

June 7, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Josaphat,

WELCOME BACK TO YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME!

As announced on Friday, June 5, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that in Phase II of the re-opening of New York State, public religious gatherings may be permitted of up to 25% of the total capacity of the church building! Total seating capacity of St. Josaphat Church building (including the choir loft) is 750 people. 25% of 750 is 187.5 people which are now permitted to attend services so long as participants stay apart and wear masks. This includes Divine Liturgies, Funerals, Weddings and Christenings. The number for attendance at the Chapel remains at 10. Please be mindful that if you do not feel comfortable coming to church or do not feel well, please stay home. We are still exempt from our Sunday Obligation until the Hierarchy lift this dispensation.

Since our Liturgical life is resuming, we are still sanitizing the Church and Chapel on a regular daily basis. Divine Liturgies are Tuesday – Thursday at 8:00a.m. in the Chapel, 5:00p.m Saturday Evening in English and Sunday at 9:30a.m. in Ukrainian and English. **Because it is impossible for us to sanitize the Church on Sunday following the 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy, there will not be an 11:00a.m. Liturgy until further notice.** Instructions, rules and regulations will continue to be given regarding how we are to social distance ourselves in Church and that **wearing a mask is mandatory for attendance.** Reception of Holy Communion will be explained at the proper time of the Divine Liturgy.

We will continue to live stream Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30a.m. on Facebook.

Because we have resumed a liturgical schedule, the Church Building and Chapel will only be opened according to the schedule of liturgical services.

The following is to be observed until further notice:

- 1) Masks are to be worn,**
- 2) Social distancing is to be practiced (6 feet apart or more),**
- 3) Obey the signage as to entrances and exits and any other signage regarding instruction,**
- 4) No handshakes, hugs or kissing when greeting one another,**
- 5) No kissing of icons,**
- 6) You must bring your own prayer book. All books have been removed for your safety,**
- 7) Until further notice, there will not be any visitations to hospitals, nursing homes or private homes. Only in EXTREME CASE OF EMERGENCY will a sacramental visitation be made,**
- 9) Confessions continue to be by special appointment ONLY,**
- 10) No greeters or ushers are permitted. Only one usher will take the Collection with a long-handled basket and place the collection in the usual place.**

It is important for us to be even tempered and peaceful during this time! Let us respect our civil authorities as well as our hierarchy and take serious their call for us to use common sense. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for guidance to put our trust as a parish in the Lord and pray that His healing power will come upon those suffering from COVID-19! May the Good Lord continue to bless you for your love for St. Josaphat Church!

