

HTGOC Return To Church Process

Please find summarized below the process we have been following during our return to Church – after June 20

Before you attend Church

- To limit the number of attendees and to allow for social distancing, we have created attendance groups and assigned dates each group can attend the Divine Liturgy.
- A - L attend August 30, 2020 Divine Liturgy
- M - Z attend September 6, 2020 Divine Liturgy
- Parishioners over 65: Sunday services are open also for those who are 65 and above, as well as those with underlying illnesses. But if you do not feel comfortable to come on Sunday because of the bigger crowd, we invite you to attend the Divine Liturgy during the weekday services.
- All parishioners are encouraged to follow CDC directives, which include washing your hands thoroughly and frequently, covering your coughs and sneezes, avoiding sharing personal items, wearing a mask, and maintaining social distance of six feet.
- Church will begin with Orthos at 8:45 am and the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am.
- Please plan to arrive early and be patient. We are implementing a process that is new to everyone and may take additional time to enter the church.
- To allow Parish Council Members and Ushers to participate in the service, Church entry will be closed at 10:20 am.

Before Entering the Church

- All parishioners, except chanters while singing, must wear a mask at all times. Please bring a mask from home. If you do not have a mask one will be provided. Children under three years old are exempt from wearing a mask.
- All attendees must use hand sanitizer before entering the church. Hand sanitizer will be available in the Exo- Narthex.
- All attendees names will be recorded before entering the church
- All attendee's temperature will be taken before entering the church. If a person's temperature is above 100.4 F, he or she and the attendees that traveled with them will be asked to return home for their safety and the safety of others.
- The church door on the left will be used as the entrance and the church door on the right will be used as the exit.

Upon Entering the Church

- Parish Council member / Greeter will hand out candles. One candle per person. Offering basket will be available for donations. Change will not be provided. Red 7 day candles may be purchased. The red 7 day candle will be lit and presented by the Parish Council member / Greeter.
- Parish Council / Usher will direct each parishioner to a designated pew seating front to back.
- A basket to accept offerings will be provided upon entering and leaving church. In addition, online giving through Vanco is available. Please note: change will not be provided

- Honor is to be shown to the Holy Icons by doing your cross and bowing. Do not kiss or touch the Holy Icons. Please do not cross any barriers.
- Services books will be removed from the pews. All official communications will be available via electronic means. Parishioners are welcome to bring their own liturgy books.
- Parishioners must limit their movement in the church
- It is important that all persons/families remain in their pews throughout the service in order to preserve social distancing; that being the case, parents of young children may find it difficult to remain in their pews the entire service, and may bring their children to the exonarthex (outside) to calm them down.

During Holy Communion

- Communicants will be released by a Parish Council member / usher by pew and will not release the next pew until the Chalice has cleared. Six foot spacing will remain at all times.
- Communicants may remove their masks momentarily to receive Holy Communion.
- Clergy and assisting adult helpers must wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The red cloths will be held underneath the person's chin by the assigned adult helpers. The communicant may not touch it and absolutely no wiping of mouths.
- No antidoron will be distributed at the time of Communion, but instead at the end of the service.

After Services

- After the dismissal, each pew will be dismissed individually.
- The clergy will distribute the antidoron using a tray and will not offer their hand for reverence.
- Clergy and parishioners must refrain from handshakes, hugs or kisses
- Those attending church services in person should immediately exit the church after receiving antidoron and not socialize in the Narthex.
- Coffee hour will continue to be suspended.
- All non- liturgical activities will remain suspended until further notice.