



## SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

August 28, 2020

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 to increase attendance for services. The state of Pennsylvania remains in the "GREEN PHASE" and emphasizes the importance of following the recommended Health and Safety guidance to prevent the spread of the virus. Although churches are excluded from some of the state ordered limitations, they are strongly encouraged to enforce social distancing and other mitigation measures such as wearing a mask at gatherings. We will continue to emphasize the established safety protocols.

### **Church Service Updates**

Beginning Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, St. Nicholas will return to a regular Divine Liturgy service held on Sundays at 9:30 am. In addition, we will also resume attendance for regular Saturday evening Vespers service starting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Divine Liturgy and Vespers services will continue to be available online.

Due to the need for social distancing, there is limited seating availability in the church. As attendance increases, services will be live-streamed in the church hall with additional seating available. 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. If you do not receive a confirmation, do not attend services.

### **Social & Fellowship Update**

Having the opportunity over the last couple of months to gather for worship again has been a truly wonderful experience, and it is truly something to give thanks to God for. However, we also deeply miss out when we do not experience the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

With that in mind, we would like to extend an invitation to all who attend Divine Liturgy to join us for a modified "coffee hour." Our current plan is that, following Divine Liturgy (and weather permitting) we will gather outside together on the grass behind the Church for a time of fellowship.



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The Church will not provide food or beverages at the fellowship gathering. Therefore, we would like to highly encourage everyone to bring their own, as well as a lawn chair or blanket! May this small step back to normalcy be a blessing, which brings us closer together!

**To help mitigate community exposure to COVID-19, continue these best practice measures when attending church during the "GREEN PHASE":**

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.

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, Jennifer Bzik, at [Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com](mailto:Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com).

Yours in Christ,

**St. Nicholas Parish Council**  
**Reactivation Committee**