

Dear Friends and Family of Holy Ghost Church,

Glory be to Christ!

Glory be Forever!

The Executive Board takes great joy in announcing the re-opening of our parish to allow in-person participation in the Divine Liturgy! We have received the blessings for our Council of Bishops and will work to ensure that all safety measures are followed during our return to worshipping together.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, there will be changes necessary to ensure the health and safety of all who come to worship at Holy Ghost Church. These precautions are designed with every intent to protect all who enter our church, but unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that exposure to the virus will not occur.

The following are the precautions we will be taking in our parish:

#### Attendance in Church

- † We no longer require advanced notice if you are planning to attend Divine Liturgy.
- † Each person attending will need to complete the questions on the attached page. In the event that someone becomes ill, we will use this information to notify everyone who was in attendance.
- † Our pews will be marked to facilitate social distancing. We will be alternating sides of the pew. We are asking that you sit in the same location each time you are in the church.
- † Entering and exiting the church will occur through the main doors only. We will unlock the ramp door for individuals who are unable to use the stairs.
- † A non-contact thermometer will be used to take everyone's temperature upon entering the church. If your temperature reads 100°F or higher, you will not be permitted to enter the church.
- † You will be required to wear a mask at all times in the church building. Masks will be provided if you do not have one.
- † You will be required to utilize the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church. Gloves will be available to put on once you have entered the church if you choose. (You are not required to wear gloves. If you do choose to wear gloves, you must use the ones provided by the church)
- † It is recommended that anyone over the age of 65, or those with underlying medical conditions stay home for their own safety, however, we will not turn anyone away.
- † If you are ill, have a fever, or have had possible contact with anyone testing positive to Covid-19, or work in a place where others are positive, please stay home to prevent possible spread of the illness.
- † These precautions and changes will apply anytime our church is open.

#### Confession

- † Confession is mandatory to receive communion as we have been away from the church for such an extended time period. Confessions will be by appointment with Father on Saturdays from 4pm-7pm. Please call Father Nicholas to setup a time.

#### Choir

- † There will be no grouped choir. Choir director, Linda Gindin, will be serving as cantor. Participants are encouraged to sing responses from their seat.

## Communion and Veneration

- † Veneration of icons will be done by bowing before the icon and making the sign of the cross. You may not kiss or touch the icons.
- † At the directive of the Council of Bishops Communion will continue to be offered from the Chalice using the Common Spoon.
- † When approaching for Communion your mask must remain in place until you reach the Chalice. Individual towels will be on the Tetrapod for you to use during Communion. Please hold it under your mouth while you receive the Gifts of Communion. You will hold your mouth wide open to allow for Father Nicholas to drop the Gifts into your mouth. Do not close your lips around the Common Spoon. You may not kiss the Chalice. Use your individual towel to wipe your lips and dispose of in the provided receptacle.
- † If you do not feel comfortable receiving Communion from the Common Spoon, it is perfectly fine not to partake of Communion at this time.
- † Please refrain from participating in Communion if you are ill.
- † Children under the age of 10 are not to receive communion at this time. Please see Tabitha or Father if you have questions about this.

## Dismissal

- † There will be no veneration of the Cross upon the completion of Divine Liturgy.
- † No socialization (meetings or coffee hour) or greetings with contact (hugs, kissing, handshakes) are permitted.
- † You will exit out the main doors of the church beginning with those in the back pews and moving forward to encourage social distancing.

## Additional Information

- † The Hall will be closed off and no one is permitted to enter. The exterior door leading into the hall will remain locked.
- † The bathrooms will be accessible using the spiral staircase only. If you are unable to utilize the staircase, please let a board member know and we will open the exterior hall door for you.
- † We will be cleaning and sanitizing the church each week. Please be mindful of what you touch so that we can do our best to ensure that all areas of contact can be properly cleaned.
- † A collection basket will be placed at the Tetrapod for your envelopes and donations.
- † Service books will not be available in the pews. Please let a board member know if you would like one to use for the duration of these changes. Paper bulletins will be available on the Tetrapod for you to pick up.

If you become ill with Covid-19 or test positive within 2 weeks of attending services at Holy Ghost Church, we require that you or a family member inform Father Nicholas or Tabitha Bentley immediately. In the event there is exposure to Covid-19 the church will close for 2 weeks and all participants are asked to self-quarantine.

We understand that this list of changes and precautions is lengthy, however, we want to do all we can to ensure the health and safety of our friends and family. These changes align with the directives of the Council of Bishops as well as state and local mandates. Please contact Father Nicholas or Tabitha Bentley with any questions regarding this letter.

In Christ,

Tabitha Bentley  
Board President

Please provide this form each time you attend services at Holy Ghost Church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional household members attending

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that Holy Ghost is not liable for possible exposure to Covid-19, and I will not hold them responsible if I, or a member of my household becomes infected with Covid-19.