

Glory be to Christ!
Glory be Forever!

The Executive Board takes great joy in announcing continued 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

- † Each member attending will need to sign in. Any guests visiting must leave contact information. In the event that someone becomes ill, we will use this information to notify everyone who was in attendance.
- † 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.
- † Vaccinated members & guests are strongly encouraged to wear a mask at all times in the church building. Unvaccinated members & guests are still required to wear masks. Masks will be provided if you do not have one.
- † Hand sanitizer is available upon entering the church for anyone who wishes to use it.
- † 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

- † Please contact Father Nicholas to setup confession.

Communion and Veneration

- † Veneration of icons will be done by bowing before the icon and making the sign of the cross. Please do 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.

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.

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 assess the risk to parishioners and make a decision on if the church needs to close. Any exposed parishioner will be notified and asked to follow the CDC and/or Chester County Department of Health recommendations.

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,

Holy Ghost Executive Board