



# SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners:

We pray that your family is doing well and staying healthy. We miss you and are looking forward to seeing you!

The Parish Safety Team has been tasked by the Metropolis of Chicago with putting in place policies and procedures intended to make worship services in the church as safe as possible from the risks of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Incorporating the guidelines and directives of the Center for Disease Control, State of Illinois and our own Metropolis, we have established these measures to fairly and randomly invite interested parishioners to come to church, and to implement the rules needed to maximize the well-being of all who are present.

Here is a summary of the attached Attendance Policy and Procedures for parishioners desiring to worship at the church:

1. Read the attached Policies and Procedures in full;
2. Understand that the CDC, State of Illinois, and our Metropolis ***strongly recommend*** that those over age 65 and those with certain other medical conditions DO NOT attend church services because they have a higher risk of getting severely sick if they get infected;
3. If you have fever, cough, chills, or otherwise feel sick, ***please stay home***;
4. Sign up online to be placed on an Attendance List from which households will be selected at random to attend; note that capacity is limited per Metropolis mandate.
5. After being invited to attend, follow all ushers' instructions for lining up to enter, having your temperature taken by non-contact sensor, lighting a candle, sanitizing your hands, and sitting where directed;
6. A face mask or similar face covering must be worn at all times that covers your mouth and nose;
7. Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from all others, except those of same household;
8. Children must remain with a parent in the pew at all times;
9. Note the following significant changes: no access to certain areas, no antithoron, no books in the pews, and no kissing icons or the priest's hand;
10. Receive Communion as usual, except do not touch or wipe mouth on the cloth;
11. At end of liturgy or worship service exit from the side doors as directed.

We understand that many of these precautions can be burdensome and difficult and are certainly a change from our norms. The precautions and practices are in place temporarily to reduce the risks posed by the pandemic to everyone's health and safety. We appreciate your patience and willingness to work a little harder for our liturgical experience due to present circumstances.

On behalf of the Clergy, Parish Council, and Parish COVID-19 Safety Team,

Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews  
Protopresbyter

Keith Anderson  
Parish Council President

Mr. Alexander Michalakos  
Chair - COVID-19 Parish Safety Team

**A. Read and understand these Policies and Procedures and assess your ability and willingness to attend**

1. Read this entire document and be willing to comply with the directives and follow usher instructions.
2. Be aware that CDC warns that **older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions** might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Specifically, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:
  - [People 65 years and older](#)
  - People of all ages with [underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled](#), including:
    - Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
    - Serious heart conditions
    - Immunocompromised
      - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
    - Severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
    - Diabetes
    - Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
    - Liver disease

For more information see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

3. The State of Illinois and our Metropolis **strongly recommend** that those in any of the above categories DO NOT attend church services.
4. If you are experiencing fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, loss of sense of taste or smell, or otherwise feel sick, please stay home.
  - Livestream services will still be available;
  - Personal circumstances may permit a scheduled visit to your home by parish clergy.
5. A face mask or similar face covering must be worn at all times covering your mouth and nose, including by children over 2 years of age.
  - Anyone arriving ***without a face covering will not be allowed to enter***, for the safety of others present; *masks will not be available* at the church.
  - For more information see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
6. Children must stay in the pews with a parent at all times, except when receiving communion.
7. All those attending will have their temperature taken upon entry.
8. Per Metropolis directives, the Parish will track your attendance and seating location.
9. All household members planning to attend will need to sign up in advance and receive an invitation.

**B. Sign-up according to the following process:**

1. There will be *separate* attendance systems for (a) Sunday liturgies and (b) other services.
2. Follow **this LINK:** [https://ssppglenview.org/signup\\_liturgy/](https://ssppglenview.org/signup_liturgy/) to sign up to register your interest in attending **SUNDAY** liturgy.
3. Follow **this LINK:** [https://ssppglenview.org/signup\\_other\\_services/](https://ssppglenview.org/signup_other_services/) to sign up to register your interest in attending **ALL OTHER** services.
4. You will be asked to enter the names and contact information of everyone in your household interested in attending.
5. Review the Parishioner Agreement language; each adult should check the box indicating agreement; a parent can check the box on behalf of a child.
6. If you are unable to sign-up online, or if you know a parishioner who would like to sign-up but does not have access to the internet, a parishioner may call the church office at 847-729-2235 to be placed on the Attendance List. You will be sent a copy of the Parishioner Agreement, which must be signed and returned to the church.
7. Households will be selected at random.
8. When selected for Sunday services, you will receive an email invitation for the next week's liturgy.
9. You will be asked to confirm or decline your attendance.
10. Those invited will be placed at the bottom of the list for the next service, and those not selected will go to the top of the list.
11. **You need only sign-up once.** Your information will be on file and we will rotate invitations.
12. If you sign up but would then like to be removed, please call or email the office.
13. **Please stay home** if you are not invited by the attendance process; *walk-in attendance is not permitted.*

**C. Entering the church**

1. If there is a line outside to enter, please maintain social distancing; there will be cones or other markings to indicate where you should stand.
2. At all times, everyone over 2 years old must be wearing a face covering over their mouth and nose.
3. At all times, you must maintain at least 6 feet distance from everyone not in your household.
4. Upon entering, an usher will take your temperature by a non-contact method. If your temperature is too high in the discretion of the Parish medical advisors, you will not be allowed to enter, for the safety of others. Currently the threshold is 100.1 degrees (99.1 as shown on the thermometer, to which a degree is added for accuracy) but it is subject to change at any time.
5. You will then be directed to venerate icons and light a candle, if desired.

**D. Venerating icons**

1. Per Metropolis instructions, icons should be venerated without making physical contact; please do not kiss or touch the icons.
2. The Gospel will not be placed in the Narthex to be venerated at this time.

**E. Lighting a candle**

1. Candles will be already placed upright, unlit, in the sand. You may take a candle and light it;
2. After lighting a candle, please sanitize your hands with the nearby hand-sanitizer station;
3. You may donate online before coming to church through the Virtual Candlestand on the church website. You may also leave a cash donation at church but no change will be available.

**F. Taking your seats**

1. An usher will take your name and direct you to your seating area.
2. The pews and any accessible areas will have been cleaned and sanitized prior to your arrival.
3. The pews will not have Holy Bibles or service books, but you may bring your own.
4. Seating areas will be roped off, marked, and spaced for appropriate social distancing; please observe these boundaries.
5. Children must remain with a parent in the pews except when receiving communion.

### **G. Receiving Communion**

1. Wait for an usher to direct you to receive communion, and maintain social distancing.
2. Sanitize your hands at the station provided before receiving Holy Communion.
3. The clergy will be wearing masks during communion of the faithful.
4. The clergy will offer Holy Communion according to our normal practices.
5. Remove your mask just prior to receiving Holy Communion and replace it afterward.
6. Do not touch wipe your mouth the communion cloth.
7. Do not touch the communion cloth with your hands.
8. Sanitize your hands after receiving Communion using the sanitizer stations.
9. The antithoron bread will not be available following communion, nor at the end of liturgy.
10. Return to your assigned area after communion via the closest aisle.

### **H. Exiting the church following the service**

1. You will be directed by an usher to exit from either the north or the south door, whichever is nearest.
2. The antithoron bread will not be distributed or available.
3. There will not be an exit line to the clergy for individual blessings.
4. Please do not gather in groups within the church.

### **I. There will be limited building access**

1. The main level bathroom will be open.
2. The stairs and lower bathrooms will be open.
3. Please wash your hands for 20 seconds after using the bathroom.
4. The coat area, playroom, bookstore, water fountain, fellowship hall, and community center are NOT open at this time.

Thank you for your cooperation in observing these Policies and Procedures!

--The SSPP COVID-19 Parish Safety Team