

To: SS Constantine & Helen Parishioners
From: Fr. George and Robert Demson
Subject: Corona Virus Update as it Pertains to Our Parish

We are all feeling a bit uncertain about the many changes that are taking place due to the Coronavirus. For this reason, we want to address a few of the concerns that you may have and update you on what is happening at SS Constantine & Helen Church.

It is now being suggested that we limit attendance at events to 10 people to avoid potentially spreading the virus. For that reason, Archbishop Elpidophoros has encouraged parishioners to *pray at home* instead of attending Church services. Many Greek Orthodox Churches broadcast their Sunday services, as well as their special Lenten services, live on the internet. If you would like to watch one of these broadcasts, please visit www.goarch.org; then click on CHAPEL; and then click on LIVE BROADCASTS. You will find all the churches around the country that are streaming their services. It is a wonderful way to stay connected to our faith.

As of March 14, 2020, we have responded to the many directives from the Federal, State and Local government entities and also to the Archbishop's Encyclical:

- Unless we are advised otherwise by Metropolitan Evangelos, all Liturgical worship services will be held as scheduled.
- All church activities and ministries will be cancelled through May 15.
- Greek School and Sunday School will be cancelled through May 15.
- The clergy and staff will work to ensure that all your spiritual needs are met.
- We will not have Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
- Posted Coronavirus Encyclical on Church Facebook page.
- Removed worship books from pews.
- Cleaned pews with disinfectant.
- Placed hand sanitizer in Narthex.
- Cancelled Friday Lenten Supper's

Additionally, the Parish Council met on Monday, March 16, 2020, and has acted on many important decisions:

- Cancelled all breakfasts and Hall rentals through May 15.
- Moved Spring Festival dates from May 28-31 to August 27-30.
- Cancelled all non-essential purchases and reviewing ways to reduce expenses.
- Continue to monitor Coronavirus related recommendations
- Reach out to our Parishioners with important messages

With the suspension of all of our non-Church related activities, including all religious education, Greek School, youth programs, and social clubs, we will miss worshipping together and seeing each other during coffee hour as well as at the other weekly meetings and classes.

It is very important that we reach out to one another during these days and weeks to offer our love and support. Many of our parishioners live alone or are homebound. It can get extremely lonely for them. We encourage you to think about these people, as well as the ones you normally see in Church each week, and give them a phone call or stop by to visit them. Perhaps you can ask if they need any groceries or a ride to a medical appointment? Do they have questions about what is going on? This can be a nervous time for all of us, and hearing from a friend from Church may be just what is needed.

As we know, the services and sacraments are life-giving and bring healing of body and soul. During the unusual times in which we are living, let us all use this season of Great Lent to focus more on Jesus Christ and His message of eternal life, rather than focus on the fear that the evil one brings to our temporal world. It is our eternal soul about which we should be most concerned as we navigate the days ahead.

We will pray together, united in our Lord as one family, loving and taking care of each other.

Take courage that we will get through this. Remember the words of the Gospel, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

In Service to Christ,

Father George Chioros

Robert Demson, Parish Council President