



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Dear Parishioners,

I hope this letter finds you well in the face of this crisis. On behalf of the Parish Council and Clergy, I am writing to communicate the next steps in this process of adjusting to COVID-19. As you are all aware, there is a push to reopen and reinvigorate the economy. As a parish, with many business owners, I am certain this is welcomed news. I am also sure we are all looking forward to the opportunity to renew our spiritual health by partaking in the sacraments and liturgical life of our church as we used to.

I am happy to announce the easing of restrictions by the various authorities that will allow us to partially reopen the Cathedral on Sunday, May 31st. This is not a complete reopening and does require that we use best practices to do everything we can to protect the physical health of our community. Please also consider the fact that COVID-19 has not been eradicated. It remains a threat to the health and well-being of all of us. While we take steps to reopen and provide the services we have missed, it will require caution and understanding. Above all, it will require patience as we continue to adjust to varying guidance.

Attached, you will find the full guidelines issued by our Metropolis. I would like to highlight some of the key steps we are taking to ensure the safety of our parishioners.

- First and foremost, we are establishing a cleaning schedule that supports the cleaning of the open areas between each service. Cleaning will be in accordance with current guidelines. We have confirmed there are sufficient supplies at this time but will monitor and adjust schedules if we find ourselves unable to meet this commitment.
- We will be establishing a method to “sign-up” for specific services you may want to attend. This will be web-based. However, parishioners will have the option of calling the church office to reserve their spot. Under a limited capacity, this will be critical to ensure we are not forced to turn parishioners away once we meet capacity thresholds. It will also serve as guidance for anyone that is considering attending but unsure of remaining capacity. We encourage those that are retired or have flexible schedules to attend weekday services to allow for others to attend on the weekends. The following schedule is planned but is subject to change. The most current schedule can be confirmed on our website, the weekly bulletins and by calling the office.
 - Saturday - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am
 - Sunday - Orthros/Matins at 7:15 am
 - Sunday - Divine Liturgy at 8:30 am (in Cathedral)
 - Sunday - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am (in Fr. C Hall)
 - Tuesday - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am
 - Thursday - Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm
- We will be keeping all entry doors locked except for the side entrance between the Cathedral and the gym. This will allow us to provide screening, coordinate the flow of parishioners and

control the capacity of the Cathedral. For services held in Fr. C Hall, we will limit entrance to one of the front doors.

- We want to clarify the scope of our screening further. It will be limited to a touchless temperature reading of the forehead and verbal confirmation that you are not exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus. The threshold for temperature will be 100.4 degrees F. This threshold is universally used as a cutoff to identify a fever, which is a key symptom of COVID-19.
- We will ask for a contact name and phone number of all parishioners entering the building. This is not shared information and will only be used to contact fellow parishioners in the event someone communicates to the Cathedral that they have contracted the virus.
- All parishioners will also be required to wear a face mask/covering throughout their time in the building. You are asked to provide your own face mask/covering. The mask can be removed momentarily for those taking communion.
- As has been the guidance since we began this process in March, we are not to kiss the icons or the hand of the priest. The icons should only be venerated by a bowing of the head and the sign of the cross. In limiting contact to the extent possible, we will also have an attendant at each service to light the candles, as requested by worshipers, as they enter the building.
- The Cathedral and Fr. C Hall will be set up to clearly identify the direction for entry and exit as well as indicate the areas open for seating. We will be using a blue painter's tape as markers. We will try to accommodate for families and individuals.

Services will continue to be broadcast through both online platforms (links provided below). We ask that anyone considered at-risk or exhibiting any symptoms of sickness abstain from attending in person. We are blessed to have three priests in our community, and they can be reached at the church office in the event they are needed to visit or speak to a parishioner.

For the purpose of brevity, I have not listed every precaution. However, I ask for your continued support and understanding as we adjust. It is likely we will adjust these requirements as we learn more from putting these precautions in place. We will try to communicate as effectively as possible but ask for forgiveness and patience if we err in any way.

With love,

Peter Thomopoulos
Parish Council President

Fr. Vasileios Tsourlis
Cathedral Dean

Parish Council Board

Facebook Link:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralCharlotte/posts/?ref=page_internal

YouTube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_tj74p8QV0nyjx8TjRKILw