



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
July 18, 2020

Слава Ісусу Христу!
Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Parishioners of St. Nicholas,

RE: Re-opening of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church for public worship

Over the past several months, almost every aspect of our daily lives has been affected in some way or another by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Society is trying to find and establish a new normal in response to living with the challenges that the virus brings, as is the Church. To this point, the Archeparchy of Winnipeg has issued a set of Directives, based on Provincial Health Regulations, that all parishes in the Archeparchy are to follow when re-opening their church buildings for public liturgical worship; a link to this document can be found on the parish website. These Directives are lengthy, but it is very important that you become familiar with them.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church will re-open its doors to public worship based on these directives. The **first Sunday Liturgy that will be open to the public will be AUGUST 2, 2020 at 11:00am**. At this time, the 9:00am and 7:00pm Divine Liturgies will continue to be livestreamed and will remain closed to the public. The 11am Liturgy can only have a **maximum of 50 participants**, which include the priest(s), cantor, sacristan, ushers/greeters, and the faithful. Therefore, **40 spots** will be available for the faithful. As time progresses, additional Liturgies will be scheduled.

According to #8 in the Directives, *"The faithful continue to be **dispensed from attending the Divine Liturgy at this time.**"* For the sake of the wider community, anyone with COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, as well as those who are feeling sick (even mild symptoms), and those who have recently travelled outside of Canada must stay home. Those who have underlying or compromised medical conditions are also encouraged to stay home.

However, if you or your family wish to participate in a Sunday Liturgy, you cannot just show up for the service. You must do the following:

1. You must pre-register for the specific Divine Liturgy. A link will be available on the parish website to facilitate online registration. For those without internet access, you may contact the parish office by email: office@stnicholaschurch.ca, or by phone 204-582-6695.
2. You must provide the names of all who will be attending in your reservation, and your contact info. This information will be used solely for the purposed of Contact tracing, should the need ever arise. You must receive a confirmation of your attendance- either electronically, or by phone. **If you have NOT received confirmation of registration, please DO NOT show up at the church, as you will not be permitted to enter.**
3. Registration for Sunday Divine Liturgy will open on Monday morning and the deadline for pre-registering for a Sunday Divine Liturgy is **3:00pm on the Friday before.**



Basilian Fathers

737 Bannerman Avenue ■ Winnipeg, Manitoba ■ R2X 1J9 ■ Phone 204.582.6695 ■ Fax 204.582.1068

4. If you should require the use of the elevator, please make this request known when registering so that the proper accommodations can be made.
5. In order to allow everyone who wishes to attend a Divine Liturgy the opportunity to do so, please consider pre-registering for Divine Liturgy only every 2 weeks or so, or if you have already attended a Liturgy, please wait until Friday to attempt to make a reservation.

What happens when I arrive at St. Nicholas?

- Entrance to the church is only permitted through the main front doors facing Bannerman Avenue. Doors will only be opened 30 minutes prior to the start of Liturgy. Rosary will begin 20 minutes prior to Liturgy.
- Prior to entering the church, people will be greeted by a volunteer that will check the attendance sheet and lead a questionnaire. The list will have the names of all the registered attendees for that particular Divine Liturgy. **If your name is not on the attendance sheet, you will not be allowed to enter the church for worship.**
- Each person must answer the questionnaire to determine if it is safe for them to participate at the Divine Liturgy. They must then sign the questionnaire, at which point they will be escorted by an usher into the church.
- You will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided upon entering the church.

The attendance sheet and questionnaire are EXTREMELY important for tracing purposes. Should someone become ill from the COVID-19 virus, then the list will identify all who were in church for that particular service and we will be able to notify them for their own health and safety.

All those attending church services do so at their own risk. Please always maintain social (physical) distancing and good hygiene. It is very important that each person and family take responsibility for protecting themselves and others.

In addition to the General Directives set out by the Archeparchy, St. Nicholas Parish has implemented the following:

- Entrance to the church will be through the front doors facing Bannerman Avenue. Those individuals requiring extra assistance (i.e. elevator use) will be directed to the Arlington Street entrance. The doors will be locked to the outside of the church 10 minutes after the beginning of Liturgy, so please plan to arrive your arrival accordingly.
- The use of facial masks in the church at this time is not mandatory, but their use is encouraged.
- The faithful may take an active part in the spoken responses but are asked to refrain from singing along with the cantor.
- To reduce social contact, there will not be a collection during Liturgy. Rather, the collection basket will be placed on a table in the vestibule of the church prior to the start of liturgy.
- Exit from the Church will be through the Parking Lot doors.

- The Liturgy books have all been removed from the pews. Additional texts for the responses will be shown on the projection screens. You may also bring your own book (or purchase your own) to take home with you.
- Please sit only in the designated pews. The ushers will offer assistance with seating. Those living in the same households may sit together. All others must respect social distancing norms.
- The practice of lighting votive candles has been temporarily suspended as to reduce the amount of movement in the church.
- There will be only 1 line for Communion; the ushers will direct the faithful who wish to receive the Sacrament in an orderly fashion. Please maintain social distancing when in line.
- The choir loft will be closed.
- The washroom in the link will be available; children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Confessions will begin 30 minutes prior to the start of Liturgy, and will take place in the foyer of the Elevator addition at church level. A table and chairs will be placed in a manner that respects social distancing.
- At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the ushers will direct the faithful to exit the church in an orderly manner.

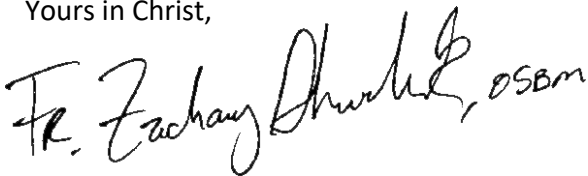
We are all committed to making St. Nicholas Church as safe as possible for public worship services. To this point, the church and washroom will be thoroughly sanitized after all services for everyone's protection. Extra sanitizing product will be available in the washrooms for people's use.

Ensuring that these directives are effectively implemented is a huge task, and we are asking for volunteers to help. Anyone willing to offer assistance on Sundays are asked to attend a training session on **TUESDAY JULY 28, 2020 at 6:30pm** at the church. Participation in this training session is required prior to volunteering.

These Directives for public worship are sure to change as time passes. We will do our best to keep you informed as to any new changes. Your suggestions are welcome, but not as much as your cooperation, understanding, and willingness to volunteer to assist in these challenging times.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the parish office and your inquiry will be directed to the appropriate individual.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Zachary Shwaluk, OSBM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "S".

Fr. Zachary Shwaluk, OSBM
Pastor