



THE SERBIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CORPORATION

Српска Православна Црква Св. Архангела Михаила Корпорација

212 Delaware Avenue, Toronto, ON. Canada M6H 2T5

Tel. (416) 536-8565, sv.archangeldelaware@yahoo.ca

TO OUR BELOVED PARISHIONERS AND CLERGY OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Ontario announced last week that all places of worship across the province can re-open to **30% capacity**. Therefore St. Archangel Michael is ready to re-open on Sunday June 21st, with the following guidelines:

Only 25 parishioners total, will be allowed in the church.

Wearing of masks or face scarves – **is highly recommended**, applies to all the faithful, those who are serving, reading and chanting; please bring your own mask.

Physical distancing must be maintained in the church at all times. Markings have been placed on the floor.

If you are ill or have been in contact with someone who is ill, stay home. **No exceptions.**

Clergy, monastics and faithful, should thoroughly and frequently wash their hands, cover their coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues, and avoid sharing personal items, especially altar servers when cutting the liturgical bread (antidoron, or naphora);

Choirs and cantors should also exercise extra precautionary measures. Choir members are asked to mark their sanitized music books with their names and take them home with them, so that they do not unintentionally become a vehicle for the transmission of the virus;

Clergy and church caretakers should see to the routine cleaning and sanitizing of liturgical objects and frequently touched surfaces such as icons, glass coverings, blessing crosses, and increased prescribed washing of chalices, communion spoons, communion cloths, and the like;

Holy Communion will be received by the faithful, as is customary, from the chalice with a liturgical spoon, however, at this time, no one is to close their mouth on the spoon (accommodations will be made for individuals who request); Altar servers who handle the naphora (antidoron) must wear face masks and gloves, even when distributing the bread at the time of Holy Communion, and the end of Liturgy;

In greeting one another and during celebrations, the traditional three-fold Kiss of Peace is **not to be exchanged**, rather everyone is requested to simply bow respectfully one to another, and faithful are to refrain, at this time, from kissing the hands of celebrants and when asking for blessings;

Collection plates/baskets are not to be passed, rather put next to the central icon for receiving donations;

Following the conclusion of Liturgy, the cross is not to be offered for veneration, the faithful should simply make the sign of the cross before the icon, bow their heads respectfully and continue to receive the liturgical bread (antidoron, or naphora) from the hands of the celebrant, who will have, once again, thoroughly washed or sanitized his hands before distributing the bread;

Our communities and organizations should shut down all non-liturgical activities, such as folklore, Church and Serbian school classes and social events (i.e. coffee hours, luncheons, brunches, dinner, meetings, etc.), until further notice. It is incumbent upon church boards to review the federal and provincial laws, rules and regulations of their jurisdictions and follow them.