



ST. SOPHIA'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit | Syracuse, New York

Church Reopening Policies

In order to return to celebrating religious services and sacraments in a dignified, safe and healthy manner, each parishioner must do the following:

Prior to Entering the Church

1. All at risk persons with pre-existing health conditions, and those over the age of 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home and participate online via the live streaming of the service.
2. Please follow all social distancing rules by staying 6 feet from others during your time on the church grounds.
3. Entry to the church will only be through the front doors. Back door and side doors will be locked and not accessible.
4. Form a queue to register and enter the church on the designated socially distance marker.
5. Read and affirm to the following statements as posted prior to entering the church.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE BEFORE ENTERING THE CHURCH FACILITIES

By voluntarily entering this church facility:

I affirm that I am not currently ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

I acknowledge that while the recommended CDC precautionary measures are being taken by the church, it cannot guarantee the safety of every person present.

I agree to abide by the social distancing and safety guidelines being practiced in this church.

By visiting St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church, I voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

If I am not able to agree to and affirm the above statements, I will not participate in this worship service in person and may choose to join the live stream of the service.

6. Everyone over the age of two is required to wear facial masks at all times on the church grounds. We will offer facial masks at the entrance in the church to anyone who does not have one. Masks may only be removed just prior to receiving Holy Communion.
7. You must answer "no" to all of the following questions prior to entry of the church:

- a. Do you have shortness of breath or any respiratory symptoms?
 - b. Do you have a cough or sore throat?
 - c. Do you have fatigue, chills or new loss of smell or taste?
 - d. Have you been in the presence of someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
 - e. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
8. Before entering the church, the temperature of each person will be taken by a parish council member. If the person's temperature is above 100.4 F, he or she will be kindly asked to return to their home, both for their safety and the safety of others.

Entering the Narthex

9. You must observe all posted signage and follow the directives of the ushers.
10. Exact monetary cash donations for taper and vigil candles will be accepted. No monetary change will be provided back to the parishioner. We prefer you make your donation electronically on our website, stsophias.org prior to coming to church to eliminate all exchange of cash.
11. Collection baskets to accept offerings will be provided in the Narthex upon entering. Again, we prefer you to make your offerings electronically on our website, stsophias.org.
12. Sanitation stations for the Faithful will be provided to disinfect their hands as they enter and exit the Nave.
13. Do not kiss the icons or blessing cross. Honor shall be shown by only bowing and making the sign of the cross.
14. There will be no weekly bulletins distributed to parishioners. The priest will read the announcements at the end of the Liturgy. You may sign-up at <http://www.stsophias.org/subscribe-to-our-mailing-list> to receive the electronic version of the bulletin.

Entering the Nave

1. No one is allowed to enter the Nave without being ushered by a parish council member. The nave will only be accessible through the center doors. Side doors and upper balcony seating will be closed to parishioners.
2. A parish Council member will direct each parishioner to the designated pew for each person or household to sit, starting in the front of the church and working their way to the back.
3. No books will be kept in the pews. Parishioners are instructed to bring their own books from home if desired.
4. You are not allowed to leave your designated location except for restroom use or if you will be receiving communion.
5. The upstairs restroom by the office will be the only available restroom. It will only be accessible by the side door of the nave by the lectern.

6. There will be no choir during the service. The choral duties will continue to be performed by the chanters.
7. Refrain from all singing during the service. You may quietly recite the Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

Receiving Holy Communion

1. Do not line up to receive Holy Communion. Please wait for Parish Council ushers to direct you to come forward to receive the Holy Gifts.
2. Remove your face mask just prior to arriving at the Holy Chalice.
3. Individual paper napkins will be utilized instead of the communion cloth. After receiving communion parishioners must deposit the napkin in the receptacle provided so that the collected napkins can be properly destroyed.
4. When receiving, open your mouth fully and tilt your head back so the priest may place the Communion spoon above your mouth and turn it over to allow the Holy Gifts to drop in your mouth.
5. Do not place or close your lips on the spoon.

After Service/Exiting Protocol

1. Please stay in your designated area until directed by the usher to exit your pew.
2. Plastic bagged Antidoron will be handed to you by Father David.
3. There will be no Coffee Hour following the service.
4. All attendees are to directly depart following the service. Do not congregate in the Narthex or outside the church following the service. We will strictly enforce no meetings or other gatherings on the premises.
5. For your safety the Church will be fully cleaned and sanitized after every service.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.