



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

401 E Main St., Wilkes Barre PA 18705

Fr. Innocent Neal, Rector

Reopening Plan for Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Wilkes Barre, PA

On May 29th Luzerne County moves into the yellow phase of the county's reopening. Therefore, the following plan is meant to facilitate the reopening of our church for 25 attendees or more. We are projecting a total maximum of 35-40 people in the building during this initial phase to provide more than adequate social distancing. The plan will make every effort, as our circumstances allow, to ensure our adherence to the recommended guidelines offered by the CDC and DOEPA.

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- Anyone who is currently sick or displaying symptoms of the coronavirus are required to stay at home. A parishioner will be assigned to ask attendees if they are currently experiencing any of these symptoms.
- To minimize parishioner contact with surfaces, a person will be appointed to open doors for entry into the church if they are not already open. The doors from the Narthex to the Nave will also be left open.
- Parishioner's temperature will be checked with a touchless thermometer upon entrance into the building. Anyone with a temperature above 100 degrees will not attend.
- Records will be kept regarding who attended each service in case there is an outbreak.
- Parishioners should use hand sanitizer via the touchless dispenser just inside the main entrance upon entering and leaving the building. There will also be hand sanitizer at the candle stand. These will be checked regularly to ensure an adequate supply.
- Signage will be posted in the Narthex concerning coronavirus symptoms, proper handwashing, masks, etc.
- "Touchless" veneration of icons is allowed but DO NOT kiss or touch the icons. There will be no veneration of the cross following the services.
- All parishioners are required to wear a mask in the building with the exception of the choir and those serving in the altar. Choir and servers will wear masks while entering/leaving the church but not while serving or singing. Young children are

encouraged to wear a mask but not required. The parish will provide a mask should anyone have a need. There will be an adequate supply at the candle stand.

- The choir will be limited to the current group of 3 singers until further notice.
- Windows (and doors when appropriate) will be open to allow for circulation in the building. We have a “closed system” HVAC so it will not be used.
- An usher(s) will accompany the faithful to a designated seat to ensure proper social distancing. Spaces that parishioners are accustomed to may not be available during this time.
- Candles will be placed in the candle holders in advance for a designated person to light. Candle money should be placed in envelopes beforehand or dropped into a provided basket at the candle stand. NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN, nor should any money exchange hands.
- Offering baskets will not be passed during services. All offerings should be placed in the offering basket at the candle stand.
- The choir will sing in the front of the Nave spaced accordingly (6 ft).
- All altar servers, candle stand workers and ushers MUST wash their hands before a service begins.
- Altar servers responsible for preparing post communion wine (zapifka) and Antidoron (Holy Bread) MUST wear gloves during its preparation.
- An Altar Server with a mask and gloves will distribute Antidoron (Holy Bread) at the end of Divine Liturgy.
- Markers indicating proper distancing for Holy Communion will be placed upon the floor. Communicants are to line up down the left side of the Nave (facing the Iconostasis). When communicants reach the front of the line they are to wait until the Priest says, “The servant of God N., partakes of the Precious and All-Holy Body and Blood of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, unto the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting”. Only after this is said should the communicant approach the chalice to receive.
- A box of Kleenex (or paper towels) and a basket will be on a small table near where the priest will distribute communion. The communicant will pull the Kleenex from the box and hold it for themselves under the chin (as a communion cloth would normally be held). After receiving communion the Kleenex is to be placed respectfully in the provided basket for burning. The communicant will proceed back to their seat using the center aisle.
- The parish hall (parlor) downstairs is closed until further notice. No parishioner should enter the hall.

- Parishioners will have access to the bathrooms downstairs. The bathrooms will be cleaned and surfaces sanitized between each service. Supplies including toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap will be checked and restocked between each service.
- Surfaces in the Narthex (Vestibule) and Nave will be properly sanitized between each service by a designated group of people.
- After the services parishioners are asked not to congregate in the Narthex. Conversations should be held outside using proper social distancing.
- A questionnaire will be sent to each parishioner/family to determine how many people will be attending in the first weeks. Multiple Divine Liturgies may be scheduled to accommodate a higher number of attendees and possibly the elderly or those with comorbidities.

Each parishioner will be sent a copy of this plan either digitally or in the mail and asked to familiarize themselves with what is required and what they can expect. Copies of this plan will be available in the narthex to any parishioner or visitor as needed.

This plan was blessed by His Eminence Archbishop Mark on May 27th, 2020.