



HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

COVID Guidelines

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, and with thanks to God, we are pleased to announce the continued reopening of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Tacoma.

Indoor Divine Liturgy on Sunday:

We will follow the directives of His Eminence on Sunday Mornings:

As you may have heard, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has updated its recommended protocols concerning the use of masks. Essentially, masks are no longer mandated for those persons who *have been fully vaccinated*. This means that those who have received their final covid vaccination (one or two, depending on the vaccine) no longer need to wear masks indoors or outdoors, in large or small groups or gatherings, and without concern for social distancing. This would seem to include gatherings in church. However, if those who are fully vaccinated wish, they might also consider continuing to wear masks for their own comfort and out of respect for others. The CDC also recommended and advised that *those who are not fully vaccinated* continue to wear masks for the time being in order to protect themselves and others from potential exposure.

Please refer to your state and local government regulations with regard to the implementation of these new protocols. In California, for example, it is my understanding the rules regarding the wearing of masks indoors remain in effect until June 15 in spite of the CDC recommendations. This is, however, not the case in other states in our diocese.

I bless our parishes to implement the new CDC guidelines as outlined above, noting that these guidelines clearly recommend that those who have not been vaccinated continue to wear masks indoors. However, I also note that there are some grey areas within the CDC guidelines that raise concern. One of these is that there is no realistic way to monitor this new provision, i.e. to determine who has or hasn't yet been vaccinated. Indeed, this is a matter of personal concern which many would not want to share. In the parish context, this puts our clergy in the unenviable and unfeasible position of monitoring something which is impossible to monitor. Because of this, I ask that individual parishioners and families, whether wearing masks or not, monitor themselves in this regard, always in a manner that is respectful of others in the parish community.

Indoor Divine Liturgy on Saturday:

Because there are those in our parish who are unable to receive or obtain a vaccination, including children, we will require that everyone in attendance on Saturday morning wear a facemark, and continue to observe social distancing.

Other Considerations

Concerning Vaccinations: People are free to state whether they have been vaccinated, but please do not inquire whether they have been or not, as this is a matter of personal concern.

Streaming Services: We will continue to stream Liturgy to televisions in the St. Joseph Hall, and if required, the Parish House on Sundays. If the Sunday Liturgy is held outdoors, the streaming to other rooms may not be necessary.

We will continue to stream Sunday Divine Liturgy on YouTube.

Folding Chairs: If an outdoor Liturgy is scheduled, you may take a folding chair from the St. Joseph Hall for your use. Please return it neatly where you found it!

Coffee Hours: We are planning a return to outdoor coffee hours. Coffee, sweetener, and creamer, as well as children's juice boxes will be made available in the Parish House kitchen counter. Bring your own sack lunch or snack. Please watch the bulletin email for dates and details.

Going Forward

We hope that we will soon all gather inside the church for Sunday Liturgy, and gather for meals, classes and meetings as we did before the pandemic hit.