

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1220 S. 60th Ct. – Cicero, IL 60804

COVID-19 Reopening Parish for Church Services Manual
Parish Health and Safety Plan
Effective June 14, 2020

1. To attend Divine Liturgy, all parishioners must register for a specific service at the online portal as designated by the Church.
2. Walk-ins will not be allowed. You must be registered for the service to attend.
3. Only register for one Divine Liturgy at this time to allow other parishioners the opportunity to attend a service, as well.
4. You can only register yourself and your immediate family (spouse, children, any living in your household). St. George Cicero parishioners are given priority. Non-members are welcome to attend, but only if capacity allows it and all parishioners have had the opportunity to register. Registration cannot be transferred to another person.
5. Stay at home if you have recently traveled domestically or internationally in the last 15 days, are not feeling well, tested positive for COVID-19, were exposed to COVID-19, or have any of the following symptoms:
 - a. You are sick or not feeling well
 - b. You have a temperature of 100.3 degrees or higher
 - c. You have a cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath
 - d. You experience loss of smell or taste
 - e. You have body aches or muscle aches
6. All parishioners over 65 years of age, or those with a compromised immune system, are strongly encouraged to stay at home, as recommended by the CDC, State of Illinois, and the Antiochian Archdiocese.
7. You must undergo a screening upon entrance by an usher or medical staff. Your temperature will be taken using a touchless, no-contact, thermometer. You must answer some questions to verify that you do not possess any symptoms indicating illness. If medically cleared by answering no to all questions asked, attendance will be confirmed; upon answering yes to a single question of the criteria, admittance for that service will not be allowed. Please, be respectful and obey the rules and procedures.
8. Weekly bulletins and purchased candles will be distributed by an usher directly.
9. On the church premises, refrain from veneration of icons with kisses, as well as hugging, kissing, shaking hands, or general touching with other parishioners or clergy.
10. A mask, covering both the nostrils and mouth, must be worn to enter and exit the building, and at all times before, during, and after services, as well as around the nearby church exteriors.

11. Follow the directions of the ushers at all times, upon entering, partaking of Holy Communion, lighting candles, venerating icons, using bathrooms, and exiting the building. An usher will see you to your designated seating assignment, escort you during Holy Communion, as well as entrance and exit procedures. One household will be assigned a pew for seating. Children should remain seated next to their parents at all times; no wandering permitted. All ushers will be wearing gloves and masks at all times.
12. Distance between households will be roped off by several pews beforehand. Follow signs on walls and floor for direction, given by an usher.
13. The same location for both entrance and exit procedures will be the at the front of the narthex, supervised by the ushers.
14. Follow these instructions during partaking of the Eucharist (Holy Communion): 1) Obey instructions from your ushers for your turn and return to seat; 2) Stand a few feet away from the clergy giving Communion; 3) Tilt your head, open your mouth wide at all times so the Body and Blood can be placed onto the inside of your mouth without any or minimal contact. Do not close your mouth on the spoon. Do not wipe your lips with the Communion cloth. Keep your mask on until reaching the Chalice, and upon partaking of the Eucharist, place it back on your face.
15. Social distancing (a minimum of 6 feet) must be followed at all times. Holy Bread will be pre-packaged, bagged, and given by an altar-server or usher.
16. No other church facilities, other than the interior church building where Divine Liturgy services are present, and one designated bathroom for each gender, are accessible (i.e.: kitchen, Sunday School, NADI, Fellowship Hall, offices, Courtyard, etc.). No Coffee Hour.
17. Until further notice, there will be no gatherings of organizations, Sunday School, Bible Studies, or other gatherings.
18. Only one bathroom in the Fellowship Hall may be used. All other bathrooms are inaccessible. An usher shall escort you to the designated area. We ask that parents accompany all children 12 and under to the bathroom. Ensure that upon exiting bathrooms, each person's hands are thoroughly washed with water and soap for a minimum of 20 seconds, then dried.
19. Hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, and non-latex/powder-free gloves will only be placed at the entrance and exit areas for cleaning and sanitizing.
20. Collection trays will not be distributed but stationed in the narthex for parishioners to drop off their offerings.
21. Service books will be removed from pews.
22. All clergy and altar-servers should cleanse their hands periodically throughout services, especially immediately before "Holy Things are for the Holy" and once again right before distributing the Eucharist to the faithful.
23. The entire church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before and after each service by a cleaning company.

24. Services are to be conducted by one celebrant, if applicable a second priest or deacon, a few altar-servers, two chanters - one standing on each side of the solea. Due to recent research about the spread of the virus through droplets from the mouth and nasal regions, choir singing will not proceed at this time.
25. Doors will be propped or held open during peak periods when congregants or visitors are entering and exiting facilities, in accordance with security and safety protocols.
26. Along with a weekly parishioners' attendance log, a similar rotation schedule of clergy, altar-servers, ushers, medical staff, and volunteers will be created and followed.
27. Regular communication via the Weekly Bulletin, website, social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube Channel), and email will keep the parish apprised of rules, regulations, schedules, state or parish changes and updates as they become pertinent and available.
28. Food and beverages are discontinued for distribution during Phase 3.
29. Attendance capacity during services is set at 25% occupancy or 100 people, whichever is reached first. Capacity limitations will only expand in accordance with changes in CDC, State of Illinois, and Antiochian Archdiocese guidelines, whereupon Phase 3 becomes Phase 4 or Phase 5.
30. Only attend the respective service upon receipt of a confirmation email from the Church.
31. If anyone who attends a service develops signs and symptoms, or contracts COVID-19, within 15 days of that service should respectfully inform the church.
32. The parish reserves the right to alter these guidelines at any time, considering changes in guidelines and restrictions from the CDC (Center for Disease Control), State of Illinois, and the Antiochian Archdiocese.