



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

Rev. Father Peter Souritzidis, Presiding Priest
Ιερατικός Προϊστάμενος π. Πέτρος Σουριτζιδης



1928-2018

My beloved in the Lord,

It is with tremendous joy that I announce to you that Governor Phil Murphy has lifted the Stay-at-home order and therefore, effective immediately the houses of worship within the State of New Jersey are allowed to re-open to the faithful. The Executive Order allows our parishes to reopen, but with a **maximum of 50 people total**. Having received the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, to let parishioners in the church once again, it is with great joy that I inform you that the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, with the "in-person" participation of the laity, beginning **this Sunday, June 14th 2020**. According to the Metropolis requirement we can have up to 45 people in the church, (so that including the essential personnel, priest, chanter, altar boys, custodian etc, we will be at the maximum of 50 persons).

For the time being, in order for our beloved parishioners to attend services, the following procedures must be followed. As you can see by the attached letter sent by our Metropolis:

- You will be required to make a "reservation". This is a necessary step, due to the need of maintaining the proper number of people in the church, during each Service, as well as making sure that your health and well-being is protected. You are kindly requested to make your reservation on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/orthros-divine-liturgy-june-14th-2020-tickets-109412660212>
Please make your reservations as soon as possible, since seating is on a "first come, first serve" basis.
- If you know of someone that does not have access to the internet, please offer to assist them in making the reservation. Alternatively, they may call the church office and submit their request.
- Upon making the reservation you will be given a confirmation. Please bring your confirmation, to be sure you will enter the church.
- Due to the 45-person limit, we ask that you would please be mindful of your fellow parishioners and allow each other the opportunity to attend the Services. As the weeks go by parishioners who have not attended Services will be given the opportunity to attend over those who have done so recently. In addition, families with Memorial Services will be given priority for up to 10 people.

Please remember that there are also week-day Services often. You may consider making a reservation for one of these dates. For your convenience, all week-day services will be announced via Robocall and email or you may call the office for information.

• **Please be sure to wear a mask when you enter the church and practice the social distancing rule of 6 feet between individuals. Family members do not need to observe social distancing and may sit next to each other. There will be markings on the pews indicating seating positions for individuals and families.**

• The Orthros will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy.

• As you realize the Church is in great need of everyone's support, so baskets will be placed by the entrance for your contribution, please be as generous as you can. If you would prefer, you can make your weekly offerings using the online service:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=HLEJXKGLZKSG6&source=url

• If you are high risk category as defined by the CDC, are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms or have had exposure to someone with symptoms, please remain home and enjoy the online services until you can safely return to the church.

• If you are still not comfortable with attending Divine Services, in person, you may still participate through the live broadcasts, shown on our Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/StDemUnion/>

Looking forward to seeing you again and thanking you for your cooperation during these trying times. Praying that our Lord continues to bless you and guide you, I remain,

With love and blessings in Christ

Fr. Peter G. Souritzidis

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