



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church



Below is a question and answer section, our survey results, and additional information from our Metropolis.
Stay tuned for the email with the reservation link. We look forward to seeing everyone again at church.

Father George Alexson
Presiding Priest

Con Sofologis
Parish Council President

FREQUENTLY ASKED & SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Will Communion be offered?

Per directive from His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos , the traditional practice of receiving Holy Communion will not be changed. The faithful will be given instructions by Fr George for a safe and orderly process.

2. Who is considered higher risk and should stay home and watch the services online? Anyone with a cold, fever, runny nose, or considered at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, [as defined by the CDC](#) , should not attend church services in person. Please continue to view our services on our [Holy Apostles YouTube Channel](#) .

3. Are Parish Council members required to ask parishioners health questions before entering church?

Yes, we are required to ask each parishioner, prior to entry into the church, if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or if they care for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms. If a parishioner responds “yes”, they will not be allowed to enter the church.

4. Will I need to wear a face mask and practice social distancing if attending service in person?

Yes, all individuals and families attending church services must wear face masks as they enter church and practice the 6-foot social distancing requirement. Families may sit together. Pews will be taped off for guidance and Parish Council members will seat you. Parents must ensure children remain seated and adhere to social distancing. Click [here](#) to see CDC Guidance for use of face coverings.

5. What is the seating capacity in church with the social distancing requirements?

With social distancing of 6 feet between individuals and families, the seating capacity is limited to a maximum of 65 people, but actual numbers may be less due to social distancing. (excluding priests, chanters, and staff). Everyone must register.

6. Will I need to register/check in?

Yes, we are required to register all individuals who attend church in person. This information is needed so parishioners may be advised if another parishioner is found to have tested positive at a later date. Anyone testing positive should contact Fr George immediately – identification will be strictly confidential. A follow-up email will be sent with reservation instructions.

7. Registration is not required at Walmart, why must we register?

At the direction of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, a registration system must be implemented at each parish to provide those that have attended services on a specific date, to be notified of any possible

concerns. The difference between our church and Walmart is that we are in a confined area in close proximity to others for an extended period of time. This is not the case at large retail establishments.

8. Do you have hand sanitizer in church?

Yes.

9. Why can't I use Uber/Lyft for transportation?

Though your driver may be wearing a mask, the cleanliness of their vehicle may not be to standard. If you require a ride, you are encouraged to request a ride with another parishioner. If ride assistance is needed, please contact Office Manager Lia Economou

10. What about the survey we took?

Results of the survey are below. Questions for the survey were derived from the Encyclical from Metropolitan Evangelos and guidance for reopening.

Reopening Survey Results

Total respondents = 53

Are you willing to come to church when we open?

Yes = 28

No = 25

If no, when would you be comfortable coming back to church? (only 28 gave a specific timeframe).

2 weeks after opening= 2

4 weeks after opening= 1

6 weeks after opening= 1

8 weeks after opening=1

Not Sure= 24

If yes, would you like to come every Sunday? (only 40 answered)

Yes= 22

No= 18

Please indicate willingness to adhere to each requirement below as directed by Metropolitan

Requirements which conform to State and Local regulations, CDC guidance, and additional Metropolis of New Jersey directives/requirements.

Parishioners must bring and wear protective masks throughout the Service.

Yes= 46 No= 7

Parishioners must sanitize their hands upon entering the Church.

Yes= 51

No= 2

Parishioners must pre-register their attendance with their full names and contact information, including all family members.

Yes= 43

No= 10

Parishioners must adhere to the social distancing guidelines of keeping a 6-foot distance from other parishioners at all times in the pews and throughout the Church. The only exception being for families that have quarantined together, as they will be able to sit together in a designated section of the Church.

Yes= 49

No= 3

Parishioners must screen themselves prior to coming to church including a temperature check even if they have not experienced any symptoms of COVID-19. If they have any symptoms they are not to attend Church.

Yes= 51

No= 2

Parishioners are not to wander in the Church, in the Parish facilities, or outside on the parish grounds.

Yes= 48

No= 5

Parents must keep their children from roaming the aisles.

Yes= 49

No= 4

Parishioners shall not come to the Church by a ride share (Uber, Lyft), a taxi, or other means of public transportation. Parishioners must arrive in their own vehicle. (Strongly Recommended), or arrange for another parishioner to transport them.

Yes= 49

No= 4

Parishioners must leave the Church premises, including the parking lot and exterior grounds, upon conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, all the while maintaining social distancing standards.

Yes= 50

No= 3

Only one parishioner will be allowed in the restroom at a time. Parishioners must thoroughly wash their hands after using the restroom.

Yes= 47

No= 6

If after attending any service, a parishioner experiences symptom of or tests positive for COVID-19, in addition to immediately contacting their medical provider, they must contact the Church office to inform the parish of the date that they attended service.

Yes= 51

No= 2