



March 7, 2020

PLEASE POST IN A PUBLIC PLACE AND IN YOUR BULLETINS

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! I am writing today to provide some common sense suggestions for our clergy and faithful. While only two people have been identified in as infected with the virus in the state of Pennsylvania (Delaware and Wayne Counties, respectively), it does not mean we should be negligent of basic hygiene issues. Please observe the following, in part from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese <https://www.goarch.org/-/directives-covid-19> :

1. Provide hand sanitizer in the Narthex for the faithful before they enter the Nave. Keep the doors open between the Narthex and Nave so they will not have to touch the doors with the hands. Do not leave hand sanitizer unattended in the presence of children!
2. Simply remind people that anything commonly touched in a public place such as pews, service books, door knobs, faucets, railings, cloth towels, etc. are not necessarily free of bacteria. *Restaurant menus are also possible source of contamination.*
3. Post signs asking anyone who is ill not to attend services, but participate via television and a streaming feed.
4. Encourage the faithful to simply bow before the icons and cross, but temporarily refrain from kissing one another and other objects.
5. Disposable cups should be provided for zapivka.
6. All the faithful should be encouraged to sanitize their hands before coffee hour once again and refrain from touching anything which could contaminate them again, i.e., the faucet or door handles, etc.. Keep the doors open to the fellowship hall.
7. All food should be served by a few of the faithful wearing plastic gloves so utensils will remain clean. Hands should be thoroughly washed first and dried with paper towels. Do not share cloth towels in the church kitchen until after your hands are sanitized.
8. If you reach in your pocket or purse to retrieve your own hand sanitizer, the outside of the sanitizer may become contaminated and defeat its use.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

