

# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH RE-OPENING

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Resurrection:

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

I am excited to share that with the 'Phase 1' re-opening of Marion County, we will be able to resume services at Holy Resurrection.

In order to do so, we have been instructed by our Bishop, Metropolitan Gerasimos, to conduct ourselves in accordance with government regulations as well as the guidelines developed by the Metropolis.

We do not do this out of fear, but out of love for others. Obedience is a hallmark of Orthodox believers, and so we are also joyfully obedient to the guidance of our Bishop.

Things will look a little different for a while! We have a sign-up for attending services, there's been re-arranging of chairs and furniture, and we have guidelines to share.

Instructions and guidelines can be found at the links below; we are asking all Parishioners to read through these before attending a service.

Father, Deacon, and the Steering Committee have been working hard to get everything ready and we will be conducting a Zoom town hall meeting to present the guidelines. The guidelines will be available on the website and video recording of the church will be posted online as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask! This is a challenging time, but with prayer, patience, and love we can make this work.

With love in Christ ~ Fr. Jerry and Dn. Steve

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9*

# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH RE-OPENING OVERVIEW

## *How to Register for a Service ...*

Service will continue to be offered at Blanchet except with a maximum of 25 people at a service. Seating and the organization of our space will vary from what we have had in the past, but we are thankful that we can start to return having services.

If you plan to attend a service, you can register at the Eventbrite link that will be provided in your weekly email. The timing of when you get the email and what services you will be able to attend will be based on a group system. Everyone will be part of groups A/B/C so that we can rotate through the groups to offer services. If a group does not fill up a service after a certain number of days, the next group will be notified so that we always strive to maximize the number of people coming to services. We have done our best to organize the system to allow everyone an equal opportunity to attend services and again please continue to be patient as continue to navigate these challenging times. If you are unable to register online, you can call Sara Fauerso to registered.

## *What to Expect...*

Please read over the 'Attending a Service' Guidelines and FAQ before attending a service.

Our Bishop has asked that we wear masks. Please bring a mask or scarf/bandanna to wear. We are sourcing disposable masks and will offer them as they are available. Children under 3 are not required to wear masks but parents should do their best to maintain social distancing with their children.

Mary P and Maria H have agreed to be our usher/ service safety person. They will be on hand to welcome you, answer any questions, find appropriate seats, and assist you during the service as well. Similarly, the Steering Committee members at the services can assist you in any way.

Furniture will be arranged to enable social distancing, however there are still places that can become 'clogged up' such as right at the entrance, in the aisles and in hallways. Please be observant of your surroundings and practice social distancing. There will be signs and tape marks on the floor to assist you. Please ensure that you follow the **green signs when entering** and follow **the purple signs when existing**. You'll notice that we will enter through the Narthex and exit through the fellowship hall.

We will not be using bulletins or service books at present. If you own a service book, feel free to bring it or feel free to follow along on your mobile device using the [AGES initiative app](#) (specifically [Digital Chant Stand](#)). Please wipe down anything you will be handling before coming to church or just before entering Blanchet if possible. Additionally, if you do use your mobile device, you should preload the service (either in AGES or your browser) and put your phone in airplane mode during the service as we wish to not have your phone become a distraction during the service.

You may bring plain white paper with colored pencils or erasable crayons for your children to use during the service. These should be clean and not used by children outside your family. At church, do not share with anyone outside your family group. Please bring the coloring materials in a bag, so you can easily take them home again.

We are making every effort to clean and sanitize our space appropriately. For those who help pick up/clean after the service, there will be supplies and a cleaning checklist to follow. There will be cleaning measures before and after the service to do our best to provide clean facilities.

We haven't seen each other in a while, so there's a lot of catching up to do! Father would like to remind us that these conversations are not appropriate inside the church. Please take conversations outside the Blanchet building (where social distancing can still be maintained).

Parishioners who are considered 'Vulnerable' are strongly encouraged to stay home: Those who are 65 and older, have health conditions, or are caring for someone is considered vulnerable. For those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed with someone who has tested positive, or have traveled out of the country recently do not come to church out of consideration for your brothers and sister in Christ. Please know we love you, we miss you, and will be praying for you!

# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH SERVICE GUIDELINES

**Arriving at Church:** Upon arriving at church you will park in the normal parking area, walk through the large driveway gate (which will be open), go past the fellowship hall doors, and enter through the Narthex. There will be **green** signs to follow and do not enter the building through any other way except the Narthex.

**Entering the Church:** Please proceed directly to the Welcome Station located right outside the Narthex, which serve to both provide sanitation supplies and provide you with a friendly reminder of the guidelines. If there happens to be another person(s) ahead of you, please maintain social distancing and wait until they have been ushered into the church to come forward and prepare to enter.

**Hallways & Aisles:** Please be observant of the spacing between you and others in the hallways and aisle to maintain social distancing. There may be a bit of a wait at times, such as before the candle holder or festal icon. Try to keep hallways as open as possible.

**Entering the Chapel:** Observe the tape marks on the floor to assist you in social distancing. Try to refrain from touching the doorknobs, light switches, etc. Candles will be available to light but only touch your candle; only light one candle. If you have a goodwill offering or wish to offer your stewardship, please place it in the basket as normal, avoid touching the basket or other money/checks/envelops. Stewardship envelopes will be available if needed.

**Seating:** You will be assigned a seat and you will be provided a letter/number combination for your seat. Please only sit in your assigned seat so that social distancing can be maintained.

**Greeting a Parishioner:** Although it is tempting to hug our fellow parishioners, please greet them with a slight bow, it's very Orthodox and is out of respect for the other. Remember that socially distant conversations can take place outside the building after the service as well.

**Venerations:** Please refrain from kissing anything at present, simply make the sign of the cross and/or bow. Remember, there are likely others behind you waiting to venerate.

**Blessings:** When approaching Father Jerry, ask for a blessing in the normal way, and he will give you a 'distanced' blessing. Instead of kissing his hand, make a simple bow.

**Temperature and Weather:** Please be aware that doors will be left open to maximize air flow. The chapel may be cooler than normal so please plan to dress appropriately. If you plan to socialize outside, please consider bringing an umbrella or raincoat based on the weather forecast.

**Bathrooms:** Bathrooms should be used by a single person (or a family if children require assistance) at a time to maintain social distancing. Please ensure you wash your hands for a full 20 seconds and be aware if someone is in the bathroom before you. The drinking fountain will not be in use at this time.

**Communion:** Father/Deacon will give instructions immediately before communion. An usher will be on hand to assist in the process. Please observe the tape on the floor to maintain appropriate distance.

**Cleaning the Church:** We have created a checklist for cleaning our space after the service. We will be following CDC guidelines to clean and sanitize our space. If you are interested in helping, please talk with Deacon, Andreas, or Maria H.

**Exiting the Church:** After the service, please follow the **purple** exit signs while maintaining social distancing. You will exit out through the 'fellowship hall' area, not back through the Narthex. If desired, you can leave after receiving Communion. Please do not gather in the 'fellowship hall' (making it difficult for others to exit) and please do not exist the same way you entered. It is natural to want to have fellowship after being apart for so long and outside is a great place to have a socially distanced conversation.

# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

## RE-OPENING FAQ

### *Why are we using Eventbrite?*

This online service offers us the simplest way to organize attendance, ensuring all have a chance to attend services each week. Also, it helps us with the required contact tracing should someone become ill. You do not have to create an Eventbrite account to register for a service. If you would not like to use Eventbrite, contact Deacon and he will register you on your behalf.

### *What if I don't want to wear a mask?*

Although Marion County does not require masks at present, our Bishop has asked that we wear them at services. Again, this is out of love and respect for our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as being obedient to our Bishop.

### *Can we catch a virus from Holy Communion? What if I don't want to take communion right now?*

Father and Deacon will discuss at an open house on 5/31 at the Church, and you can always contact them directly with any questions or concerns. All of us have freewill and it is up to you whether to take Holy Communion. Approach when you are ready and please try to prepare to receive Holy Communion best you can if you will approach to receive.

### *I am coughing but I think it's just allergies. Can I still come to a service?*

If you are exhibiting symptoms of illness, please stay home. If you are suffering from seasonal allergies, then use your best judgment.

### *Will Holy Resurrection Livestream their services?*

For the time being, please continue to live stream services from [St. George](#).

### *Is the Bookstore and Library open?*

The bookstore and library are currently closed. If you have a bookstore need, please contact Maria H. If you have a library need, please contact Gary.

### *I am upset that the person next to me is not as diligent as I am! What do I do?*

The best option is always, in love and humility, to defer to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Refrain from getting into fruitless discussions and political discourse, unless you are asked. Let's be charitable to one another in love during these challenging times.

### *Why do we have to follow these guidelines?*

As a Hierarchical Church, we follow the instructions of our Bishop. The Metropolis has worked hard to navigate these difficult times and has provided a sound set of requirements to help protect our communities. Remembering that all things are for our salvation; utilize this as an opportunity to work out your 'obedience' and 'humility' muscles! Also, feel free to contact Father and Deacon if they can help clarify anything.

### *Where can I find additional information about the Parish Re-Opening?*

You can find a wealth of COVID and Parish Re-Opening information on the [Holy Resurrection website](#).

*How do I meet these guidelines with young children?*

We know it can be challenging to have young kids in church, and even harder when trying to maintain social distancing and other safety practices. For children 2 and under, no mask is required but we ask that you try to still maintain social distancing. For children under 12, we strongly encourage children to wear masks but understand if they cannot wear them the entire time. If you need to exit the chapel / nave, please go into the fellowship hall rather than the Narthex. This will allow ample space to get the wiggles out and not disrupt others entering the church. Please try to sanitize children's hands appropriately and generally children under 6 should be accompanied to the bathroom to ensure they follow safety requirements.