



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

May 13th, 2020

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for the Holy Sacraments

In addition to the guidelines stated in the letter dated May 13th, 2020, these additional guidelines pertain specifically to the sacraments.

Orthros and Divine Liturgy

- Sunday Morning Orthros should continue to take place as usual.
- During the Sunday Morning Orthros, the Holy Gospel will not be brought out for veneration.
- If there is more than one priest per community, then multiple Divine Liturgies may be offered with the changing of the Antimension and proper sanitation of Church before the next service.
- All red Communion cloths (μάκτρα) must be used for only one service and then need to be washed before re-using them.
- There will be no processions or censing into the nave/narthex (remain on the Solea).

Weddings

- Weddings will be celebrated keeping the previously mentioned guidelines.
- On the Solea there will only be the Bride and Groom, Orthodox sponsor(s), best man, maid/matron of honor according to the local regulations.
- The clergy will wash or sanitize their hands before and after the service.
- The Sacrament will be conducted from the Royal Doors rather than the table.
- Photographers/Videographers must also keep social distancing while wearing a mask.

Baptisms

- Baptisms will be celebrated keeping the previously mentioned guidelines.
- On the Solea there will only be the Orthodox sponsor(s) grandmother(s) along with the clergy.
- The clergy will wash or sanitize their hands before and after the service.
- Those who are handling the child will also wash their hands.
- At the time of the exorcism(s), only the clergy, sponsor(s) and another person holding the child (not the parents) will be in the narthex. All others will remain in the Nave of the Church.
- In the baptism, in order to keep social distancing, we will have around the font, the priest, to the left of the priest, the child being held by one of the grandmothers, and to the right of the priest the Orthodox sponsor(s) holding the candles.
- Photographers/Videographers must also keep social distancing while wearing a mask.

Chrismations

- Chrismations will be celebrated keeping the previously mentioned guidelines.

- The clergy will wash or sanitize their hands before and after the service.

Funerals

- Funerals will be celebrated keeping the previously mentioned guidelines and can be conducted in the church as permitted by the state regulations.
- They may also be celebrated at the funeral home or at the graveside with the full funeral service being offered.
- There will be no visitations the evening before, nor makarias/memorial meals following the service.

Holy Unction

- The clergy will wash or sanitize their hands before and after the service.
- While administering the sacrament the clergy will wear a mask and gloves and use an individual Q-tip for each parishioner and as in all cases without kissing their hand.

40-day Blessings

- The clergy will wash or sanitize their hands before and after the service.
- The clergy and the parents will wear masks for the service.

Confession

- The Sacrament of Holy Confession must be done alone in an empty church, preferably by appointment.
- The clergy must stand six feet away from the person confessing, both wearing masks.
- During the prayer of absolution, the priest must remain six feet away, must lift up his stole (επιτραχήλιον) in the air, and say the Prayer of Absolution from a distance without kissing his hand.

Spiritual Court

- May be convened in person with all participants wearing masks and observing social distancing requirements.