

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

RE-OPENING GUIDELINES

1. **PLEASE STAY HOME:** if you are sick, or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, or known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19).
2. **STREAMING CONTINUES:** if you do not feel comfortable coming to Church yet, you can still participate in prayer using our live streaming that will continue as before. <https://facebook.com/stjohndfw>
3. **WORSHIP CAPACITY AND SCHEDULE:**
 - a. Based on the size of our worship area and the necessity of keeping the 6ft. safety distance, we will limit the worship capacity to **50 people per service** for the time being
 - b. In order to increase the possibility of participation to the services for more people, **we will conduct more services a week.**
 - c. One **day a week will be reserved only for the people at higher risk**, labeled with the designation AGAPE (love). See the parish calendar for details.
4. **SIGN-UP FOR SERVICES:** <https://signup.com/go/vFbxbjV>
 - a. At the beginning, we are kindly requiring you to **sign-up for services in advance** at the link above. Please register all the family members that will be coming with you.
 - b. If you cannot sign-up online contact our office for assistance.
 - c. Out of courtesy to all, kindly sign-up only for one service a week in this first phase.
 - d. We will update this procedure on an on-going basis, based on safety guidelines changes.
5. **ENTERING THE CHURCH:**
 - a. Upon entry, kindly **wash or sanitize your hands**
 - b. **Bring your mask.** *Use of masks to cover mouth and nose is highly recommended* during the services, to prevent spread of viruses (they can be disposable or cloth). We will also have a limited number of masks freely available to you. **Fr. Vasile and the acolytes will wear masks** when distributing Holy Communion
 - c. **Check-in with the ushers** and they will help you get candles and will direct you towards the appropriate seating.
 - d. **Refrain from kissing or touching icons**, venerate only by bowing.
6. **SEATING:**
 - a. **Keep two empty seats** (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except for members of the same household. They can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
 - a. Every other row will be purposely left empty to allow for proper spacing
7. **DURING WORSHIP:**
 - a. Kindly maintain 6ft distance between yourself and people outside of your family at all times.
 - b. Wait for ushers to call and follow their directions before approaching Holy Communion
 - c. When taking Holy Communion put your hands in a cross form on your chest and open your mouth.
 - d. Please do not touch the Communion cloth. The acolytes will hold the cloth under your chin to prevent spillage but they will not wipe your mouth with it, unless in case of necessity.
 - e. Antidoron distribution is cancelled until further notice
8. **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Coffee hour and any other on-site ministry activities meetings continue to be cancelled until further notice
9. **HOLY CONFESSION:** Holy Confession will be available by appointment Saturday after the Vespers for the general population and after any of the weekly AGAPE Divine Liturgies for the people at higher risk. For other arrangements kindly contact Fr. Vasile. Safety distancing should be maintained at all times.