



St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
200 Old Village Rd., Columbus, OH 43228

CHURCH COVID-19 GUIDELINES & PRECAUTIONS MAY & JUNE 2020

To My Fellow Brothers And Sisters In Christ,

During this difficult time of pandemic and social distancing, we can finally see that Ohio is gradually reopening to select businesses and activities, with precautions firmly in place to prevent a severe "second wave" of COVID-19. In keeping with this gradual reopening of our society, it is necessary that we make similar arrangements within our Church to gather for Liturgy inside the church building.

We want you to be prepared. The Liturgy you may attend in the weeks ahead will look and feel much different from what you remember from three months ago. It will be imperative for all of us to work together during these times. The pandemic is not over, and safety precautions must be followed in order to promote the continued health and safety of everyone in our community.

We are striving to find a new balance while reopening our doors during this pandemic. In order to strike this balance between safety and our way of life, we have created a new set of guidelines to help us better achieve this balance.

These guidelines have taken into account expert advice from the medical community, public health leaders, and Church Hierarchy. They are meant to assist everyone in safely participating in Liturgy while maintaining the sound health precautions counseled by health and government officials which will help prevent, not completely eliminate, the spread or contraction of COVID-19 to our beloved congregation, of whom we care greatly about and why these precautions and guidelines are being implemented.

LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

In order to participate in the Liturgy, the following guidelines **MUST** be met.

1. A family that lives in the same household is allowed to register and attend the same service. No extended family members or neighbors will be allowed to register under another household's registration. Each household must register on their own behalf.
2. Doors will open 15 minutes before Liturgy start time and close 10 minutes after Liturgy begins. If you are not on time you will not be allowed entry **AND** this registration will count toward your 1 attendance for this first registration period. Anyone who fails to

show up for their registered service will have to wait for the next registration period to attend, as you have effectively used your 1 registration.

3. Be mindful of leaving enough space between cars, at least one space, to allow for social distancing between families.
4. You may not enter if your temperature is 100.0 F or higher. Take your temperature at home the morning of the service to ensure you are not sick.
5. If any member of the registering family has symptoms or high temperatures, the whole family must stay home. Your temperatures will also be taken upon entering the church, and if anyone has a temperature of 100.0 F or higher, the whole family will not be permitted to enter, for the safety of all.
6. Families must enter and leave as a unit. No standing in the back of the church or wandering unless for use of the bathroom. Proper handwashing and sanitizing must follow your bathroom use.
7. Children must be accompanied by a parent to use the bathroom and to supervise them washing their hands properly. Remember this is your responsibility towards your church and the public.
8. Upon entering the building, you must sanitize your hands (hand sanitizer provided by the church).
9. Avoid as much as possible touching any surfaces. Do not touch or kiss the icons during this time.
10. Face masks are mandatory for the entire length of the service and only taken off before receiving Communion and put back on immediately after Communion and drinking your water.
11. Each person attending the service will bring their own water bottle to drink after Communion.
12. Only one household will be ushered to partake of Communion at a time and will return to their seats before the next household will be ushered for their turn.
13. You must maintain social distance (6 feet) from everyone that is not living under the same roof.
14. Each member will be provided a disinfecting wipe upon arrival to sanitize their own space in their pew before service. Another wipe will be provided for sanitizing your pew area after the service has ended.
15. After you have sanitized your pew area, we ask that each family promptly leave the church premises as a unit when called upon by an usher. We will not have a coffee hour/social hour or Sunday School on church premises. After service is over, congregating in the building and parking area is not allowed.
16. Each household will be required to present their registration confirmation email upon entry of the church, anyone without a confirmation email will not be permitted to enter the church.

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY

The following precautions have been taken by the church. The church will be cleaned and disinfected. Doors will be propped open to limit contact with high contact touchpoints. Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry. Temperatures will be checked at the door. Qorban will be made by bakers wearing masks and gloves. Abouna and the altar deacon will wear masks during the distribution of Communion.

May God bless the obedient son and daughter. +