REOPENING
OUR CHURCH
Beloved Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

After a long and painful period that we could not celebrate the Divine Mysteries all together we, finally, arrive at a time when we can start gathering together once again around the Lord’s Altar and celebrate the Holy Sacraments, albeit in limited numbers!

Until our governing authorities declare that the dangers created by the current pandemic have decreased sufficiently, our gatherings will be limited and dictated by the following guidelines.

**WHO MAY NOT ATTEND**

- Those with any signs or symptoms of any acute illness (whether it is COVID-19 or not) MUST stay home.
- Those who have come into contact with COVID-19 positive persons within the last 2 weeks.
- Those who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (65 years or older, live in a long-term facility, underlying medical conditions).
- Questions should be directed to your healthcare provider.
WHAT TO EXPECT

LIMITED ATTENDANCE
State regulations on gatherings limits the people attending to 50.

SOCIAL DISTANCING
We have designated seating areas that abide by current social distancing guidelines, which require at least six feet between households. You may not be able to sit in your regular area. Everyone will be asked to depart immediately following worship.

WORSHIP ADJUSTMENTS
Your experience during services will feel different than before the start of the pandemic. There will be smaller crowds. Attendees will be required to wear face masks. You are asked to reverence sacred objects and greet one another by bowing instead of kissing. These temporary measures help ensure the safety and comfort of all.

HOLY COMMUNION
With pastoral sensitivity toward all parishioners during this unique time you will receive specific instructions from Fr. Nicholas and the Parish Council members in attendance.

COMMUNITY EFFORT/MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
These temporary adjustments will be modified as things progress. In the meantime, they require extra dedication and labor from clergy and community leaders. Thank you for supporting us and moving forward together in a spirit of love.
ADVANCE REQUESTS TO ATTEND ARE REQUIRED

In order to facilitate and to ensure that all parishioners have opportunities to attend, advance reservations are required. It will most likely mean you will not be able to attend every service during this phase. After being absent from church for so long, you may desire in your heart to attend like everyone else in our community; so, your understanding and support of your parish leadership and your respect for the needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ will be greatly appreciated in this difficult task.

HOW TO REQUEST TO ATTEND

Please email Fr. Nicholas at Fr.Nick@stgeorgetct.org or call the Church office at 203-849-0611 and leave a voicemail for Fr. Nicholas, no later than Saturday Noon.

Inform Fr. Nicholas as of how many and which members of your family plan to attend and leave a phone number for emergency contact.

Later, that day, you will receive an email or phone call confirming if you will be able to attend.

If you will be unable to attend the requested day you can ask to be included in the priority list for the following Sunday.

Participation will be on a rotating basis.
WHAT YOU AGREE TO BY ATTENDING
By voluntarily entering the church facility, you affirm that you are not currently ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; you acknowledge that while safety measures are being taken by the church, it cannot guarantee the safety of every person present; you agree to abide by the social distancing and safety guidelines being practiced in this church.

PREPARE FOR OFFERINGS IN ADVANCE
To minimize the handling and exchanging of money in the church, please consider either making your offerings to your church through electronic giving or by preparing your offering in an envelope to be brought to church and deposited in the tray in the Narthex as you exit the Church. Trays will not be passed during the service.

PLEASE RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN EXITING YOUR CAR AND ENTERING THE CHURCH

CANDLE LIGHTING
To minimize the handling of candles in the church, please do not take the candles on your own but ask a Parish Council member to light it for you. You can place your money in the Pagari or leave them on the offerings tray.
**DURING SERVICES**

**ON-TIME ARRIVAL**
Because we will need to provide for your arrival and guide you to a seating area, you will need to arrive at specific times:
- 8:45-9:00 during the Orthros Service
- 9:45-10:00 Before the Divine Liturgy starts
For the rest of the service the doors will be locked.

**MASKS REQUIRED**
All attendees are required to wear protective face masks. If you don’t have a face mask, please use a scarf. Exceptions are allowed for those with valid medical exceptions, special needs and for children age 10 and under. (Children over 2 and under 10 encouraged but not required.) You will need to bring your own mask.

**FOLLOW THE SIGNS**
Please follow posted entry points, aisles and designated seating areas. These have been prepared in advance to provide safe social distancing and need to be respected for everyone’s well-being.

**YOUR SEATING AREA**
Designated seating areas will provide for spacing between individuals and family sections. Members of the same household may be seated in the same section without social distance between them. Everyone is required to remain in their seating area throughout the service except for receiving Holy Communion and for restroom needs.
HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION
At the time for communion Fr. Nicholas, with the assistance of the PC members, will give you specific directions as of how to receive communion.

Please remain at your seating place until someone instructs you to come and receive communion.

Please remove your face mask prior to arriving at the Holy Chalice.

Please do not touch the Communion cloth or dab your lips on it. It will be held by the altar attendants to protect against spills and you will be provided with an individual cloth for your lips.

AFTER SERVICES

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE ON EXITING
Please follow the directions provided by the priest and the guidance of any ushers regarding exiting with social distance.

ANTIDORON IS AVAILABLE ON EXIT
Antidoron will be available for you to take from a tray located at the exit point from the service. Please look for your name on the bag. 1 bag for each family.
PLEASE DEPART IMMEDIATELY
Much as this goes against our common practice following services, please do not congregate in the Narthex or other areas of the church building. All attendees are asked to directly depart following the service.

COFFEE HOURS—NOT YET!
Coffee hours, lunches and other social gatherings are not to be held during this phase. Please understand they will return as soon as possible when restrictions are loosened.

THANK YOU & HAVE A BLESSED WEEK