



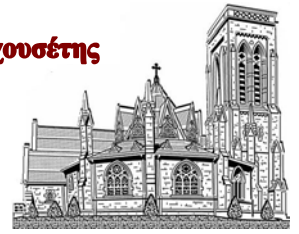
Metropolis of Boston

**St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Western Massachusetts**  
**Ελληνικός Ορθόδοξος Καθεδρικός Ναός του Αγίου Γεωργίου της Δυτικής Μασαχουσέτης**

Rev. Fr. Dionysios Koulianos, Cathedral Dean

22 St. George Road, Springfield, MA 01104 · Tel. (413) 737-1496 · Fax (413) 737-1065

Web Site: [www.stgeorgecath.org](http://www.stgeorgecath.org) · E-mail: [stgeorgeculturalcenter@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeculturalcenter@gmail.com)



**COVID-19 ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL REOPENING GUIDELINES**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICES**

*Please always refer to our website for latest updates.*

Dear brothers and sisters in the household of God,

With the blessings of Metropolitan Methodios, and abiding by all State and local governmental directives regarding the reopening of Churches and all Houses of Worship, your clergy and Parish Council have been diligently planning for the day our parish will once again be open to our stewards, families, and friends.

That day will be **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**. In these challenging times, there will be certain directives that must be implemented and followed to assure the safest possible environment for the faithful to worship, partake of the Holy Sacraments and reconnect with fellow parishioners from a safe distance.

Christ's Church and this Parish have existed through persecution, plagues, infectious diseases, world wars, terrorist attacks, and other periods of challenge and concern. The Church and this community stand as a symbol of faith. The Church is the place where we come together as a community to pray, receive the sacraments and be in fellowship with one another.

However, in this time, and because of the unpredictable nature of this insidious virus, there are directives, rules, and limitations, which we must accept in order to re-open and resume our liturgical practices in the safest possible way. **These are rules—not suggestions—that we must enforce.** We ask that each person understand and follow the directives listed below.

**PREPARATIONS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE TO CHURCH**

- According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), any building unoccupied for 7 days or longer need only receive “normal routine cleaning.” Based on these guidelines, the Church will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to reopening. From this baseline, the building will be disinfected and sanitized between each service, including high traffic, high touch areas like bathrooms, doorknobs, and handles, etc.
- The congregation size for any service will be limited to the current regulations of the state and local authorities, and pre-marked seating must abide by the social distancing regulations of 6 feet in all directions. *In Massachusetts, our Governor has set a limit of 40% of the building's official capacity. Our Cathedral occupancy is 800 and 40% of that is 320 that will try not to exceed and ensure the 6 feet distance as to our state number of people allowed in a public gathering.*



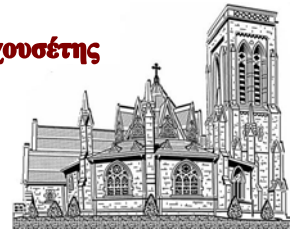
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- If you are 65 years of age or older and if you have underlying health conditions, especially asthma, diabetes, hypertension, undergoing chemotherapy, **or any age with known underlying conditions**, you should stay home and continue to participate in the services via our Live Stream. Our Services will continue to be available via live stream at [www.stgeorgecath.org/online-services](http://www.stgeorgecath.org/online-services) & [www.facebook.com/StGeorgeCathedral](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeCathedral).
- If you are 65 years of age or older *without* known underlying health issues, we recommend that you consider staying home, participating in the services via our Live Stream.
- If you have any respiratory symptoms, fever, or malaise at all, whether attributed to COVID-19 or not, *you must stay home*.

### ADVICE FROM OUR MEDICAL TEAM ADVISORS

- A recommendation from our Medical Team Advisors is for parishes to consider if possible, to have a “Greeter” take the temperature of those entering with an infrared thermometer pointed to the forehead. **Your temperature will be taken with a scan thermometer.** if a person’s temperature is higher than 100.4 F, he/she will be asked not permitted to enter the Church.
  - Parishioners who have a temperature greater than 100.4 F should stay home.
  - If you or anyone in your household have been exposed to anyone with a confirmed COVID test you should not attend for at least 14 days.

### ARRIVING AT CHURCH

- **If you are attending services at the Church, you must always wear a protective mask except for the moment when you may be receiving Holy Communion.** If you do not have a mask, we will provide you with one (limited availability).
- If you are under medical instruction not to wear a mask, you must clearly indicate this to the “Greeter” upon entering.
- If you are attending services with a child between the ages of two and five, a protective mask is at the discretion of the parent. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a protective mask.
- **Approach the entrance door with the ramp** (located at the Plainfield Street) by keeping the social distance by following the floor markings indicating 6 feet distance. Members of the Parish Council will be greeters and positioned to assist and answer your questions.
- The doors that are designated for entrance/exiting the church will be propped open so there is no need to touch the door handles, and to provide better airflow into the Sanctuary.



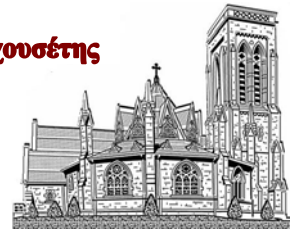
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- A Hand Sanitizing Solution Station placed at the entrance for your convenience.
- When arriving to Church, you should venerate the icons by bowing, but kindly do not kiss any icon.
- The Pangari/Narthex will be staffed by one Parish Council member to assist you, as much as possible, without contact and to ensure appropriate distancing between arriving parishioners. Household family unit members may approach the Pangari together.
- Please bring appropriate change for donations as cash cannot be exchanged.

### **SEATING IN THE CHURCH**

- Seating inside the Church will be restricted to a 6 feet distance between parishioners (again defined as an “immediate household unit”) to the left and right and front and back. It is imperative that we always maintain distancing. Ushers will be present to seat you at an appropriate distance from other parishioners inside the Church.
- Family members who are not part of the same household must sit 6 feet apart without exception.
- There will be markers throughout the Church to help assure appropriate distancing.
- **You will be escorted to your designated seating** using the side aisles, by rows beginning from the front. Every other pew/row of seating will be closed with a yellow rope to ensure social distancing. The number of people in each pew will depend on the number of individuals or family members attending. Family members will not be required to safe distance within the pew/row. **Unfortunately, we will not be able to honor requests for your choice of seating.**
- Children must always remain with an adult family member.
- At this time, there will be no choir, no altar boy groups and no Sunday School.
- If you experience discomfort by wearing the mask, use the side doors to exit the building. Weather permitting these doors will remain open throughout the service to promote air circulation.

### **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

- The priest will administer Holy Communion in our traditional manner.
- The line should form for Holy Communion in the side not center aisle with proper social distancing measures in place. Following Holy Communion, the faithful will return to the pews by the proper one-way aisles only. You’ll be guided by the Parish Council Ushers of the direction flow.
- The faithful should be encouraged/instructed to tilt their heads back and open their mouth widely so that the priest can drop the Holy Communion in without the person closing his/her mouth on the spoon.



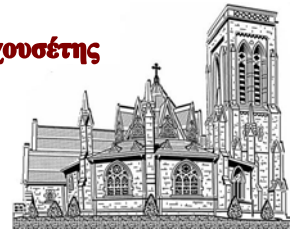
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- The faithful should not wipe their lips/mouth on the communion cloth.
- The Altar assistant will place a piece of antidoron in your hands with tongs.

### **EXITING THE CHURCH**

- At the conclusion of the Liturgy you will exit as directed by the “Ushers” to receive antidoron row by row, standing at a distance. The antidoron will be placed in your hands with tongs.
- The final hands-free collection offering will be set up in the back of the church/Narthex as you are about to exit. Please be ready to make your offering into the collection basket.
- The Social Hall will be closed and off limits for the foreseeable future. Restrooms will be available only in the Cathedral lower level.

### **OFFERINGS**

- Please use electronic giving when possible. You may go to our website at and support our church. Every donation counts. Baskets for your candle offering will be in the narthex. There will not be a passing of the offertory during the service. Any additional offerings may be placed in the candle baskets as well.

<http://www.stgeorgecath.org/index/donate-paypal>

### **AFTER THE SERVICE**

- Fellowship Coffee Hour continues to be suspended. Please join our online zoom coffee hour session at <https://goarch.zoom.us/j/93208831524>.

The foregoing rules for attending Liturgy and other services at our Church were taken from State directives, local guidelines, and the direction and guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. Our collective intent is to assure all our Stewards, their families and our many friends, a safe and comforting experience in the Household of God. We want to see you, we want to pray with you, but above all, we want you all to be safe, healthy and able to worship in a manner that is best for our entire Parish.

May God continue to bless you and your families and keep you safe!

**Rev. Fr. Dionysios Koulianos**  
*St. George Cathedral, Dean*

**Elizabeth Frogameni**  
*Parish Council President*