

# St. Michael & St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Churches

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5/26/20

Brothers and Sisters in Christ ,

We will begin having weekend services at both churches on June 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to protect our parishioners and under the direction of the Chancery and the Governor, the following safety precautions have been put into place:

- We will have 1 service at St. Nicholas on Saturday Evening at 5:30pm
- We will have 1 service at St. Michael's on Sunday Morning at 10:30am.
- Everyone will be required to wear a mask. If anyone has masks they would like to donate for people who do not have one please call the rectory.
- Everyone will need to practice social distancing. This includes upon entering the church and during communion. We are asking that you refrain from physical contact with people other than your immediate family. To this end – some pews will be blocked off and everyone is asked to sit 6 ft. apart from people not in their household. These will be clearly marked by crosses on the back of the pew.
- Veneration of icons, crosses, etc. should be done without touching or kissing them. There will be no exposed holy water, if you need some for your home use please contact Father. Prayer books and Bibles will be removed from the pews.
- The church will be cleaned before every service, concentrating on high contact areas.
- The church hall, balcony & bathrooms will be closed. There will be no public bathroom facilities.
- Bulletins will be simplified and propers added to the back. A bulletin will be placed at every place by someone wearing a mask and gloves prior to service. Bulletins are available via email, contact the rectory to be added to the list.
- Please remind parishioners if they are not feeling well that they should stay at home.
- You are not bound by the Sunday obligation if you are ill, at high risk to contract the virus, or if for health reasons are afraid to attend the services. Dispensation from Sunday Liturgy obligation remains valid until further notice. Live streaming of Divine Liturgies and other services from appropriate churches are still highly recommended.
- We will be distributing Holy Communion with a golden spoon- those who choose to receive are asked to open your mouth wide, do not touch the spoon, and do not cough or sneeze upon it. The spoon will be sanitized immediately after each communicant by wiping it with a cloth soaked in pure alcohol. In

the absence of a deacon or servers the tetrapod or other table will be used to place upon the articles for disinfection.

- There will be no social gatherings after the services. People should leave the church promptly upon completion of services.
- Celebrations of weddings, baptisms and funerals are allowed if all precautions listed above are observed
- Collection basket will be left in the front of the church so parishioners may leave their offerings without passing around baskets.

Please feel free to call me with any questions. Thank you for your understanding and compliance.

God Bless,



Msgr Myron Grabowsky

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Corona Virus and Pentecost

“Lord, sent forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”

The year 2020, is a year that will be remembered as the year that “everything changed”. Covid 19 (Corona virus) has infected every corner of the world and has created a crisis that has affected body, mind and spirit. Yet, it has also united society in pain and suffering and created a world of solidarity. This crisis has provided new opportunities to look deeper into one’s own faith beliefs and has helped us to see more clearly what really matters, and what ultimately doesn’t matter. The lethality of this virus has put the topic of death forefront and people have to confront their own mortality, both spiritually and physically, and adjust to a new way of living.

In many ways, we are a “people in waiting” like the Apostles assembled in the upper room after the Lord ascended into heaven. They too, were isolated and afraid, but something was happening. They prayed, they hoped, they reflected and reviewed their relationship with God and they waited in anticipation for the indwelling of the Spirit of the Triune God.

Pentecost will be here soon. Open your hearts to God’s grace and the outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Instill His love, mercy and compassion deep into your hearts. Obey God’s commandments and seek daily conversion – the change of old habits that impairs your relationship with God. Through the Spirit of God, you, the Church, and the world will become animated and renew the face of the earth.