



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL KITCHENER-WATERLOO & DISTRICT

527 Bridgeport Road East Kitchener, Ontario N2K 1N6

December 23, 2020

RE: Plan for Church Services During Lockdown

Dear Parishioners,

On Monday December 21st, the Ontario Government announced a provincial lockdown. For our church, this means that as of Sunday December 27th, 2020 there will be a maximum capacity of 10 people. This includes church services, funerals, baptisms and weddings.

Including the Reverend Father, Chanter, Sexton, and 2 council members, this allows for 5 additional persons to attend at a first come first serve basis. The church will be open for private prayer during each Liturgy and allowing up to 5 persons at a time to enter the church, light their candle, pray and leave to make room for the next group of 5 persons to enter. For communion service, parishioners may remain in their car until it is time for communion. A church council member will notify you and guide 5 persons at a time to enter the church.

We ask that those leaving the church do so from the door next to the candle stands in the narthex. Please be respectful of church council members when they ask you to leave to allow others that are waiting outside to enter as well so we can serve as many parishioners as possible.

We acknowledge that these strict guidelines are not ideal and we cannot participate in the Divine Liturgy as we would like but being able to keep the church doors open during this time is very important.

The front entrance to the church will be locked once the maximum capacity is reached but it will be monitored by a council member who will guide you inside when it is your turn. We kindly ask that you respect these rules and follow the protocols put in place.

Artoklasia/ Kolyva: Parishioners may bring artoklasia and koliva but they will not be cut and not distributed in the church. Parishioners must take the artoklasia after the end of the Divine Liturgy and leave. Distribution of these items may only be distributed outside of the church. For memorials please contact Fr. Anatoliy to make arrangements.

Effective Sunday December 27th, all church services will be live streamed through our Facebook Page.

We will keep you informed by email and post on our website any further changes for the following month. Please communicate this message to your family and friends who may not have access to email.

Health and Safety Guidelines:

Please find information below which outlines the health and safety practices that must be followed for attending church services:

Before coming to church it is imperative that you a) be free of COVID-19 symptoms, b) not have been in close contact with any individual diagnosed with COVID-19 or exhibiting potential symptoms. If you are sick please stay home and seek medical advice.

Saints Peter and Paul Church has an obligation to follow social gathering requirements set out by the Government of Ontario, Region of Waterloo Public Health and the as well as respect the physical distancing criteria on church property grounds at all times.

We highly recommend that everyone coming into church wear a face covering and sanitize their hands. Sanitizing pumps are available at the entrance and by the candle stand.

The church hall will remain closed. As well, the church office will remain closed on Sundays.

Regular office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9AM-1PM and Fridays 10AM-1PM. Please call the office to make an appointment.

Saints Peter and Paul Church appreciates receiving donations from both members and friends of our church community. Your donations support our ongoing church projects (building, restoration, repairs, and maintenance of grounds). Donations can be made by:

- Mail: Cheque payable to Saints Peter and Paul Church
- Calling the church office during church hours 519-579-4703
- At the church office by appointment during regular office hours (cash, cheque, credit or debit card)
- In person after hours: Drop off cheque in mail box located at the side door entrance
- By Direct Deposit: saintspeterandpaulchurch@rogers.com

This Christmas season will be very different for all of us. We wish you a blessed Nativity Season. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Sincerely,

Rev. Father Anatoliy Bandura

Parish Priest

Maria Menounos

President, Church Council