



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

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August 20, 2020

Protocol 20-13

The Reverend Clergy, the Monastics,  
and the Faithful Parishioners of  
the Holy Metropolis of Denver

Beloved in the Lord,

As we continue to navigate the uncertain waters of the coronavirus pandemic and take measures for the physical health and well-being of people, it is equally appropriate and imperative that we address the spiritual needs and welfare of the faithful members of Christ's Church.

We are all painfully aware of the impact that the abrupt closure of our churches had on all of us, and we recognize the arduous process of resuming active parish life. With concern over the long-term effects that the diminished capacity of our parishes will have on the Church, I feel an obligation to continue allowing our communities to expand their ministries in a safe and responsible manner.

It is for this reason that I offer to you the following instructions for the parishes of the Metropolis of Denver. Please note that as before, given the vast geography of this metropolis and the diverse situations faced by our parishes, these directives are all to be applied within the bounds of orders, restrictions, and guidelines of our respective local, county, and state officials. It is the responsibility of the parish to know what those are at any given time and to ensure that the parishes are in compliance.

Existing hygiene, distancing, and cleaning protocols are expected to continue, and previously communicated directives remain in effect, unless specifically addressed below:

1. Restrictions on the number of participants in non-liturgical, in-person gatherings imposed by the Metropolis are lifted. Local mandates and guidelines apply.
2. Parishes may provide in-person Sunday School, virtual catechism, or a combination of both at their discretion in accordance with the needs and capabilities of the parish. For those offering in-person instruction, note that special attention is necessary for distancing during entry, exit, and for the duration of classes. As well, all appropriate cleaning of rooms and materials must be completed.

3. Youth altar servers are allowed, provided that they are in limited numbers and appropriately distanced in the sanctuary.
4. The use of the following liturgical items is allowed:
  - a. Candles may be lit with steps taken to limit contact and proximity
  - b. Antidoron may be distributed in individual plastic bags by one individual wearing gloves and a mask
  - c. On the Feast of the Holy Cross, blessed basil may be distributed by one individual wearing gloves and a mask. The blessing cross should not be offered for veneration.

It is obvious that no steps we take can completely eliminate all danger. However, working cooperatively we can responsibly mitigate risk, while at the same time allowing the faithful parishioners of this Metropolis to further reengage with their parishes and more fully experience the life of the Church.

May our loving and merciful God grant us His abundant blessings, and may He deliver us from this peril as we continue to seek His eternal Kingdom.

With paternal blessings,

  
+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver