



Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

December 2020

The St. Nicholas Reactivation Team continues to monitor the COVID-19 recommendations of state and federal health advisors in order to adjust guidelines to increase attendance for services. As the number of positive COVID cases continues to increase in Pennsylvania, it is imperative that everyone takes the appropriate precautions. The St. Nicholas community will continue to emphasize and follow the currently established safety protocols.

Updates to the current protocols, as of December 3rd 2020 include:

1. Entrance into the Church for Services

As we enter the winter season, starting Sunday, December 6th, all attendees must use the doorway located at the center of the church hallway. Using this entrance will eliminate the need to climb stairs to enter the church. A Parish Staff member will be available to conduct the health check and survey at this entrance. Please continue to wear a mask and to follow appropriate social distancing.

2. Children Receiving the Holy Sacrament - however not attending Divine Liturgy

Children, not attending the Divine Liturgy, can still receive Holy Communion after parishioners have completed receiving the sacrament. The children and their guardian should enter through the doorway at the center of the church and follow the guidance of the Parish Council member staffing the Narthex. Upon entering the church hallway, the guardians must be wearing a mask and maintain appropriate social distancing.

3. Prayer Offering Candles

Candles will be available for purchase in the Narthex before the Divine Liturgy service. A Parish Council Staff member will be available at the candle stand to assist you. To ensure the safety of all parishioners please use the following guidance:

- Bring the exact dollar total and place in the provided candle basket. Monetary change will not be available.
- Allow the Parish Council member to hand you the candles.

To ensure appropriate social distancing, check to make sure no other parishioner is near the candle stand before proceeding to light your candle.

4. Parish Council Ushering

During church entrance, procession to communion, and service dismissal, a Parish Council member will provide ushering services. We ask that all attendees follow the direction of the usher. This will assist in maintaining proper social distancing.



Church Attendance Precautions

Due to the need for social distancing, there is limited seating availability in the church. As service attendance increases additional seating will be provided in the church hall. Access to all other areas of the church remain restricted.

The church Administrative Assistant will continue to send an email for you to continue to sign up for church services the Monday before the weekend services. You must RSVP to indicate if you will attend Vespers on Saturday and / or Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Provide your name and the names of all family members that will attend by noon, on Thursday, of that week. All RSVP's will receive a confirmation to attend services by Friday or Saturday. If you do not receive a confirmation, do not attend services.

Having the opportunity to gather for worship again has been a truly wonderful experience, and it is truly something to give thanks to God for.

To help mitigate community exposure to COVID-19, continue these best practice measures when attending church:

1. Please arrive at the church before the start of services to participate in a temperature and health screening check. The church doors will lock at the beginning of Divine Liturgy and Vespers.
2. Wear a mask.
3. Practice social distancing before, during and after services.
4. Follow the guidance of the Parish Council members staffing the church service.

As an additional precaution, if you have attended a church service and later require a COVID test, we ask that you inform the Parish Council President so that proper safety steps may be taken.

While we follow these temporary guidelines for as long as necessary, our continued hope and prayer is to return to normal participation in liturgical worship and parish life. You will receive updated communications as protocols change. Please direct questions to the Administrative Assistant at Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com.

Yours in Christ,

**St. Nicholas Parish Council
Reactivation Committee**