



St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church
1617 West State Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Tel. (414) 342-1543

Eparchy of Newton

17 March 2020, 6:30pm

Dear Parish

As many of you have seen in newsmedia, the Department of Health Services has revised the order banning mass-gatherings, changing the definition of a mass-gathering from 50 people to 10 people.

At this time, we intend to continue with Presanctified Liturgy (Wednesday, 6pm), Akathist (Friday, 6pm) and Great Vespers (Saturday, 5pm) subject to the restrictions that:

- there are no more than 10 people present;
- there is a “social distancing of 6 feet between people”; and
- “all other public health recommendations issues by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Centers for Disease Control” are followed ([DHS Emergency Order #5](#), 17 March 2020).

Based on the limit of 10 people, we are only able to accommodate the average attendance at these services. The customary potluck after the Akathist service is cancelled.

I am sure that you have seen the other public-health recommendations already, but they bare repeating. Here are [a few](#):

- “wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating and after going to the bathroom, blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- “if you do not have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty;
- “avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- “avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- “say home when you are sick;
- “cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; and
- “clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe”.

It is likely that Divine Liturgy will be cancelled entirely this Sunday. In the upcoming weeks, subject to some planning and logistical constraints, it may be possible to have Liturgy and staggered visits to the church afterwards.

For anyone feeling downcast, I close with this troparia from the Lenten Third Hour:

O Jesus, grant to us Your servants a fast and constant consolation whenever our inner spirit is cast down: depart not from us when we are afflicted; be not afar from our minds at the time of distress, but keep always close to us. Come close to us, come close, O You who are everywhere present. As You were ever united to Your disciples, O Most Merciful One, be also united to us who long for You, so that once united to You, we may praise and glorify Your All-Holy Spirit.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Neumann". The script is cursive and fluid.

Benjamin Neumann
Office and Finance Manager

benjamin@byzantinemilwaukee.com