



April 22, 2021

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

The St. Nicholas Reactivation Team continues to monitor the COVID-19 recommendations of state and federal health advisors in order to adjust guidelines and to eventually return to our customary worship and church activities. As we continue to update and adapt the St. Nicholas Reactivation guidance, it is approached in a thoughtful and deliberate manner in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of our laity and clergy.

Updates to the Reactivation Protocols, as of April 22nd 2021, include:

1. New church seating configuration

Starting Sunday, April 25th, the seating in the pews on the left side (as you face the iconostas) will be ***arranged for individual seating***. The new design will allow for additional parishioners to attend Divine Liturgy in the church while maintain sensible social distancing. The pews on the right side of the church will remain as is.

We ask for patience from all parishioners as we continue through this unusual time. As attendance to services continues to increase, parishioners may be asked to occasionally attend services in the church hall.

2. Changes in Health Questionnaire upon entering the church facility

The church health questions will no longer be required as you enter the church. We ask that all members self-check before attending church services to ensure they do not have symptoms or have not been recently exposed to someone who is ill. Temperature checks and recording of attendance will be maintained.

3. Use of Narthex during services for parents with young children

Parents with small children can temporarily exit the church and enter the narthex as needed to ensure the comfort and care of the child. Social distancing and safety protocols must be followed. Please see a staff member if assistance is needed.



4. St. Nicholas Church Choir return to choir loft. (limited to 10 choir members)

The St. Nicholas Church Choir will return to the choir loft in a limited fashion. 10 members of the choir will be allowed into the choir loft during church services. The choir members will stand in the back half of the choir loft, away from the loft railing, and will remain socially distanced. Microphones will be set up in the loft to ensure those attending the services remotely will hear the choir.

5. Changes post service cleaning protocol and church facility staffing.

Based upon the latest information from the CDC, social distancing, wearing mask and proper ventilation are the most important ways to reduce the exposure to the respiratory droplets that carry the COVID 19 virus. Disinfecting surfaces may not be necessary and the use of soaps and detergent is enough to reduce risk. Therefore the cleaning protocol will be modified to less stringent guidance.

Church signage will also be modified to focus primarily on reinforcing safety recommendations such as wearing a mask and effective hand washing.

6. Church Library open for all Parishioner

All Parishioners are welcome to check out books from the St. Nicholas library to take home and read. The following information will need to be recorded; name, book title, and date of check-out. When the books are returned, they will be placed in a box marked for library returns. Once the book is returned, record the date of return in the library check-out log. Please maintain proper social distancing and wear a mask while using the library.

Church Attendance Precautions

Due to the continued need for social distancing, the hall will continue to have seating available and the service will be remotely projected.

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.



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. Before attending services, all parishioners must self-check to ensure they do not have symptoms or have not been recently exposed to someone who is ill.
2. Please arrive at the church before the start of services to check in.
3. Wear a mask.
4. Practice social distancing before, during and after services.
5. 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, 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**