



## SAINT ATHANASIOS

*“Let us come before His face with thanksgiving, and let us shout aloud to Him with psalms.” (Psalm 94:2)*

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Faithful Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We informed the community last week that we had begun the work of *Reuniting our People with their Parish Home*, and communicated to you some of the clear directives of the Metropolis of Chicago. It is with great joy that we announce the anticipated reopening of our parish. Pending a walk through of the Church this afternoon, we will be submitting our certification to the Metropolis of Chicago that we are prepared to receive additional attendees at the Divine Services.

Upon receiving approval from the Metropolis to enter “Level-2” we will be able to have a maximum of 10 individual attendees. The services from June 6<sup>th</sup> – June 11<sup>th</sup> will be attended by the Ushers and Parish Council members who will need to familiarize themselves with the new safety procedures before preparing for larger attendance. After the Ushers are appropriately prepared, we will gradually increase attendance over the coming weeks until arriving at a maximum of 80 attendees (25% of seating capacity) per service. The attendance will increase as follows:

- 10 (Ushers) – June 6-11 Multiple Divine Liturgies
- 25 (All parishioners) – Sunday, June 14 Divine Liturgy
- 50 (All parishioners) – Sunday, June 21 Divine Liturgy
- 80 (All parishioners) – Wednesday, June 24 Divine Liturgy & all subsequent services

***Given the limited capacity for each service, parishioners will be required to “sign-up” to attend a particular service. This may be done online through sign-up links distributed via email and posted to our parish google calendar, or by calling the office 630-851-6106 to sign-up for a service.*** Only those who have signed-up for a particular service will be permitted to attend that service. When attendance capacity has been reached for a particular service that service will be closed to additional parishioners. We will make those sign-ups available and provide further detail about what to expect when returning to the parish after the Ushers refine their procedures following the services this weekend.

We understand that not everyone may be comfortable returning to Church at this time, and there is no shame or pressure to do so. Additionally, the Metropolis of Chicago has recommended that those in the most vulnerable populations consult CDC guidelines, and consider refraining from attending services. A full list of the high-risk populations can be found at the CDC Website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> “People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 14 May 2020, [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html).

People who are not comfortable or not able to attend services can contact the Church office to arrange a time for Fr. Panagiotis to visit them in their home to offer them the Holy Eucharist.

We thank all the members of the community who have assisted in ways both big and small over the past 3 and a half months, and those who have offered to continue to help in the coming months. But most importantly we thank the Lord our God that He has and will continue to watch over us as we reunite in worship and praise of His glory.

In Christ's Service,

St. Athanasios COVID Safety Team

