



# St. Mary & St. Mina

C H U R C H

COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE  
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND

## COVID-19 Pandemic Protocol for Resuming In-Person Church Services

Many of you have been waiting for further details regarding the gradual restarting of liturgical services. Please read the following in its entirety, which shall be in effect until July 30, 2020, unless otherwise extended by the H.G. Bishop David, in unison with the church priests of the Archdiocese in New Jersey and the Diocese of New York and New England.

1. Based on state law and local regulations and guidelines:
  - a. There will be a TOTAL of 10 persons inside the church building *including children as well as one priest and two deacons*. Consequently, there will be a MAXIMUM of 7 spots for the congregation;
  - b. Each spot is for an individual person, so, for example, a family of 5 would take up 5 spots;
  - c. All household members should remain home (and/or seek medical help) if any member is showing any “COVID related symptoms,” such as (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fever of 99 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills, muscle pain, fatigue, loss of smell/taste, diarrhea/Gastrointestinal symptoms, and/or has been in direct contact with another sick person exhibiting any of the above-mentioned symptoms within the last 2 weeks, whether confirmed COVID-19 or not);
  - d. Elderly (above 65 and above) and immunocompromised persons are advised to stay home and to make alternate arrangements to receive holy communion with the priest;
  - e. All persons in attendance must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart from one another;
  - f. All persons in attendance must wear a face mask each covering the mouth and nose at all times (unless otherwise instructed) and must sanitize their hands upon entry to the church;
  - g. In any setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, more protective face coverings than cloth face coverings must be used;
  - h. A deacon will be at the door to screen the following, prior to congregants being admitted to the Church;
    - i. Confirming if the member is on the pre-assigned list to attend the respective Liturgy;
    - j. The temperature of each person will be checked prior to admittance along with answering a set of questions on the provided checklist;
    - k. If a congregant or any member of their household exhibits any COVID related symptoms, the entire household will not be admitted to Church;
    - l. To help prevent any potential cross-contamination, cell phones and other personal belongings, such as purses, bags, etc should be left in the vehicles
  - m. Each church will designate a place outside the nave of the church for the congregants to leave their shoes.
2. Based on these limitations, we will begin to pray liturgies multiple times per week. Attendance will be based on the following system:



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- a. Families will register to attend the Divine Liturgy and partake of the Holy Mysteries using the links shown below. Each family will register for one spot for an in-church service, and a second spot for Drive-in service during the three week window shown in the registration system.
- b. Registration to attend liturgies for the members of the church of St. Mary and St. Mina in Syracuse New York will be at the following links:  
Registration for In-Church Services Link:  
<https://signup.com/go/NAYEQqT>  
Drive-in Services:  
<https://signup.com/go/AvhuJcA>
- c. Prior to the day of each liturgy, there will be a confirmation of the ability of the assigned families to attend as well as a health screening through a brief questionnaire;
- d. If you have been assigned to a particular date, you **MUST** be in church promptly by **9:00 AM**.
- e. If you have been assigned to a particular date, you **MUST** attend on that date, or else you have taken away from someone else the opportunity to pray liturgy and receive communion.
- f. After the liturgy has concluded, everyone must promptly leave the premises. There will be no social gatherings or agape meals; and
- g. All other building facilities will be off-limits.

The circumstances under which we must celebrate for the foreseeable future are not ideal and are difficult to work around. We ask each person's cooperation to allow this process to be safe, fair, and as smooth as possible.