



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

520 South Ponca Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Office: 410-633-5020-5021; Fax: 410-633-4352 — <http://www.stnicholasmd.org>

Protopresbyter, Rev. Father Michael L. Pastrikos — Cell: 443-742-8314 — email: frmmichael@stnicholasmd.org

Date June 2, 2020

His Eminence,
Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey
215 E. Grove Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

Your Eminence,

We pray this letter finds you well as we begin the first phase in the process towards reopening our parish.

Having received your blessing to begin the Reopening process of our parish to our beloved parishioners, as well as having received permission from the State and Local governmental authorities, please know that the parish of (St. Nicholas) Greek Orthodox Church in Baltimore, Maryland has made all the appropriate preparations in accordance with the requirements listed below that have been established by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, in adherence of all Federal, State, and Local Laws and CDC guidelines, in order for the parish to reopen.

xOur parish has reviewed, updated, and implemented an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). This was done in collaboration with the local health departments and other relevant partners.

xThe number of parishioners allowed to attend each Divine Liturgy will be 10% less than the State/Local limitations.

xOur parish has established a registration platform for parishioners to reserve their attendance at Liturgy. This platform will collect the full name, full mailing address, phone number, and email address (if applicable) of each parishioner.

xA small portion of available capacity will be reserved for Parishioners without internet access to reserve via telephone.

xPriority will be given to 40 Day Memorial Services, allowing each family to register up to 10 people for that Divine Liturgy.



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xA dated, registered log will be kept with all contact information of every person that attends each Service.

xThere will be only one door available for entrance into the Church. This door will be kept open so that parishioners do not have to touch the door handle.

xThere will be no access for parishioners to enter other buildings or areas other than where the Liturgy is being celebrated, except to use the restroom.

xHand sanitizer stations will be available in the Narthex, in the restrooms and throughout the Church and/or Community Center.

xAll Divine Liturgy books/Hymnals and parish publications (bulletins) have been removed from the pews.

xThere is clearly marked seating designated throughout the church, that directs and ensures that parishioners follow proper social distancing, remaining at least 6 feet apart. Every other pew will remain empty.

xDesignated sections for families, who have been quarantined together, will be made available so these families may sit together.

xThe restrooms will be open for use by only one parishioner at time.

xDuring the Service the Narthex will be continually sanitized.

xAt the conclusion of every Service the entire Church will be properly sanitized according to the CDC, state, and local guidelines.

xThere is clearly marked signage directing the faithful to follow the established social distancing/safety procedures in place.

xThe celebration of the Divine Liturgy will continue to be livestreamed for the parishioners (due to capacity limits) who are unable to attend the service.



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xPrior to entry into the Church parishioners will be asked if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or if they are taking care of anyone with COVID-19 symptoms. If they respond yes, then they will not be allowed to enter the Church.

xThere will be no gatherings of any kind after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

xThere will be no Choir.

xAll Parish Council Members and Ushers will wear a mask at all times.

xCollection baskets will not to be passed. At the end of Liturgy, a basket will be placed in the Narthex and parishioners will be encouraged to leave their donation as they exit.

xParish Council members have been instructed to continually monitor and remind parishioners of the 6 foot social distancing guidelines

xAn organizational meeting between the Priest and Parish Council members has taken place in order to properly prepare for the reopening.

xWe have corresponded with our parishioners explaining to them the Reopening procedures, the safeguards, and the social distancing requirements.

xThe Parish Priest will submit a report to Your Eminence by email upon the completion of every service.

We hereby certify our compliance with all Metropolis, State, Local and CDC requirements and we humbly request your blessing for permission to reopen the parish of (St. Nicholas, Baltimore, Maryland) once allowed to by State and Local laws.

Most Respectfully,

Rev. Michael L. Pastrikos
Parish Priest

Stavros Termonachos
Parish Council President