



# St. Mary & St. Mina

C H U R C H

COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE  
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND

## Safety Precautions Reminder and Update for the COVID-19 Pandemic January 2021

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

In light of the continued challenges of the Corona Virus pandemic, the church is writing this letter to remind you of the safety precautions we have been implementing since May 2020 and to emphasize the critical importance of *strictly adhering* to those precautions for the safety of us all.

### Precautions for Liturgy Attendance:

1. For the time being, and until further notice, we are limiting the number of families per liturgy to **12 families**. This will ensure that there is **at least one empty pew** between the families present in the church, while ensuring there are two pews, at the front, available for the deacons to maintain the required safe social distance.
2. The church will plan to pray three liturgies per week on **Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays, Lord willing**. All liturgies will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am Lord willing, unless otherwise indicated. With this, and given a maximum of 12 families per liturgy, we should be able to accommodate almost all the families of our church on a weekly basis, which should provide us all with the great blessing of partaking of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior on a weekly basis.
3. Families will register to attend the Divine Liturgy and partake of the Holy Mysteries using the link shown below (which is also available on the front page of the church's website).  
<https://signup.com/go/NAYEQqT>
4. Each family just needs to sign up for one spot (i.e., the registration spot is for the whole family; a family of 5 for example, need only one registration spot). Please take a note of the order of your registration (i.e., the number next to your registration spot in the registration system). When you arrive at church, please be seated, with your family, in the pew with the number corresponding to your registration spot (i.e., if signed up for say slot 5 on the registration system, please be seated in the pew with the number 5 posted to it).
5. When seated, please stagger the way your family is seated, relative to the family seated in the pew in front. In other words, if the family in front of you is seated toward the left side of the pew, you are advised to sit toward the right side, to maximize the separation distance.
6. 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);



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7. All persons in attendance must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart from one another, and must wear a face mask. In any setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, more protective face coverings than cloth face coverings must be used;
8. A member of the church's medical committee will be at the door to screen the following, prior to congregants being admitted to the Church;
  - Confirming if the member is on the pre-assigned list to attend the respective Liturgy;
  - The temperature of each person will be checked prior to admittance along with answering a set of questions on the provided checklist;
  - If a congregant or any member of their household exhibits any COVID related symptoms, the entire household will not be admitted to Church;
9. To allow our brother/sister doing the screen to get the blessing of praying and enjoying the liturgy, please plan to arrive between 9:00 am and 9:30 am.
10. Communion will be given one family at a time. The Holy Body will be distributed first to all families in attendance, following by the Precious Blood. After a family has partaken of the Precious Blood, the family is kindly asked to promptly leave the premises, to avoid any congregation after the conclusion of the liturgy. The oblation bread will be placed next to the exit door, where you can pick it up on your way out.

## **Precautions for Deacons Service:**

1. The deacons are kindly reminded of the need to maintain a minimum of a 6 ft distance to their fellow deacons all the time, and to NOT take off the mask except at communion.
2. All deacons' responses, even for those serving inside the altar, will be from outside the altar. Abouna will take care of the censor and other needed items inside the altar.
3. Please do your best not to share the mics, and if absolutely necessary, please wipe with a Clorox wipe before using.

## **Precautions for Qorban Preparation:**

1. Precautions are primarily needed from the moment after we take the Qorban from the oven after it is cooked. Before taking the Qorban from the oven, we should all make sure we are wearing our masks and that we have just washed our hands or sanitized them. Also, we should make sure the cooked Qorban does not touch any contaminated surface.

## **Precautions regarding Sunday School Service:**

1. For the time being, and until further notice, Sunday School and the youth meetings (will be conducted remotely, and hosted at the church's WebEx room at:  
<https://asadek777.my.webex.com/meet/stmarystmina>  
Sunday School is scheduled to start at 2:00 pm on Sundays, and the youth meetings are scheduled for 7:30 pm on Fridays, Lord willing.

***May our Loving Lord protect you all from every evil Amen !***