



ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias
Proistamenos



Dear St. Basil Parishioners,

Christ is in our midst! In accordance with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois and City of Chicago Departments of Public Health, and directives of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, we will soon be able to invite small numbers of parishioners to attend Divine Liturgy in person. For the first Liturgies, we will only be able to accommodate 5 parishioners per service, as only 10 individuals can be in the building at one time. God willing, this initial phase will go well, and we will be able to notify the Metropolis that our parish is adhering to all safety protocols. At that time, the Metropolis will permit us to invite gradually larger numbers of parishioners to each service, as long as we also adhere to local, state, and federal requirements.

Per the Metropolitan's pastoral guidance, all those at higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 (see list below) are strongly recommended to continue attending Liturgy online. All parishioners who are interested in attending a Divine Liturgy will need to sign up by calling (312) 243-3738, or by using the [link](#) in the emailed version of this letter. Each week, there will be a drawing to determine who will attend Liturgy that week. Once you have attended a Liturgy, your name will not be drawn again until everyone has had an opportunity to attend. We have included **Before and After Liturgy** and **Liturgy** protocols that must be followed strictly to maintain our parish's health and safety. These protocols include tracking attendance, screening questions that must be completed two days before your assigned Liturgy, and in-church sanitation and physical distancing measures.

If you have any questions or concerns about how the Metropolis or our parish is proceeding, please feel free to contact the COVID-19 Task Force: Fr. Dimitri Tobias, Jayme Schenk, Themis Frangos, Marina Arvanitis, and Ed Franklin.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dimitri Tobias, Proistamenos

Ms. Jayme Schenk, Parish Council President

Mr. Themistocles Frangos, Esq.

Dr. Marina Arvanitis, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Edward Franklin, M.S., Ph.D.

CDC definition of those who are at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- [People 65 years and older](#)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with [underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled](#), including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease