES

Even before the Governor's recent announcements related to "re-opening the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," we have been diligently planning for the day our Cathedral will once again be open to our stewards, families, and friends. That day will be Sunday, May 31. In these challenging times, there will be certain directives that must be implemented and followed to assure the safest possible environment for the faithful to worship, partake of the Holy Sacraments (especially Holy Communion), and reconnect with your fellow parishioners (at least from a safe distance).

Christ's Holy Church and this Cathedral have existed through persecution, plagues, infectious disease, world wars, terrorist attacks, and other periods of great challenge and concern. The Church and this Cathedral stand as a symbol of faith. The Church is the place where we pray best and belong. However, in this time, and because of the unpredictable nature of this insidious virus there are directives, rules, and limitations, which we must accept in order to re-open and resume our liturgical practices in the safest possible way. These are rules (not suggestions) that we must enforce. We ask that each and every person understand and follow the directives listed below:

- According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), any building unoccupied for 7 days or longer need only receive "normal routine cleaning." We plan to go beyond these guidelines and have the Cathedral extensively cleaned and disinfected by a professional third-party cleaner. This is an extended process that will be completed prior to Sunday, May 31. From this baseline, the Cathedral will be disinfected and sanitized between each service, including high traffic, high touch areas like bathrooms, doorknobs and handles, the elevator panels, etc.
- The congregation size for any service will be limited to 40% of our Cathedral seating capacity.
- **If you are 65 years of age or older and if you have underlying conditions, or any age with known underlying conditions, you should *stay home* and continue to participate in the services via our Live Stream.**
- **If you are 65 years of age or older without known underlying health issues, we recommend you *stay home* and continue to participate in the services via our Live Stream.**
- **If you have any symptoms at all, attributed to COVID-19, you *must stay home*.**

COVID 19 REOPENING GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

- **If you are attending services at the Cathedral, you must wear a protective mask at all times** upon entering the building except for the moment when you may receive Holy Communion. If you are under medical instruction not to wear a mask, you must clearly indicate this to the “Greeter” upon entering the Church. If you are attending services with a child/children between the ages of two and five, a protective mask is at the discretion of the Parent. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a protective mask.
 - **Only the main entrance of the Cathedral will be opened at the time of services.** The Courtyard entrance will be locked.
 - **The Davis Hall will be closed and off limits for the foreseeable future.** Restrooms will only be available in the lower hall where there are separate men’s and women’s facilities.
 - The elevator will be “hosted” by a Greeter to ensure only “immediate household members” enter the elevator at any one time.
 - When arriving to Church you should venerate the icons by bowing, but you should not kiss any icon.
 - The Pangari will be staffed by one Parish Council member to assist you, as much as possible, without contact. You may offer a donation for devotional candles which will then be placed at the iconostasis by a Parish Council member. A Parish Council member will guide arriving parishioners to the Pangari to ensure appropriate distancing between arriving parishioners. Household family unit members may approach the Pangari together.
 - Seating inside the Church will be restricted to a 6 ft distance between parishioners (again defined as an “immediate household unit”) to the left and right and front and back. It is imperative that we maintain appropriate distancing at all times. Ushers will be present to seat you at an appropriate distance from other parishioners inside the Church.
 - Family members who are not part of the same household must sit 6 ft apart without exception.
 - There will be markers throughout the Church to help assure appropriate distancing.
 - Father Demetri will administer Holy Communion in our traditional manner. Do not wipe your lips/mouth on the communion cloth. The sextant will place a piece of antidoron in your hands with tongs. We will form a line for Holy Communion in the center aisle. Following Holy Communion, you will return to your seat by the side aisle only.
 - At the conclusion of the Liturgy you will exit as directed by the “Ushers” to receive antidoron row by row, standing at a distance. There will be no hugging, handshakes, or kissing.
 - There will be no fellowship hour after services.
- These rules were taken from State directives, local guidelines, and the direction and guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. Our intent is to assure all our Stewards, their families and our many friends, a safe and comforting experience in the Household of God. We want to see you, we want to pray with you, but above all, we want you all to be safe, healthy and able to worship in a manner that is best for you.

May God continue to bless you and your families!