

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

### **December 21, 2020**

Beloved in the Lord,

As per the announcement today December 21, 2020, by Premier Doug Ford, Hamilton has entered into the Grey Category or Lockdown for at least the next four weeks. In light of these recent restrictions, our Community Council met to discuss the matter in further detail. Following discussions, Fr. Elias along with the Community Council are putting the following protocols in place effective immediately.

#### **DIVINE LITURGIES**

**All Divine Liturgies** on weekdays or weekends will be conducted from behind closed doors. Only the priest, chanter, neokoro and assigned council members will be in the church. All services will be broadcast online from our Facebook live and Youtube channels. Hyperlinks to both channels are available on our website at [www.panagiahamilton.ca](http://www.panagiahamilton.ca)

**Holy Communion:** Holy Communion will be offered at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Faithful wishing to receive Holy Communion will need to drive to church and remain in their vehicles parked outside our church. Council Members will be assigned outside to direct people, one vehicle at a time to enter the church from the glass double doors. Please follow the posted guidelines, wearing face masks at all times, sanitizing your hands and maintain social distancing as directed by the markings on the ground and the instructions of the Council Members on duty.

#### **OTHER SERVICES**

**Memorial Services:** Memorial services will be conducted during the Divine Liturgy. If you are providing Kolivo from home it must be brought to church no later than 30 minutes before the service beginning. Families who wish to order Kolivo through our Ladies Philoptochos must contact the church office at (905) 385-9815 or Fr. Elias at (905) 929-9815 and make arrangements accordingly. After the Divine Liturgy, the Kolivo needs to be picked up by a family member. Said family members should be designated in advance and their name and contact number should be provided to our office staff or our priest when booking.

**Graveside Services:** Graveside services can be arranged by getting directly in touch with Fr. Elias at (905) 929-9815. These services will be following the guidelines as set out by the BAO (Bereavement Authority of Ontario) **Face masks to be worn and social distancing maintained at all times.** For more information please go to [https://thebao.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BAO\\_COVID\\_Chart\\_Nov23\\_2020-2.pdf](https://thebao.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BAO_COVID_Chart_Nov23_2020-2.pdf).

**Funeral Services:** In the event of a funeral service please speak with Fr. Elias as well as the funeral directors for details and protocols as set out by the BAO (Bereavement Authority of Ontario). **Face masks to be worn and social distancing maintained at all times.** For more information please go to [https://thebao.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BAO\\_COVID\\_Chart\\_Nov23\\_2020-2.pdf](https://thebao.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BAO_COVID_Chart_Nov23_2020-2.pdf).

**Holy Confession:** Faithful wishing to participate in the sacrament of Holy Confession will need to contact Fr. Elias directly at (905) 929-9815. Due to the recent restrictions confessions will be heard via Zoom Channel. Meeting ID and Password will be provided when making your appointment with our Parish Priest.

**Hospital Ministry / House Visits/ Nursing Homes:** These pastoral visits continue to be suspended until further notice. As per the directives of Hamilton Regional Health Service, clergy are only permitted to enter in cases of imminent danger of end of life situations. All other general visits are suspended until further notice. If you wish to have Fr. Elias speak with members of your family that are shut-in at home or nursing homes please provide contact information so that Fr. Elias may contact them. If there is wifi a video call may be scheduled. Keeping in touch with members of our Parish Family is important to us but we need your help to make that possible.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:**

In light of the lockdown protocols, our Church office will be closed. Those wishing to renew their memberships are encouraged to do so online through PayPal or direct E-transfer available online at our Community Website at [www.panagiahamilton.ca](http://www.panagiahamilton.ca)

Members wishing to have paperwork for Greece signed by Fr. Elias, or required duplicate certificates for Baptisms, Weddings and funerals are asked to contact him directly at (905) 929-9815 and make arrangements accordingly.

Donations are greatly appreciated during these difficult times. Although we are behind closed doors we are still operating as best we can to continue serving the members of our Community. Your ongoing love, support and generosity are very much needed for all the above-mentioned services and outreach programs to continue.