

Guidelines For the Opening of Holy Trinity Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church

The guidelines in this document were produced by Holy Trinity's Board of Directors in consultation with our priest.

If you are sick, have a fever or think you are sick, stay home & seek medical attention. If you have been in contact with someone who is sick, do the same. Our liturgies will continue to be accessible online on Sunday afternoons.

Please also note that the guidelines listed below, will change for the better as the government advisories become more optimistic.

Arriving at Church

1. All parishioners must enter the church using the front doors. (The garden gate near the front doors will be open.) Outside the front doors, those without a mask will be given one.
2. Upon receiving the mask, all parishioners must sign-in so we can keep track of people especially if an outbreak ever occurs at the church.
3. One household at a time may enter the church to purchase candles and proceed to light them. The candle seller will wear a mask and rubber gloves.
4. Those wanting to make a donation may do so in the usual manner, one person at a time. One must practice social distancing while waiting to make a donation. The person taking the donations will wear a mask and rubber gloves.

In The Church

1. Masks should be worn at all times on the church premises. Those that cannot wear masks should bring and use an alternative face covering like a scarf, hanky or face-guard. (The priest may be the exception to this rule while he conducts the liturgy. Also choir members may lower their masks if they wish to sing during the liturgy. These members will sit in the first row (social distancing from one other), facing the alter when singing.
2. Venerate icons by bowing to them. Do not kiss or touch them.
3. When sitting in a pew, each household must sit at least 2 metres apart from other households. (A household can be one person or a family who live together.) Every second row of seats will be blocked off to help facilitate social distancing.
4. Do not shake hands, kiss or hug anyone outside of your household.
5. Alcohol-based sanitizers are available at a number of stations throughout the church, Use them as often as necessary to ensure your hands are clean.
6. For the time being, communion will not occur during the liturgy. The same applies for the nahfora (bread) at the end of the service.

After The Liturgy

1. When the service is over, remain seated until your row is directed to exit. Once directed, exit via the front doors. Practice social distancing with other households as you leave.
2. For this Sunday, there will be no coffee served after the service. However, we will access having coffee after church on a week to week basis as social distancing guidelines are modified by the Ontario and the federal government. The church hall will be unavailable for socializing until further notice but this too will be accessed on a week to week basis.