



Health & Safety Note



Parish Reopening Considerations

Many unknowns, but what we do know...

- Many local health departments throughout the Metropolis reveal they continue to have serious reservations about the pandemic and the challenges they face in trying to balance health and safety with economic and social pressures while issuing guidelines.
- We have evidence that the virus is still circulating and the measure of potential to spread is higher than considered safe by experts.
- In many places cases and deaths, though relatively low, are trending upward, not downward.
- In addition- the week of national mass protests across the country have dramatically increased the risk of rapid spread and exacerbation of the virus.

In light of this, you may wish to consider...

1. **SLOW OPEN** Consider limiting to a small group for the first Sunday, reassessing and then increasing to eventually reach capacity; this will serve to test the protocols that are being developed, help our community to get used to flow and also will allow for more time to assess the course of the pandemic in the community at large.
2. **EMPOWER COMPASSIONATE ENFORCEMENT** Prepare a script, standard language or training for those who will help to implement social distancing protocols in order to help them to effectively, but compassionately, enforce the rules that are being put in place.
3. **CAUTION FOR CHILDREN** For the first weeks, children may have a hard time with the protocols being implemented so it may be helpful to wait a few weeks after you reopen before encouraging children to return.
4. **CONSTANTLY MONITOR YOUR SITUATION** The pandemic continues to be unpredictable. Even though your parish has reopened, spikes in the virus may force a local health department to modify prior approvals to open. If at any time you are uncomfortable with having your parish remain open please discuss with your Vicar.
5. **OPEN ONLY WHEN YOU ARE READY** A parish should open only when its completed a parish plan (using the Readiness Checklist), has local health department approval and the Proistamenos and the parish council feels the parish is ready.

