

4/10/2022

Dear Members in Christ,

In accordance with the CDC published framework for measuring the level of COVID-19 in communities, Howard County continues to be a county *with a low level transmission*. “Masking is not needed in most settings, but individuals may opt to wear a mask at any time”. The same is true for all surrounding counties.

As such, we will be making some additional changes in the parish process in order to evolve back to normal church activities. These changes are in direct alignment with this guidance. The following will summarize the updated process for attending services:

- There will no longer be seat spacing requirements within a row between non-family/friend units.
- The spacing of rows will revert back to the normal church configuration.
- **Masks will continue to be Optional** for all services; however, we strongly recommend the following:
 - If you do not feel well, please do not come to church
 - If you are Unvaccinated, the CDC recommends that a mask is worn while indoors
 - If you have any other health concerns, please continue to wear a mask
 - If you feel uncomfortable in any other ways, please continue to wear a mask
- **We will continue limited Coffee Hour**. This will include coffee with **grab & go** snacks. There will be no kitchen usage for food prep or cooking.
- We will continue to livestream Liturgy to our lower level for those who may desire to view services however it will not be configured as a chapel.
- We will continue the existing safety measures such as separate spoons for Communion, tongs for Prosfora, do not physically touch or kiss the icons, etc.
- We will continue to live-stream services and, on request, will offer a “drive by” Communion & Blessing for those that are elderly or immune compromised or otherwise unable to attend “in-person services. Please contact Fr Constantine if you would like to receive communion in this manner.
- We will continue with Sunday School.

We, like many others, are anxious to get back to the full experience of spiritual and social interaction within the parish. We believe that these measures are consistent with the current data provided by the CDC, state and local authorities.

We also understand that some members will still be uncomfortable with the relaxed guidelines and ask that all Members be respectful of these concerns.

We appreciate your continued understanding and prayers.