

Reuniting Our Parish Family



SERVICE SCHEDULE & RESERVATIONS | WHAT TO EXPECT | PROCEDURES & BEST PRACTICES

Dear Holy Apostles Family:

With joy in our Ascended Lord, we invite all stewards in good standing at Holy Apostles to begin attending in-person services at Holy Apostles. We prepared this guide to better assist you in the reservation process, what to expect when you attend services and best practices. More than ever, your spiritual health and wellbeing are of utmost importance to us. For those of you in the high-risk categories as outlined by the [CDC](#), or who are uncomfortable being in public gatherings, services will continue to be offered through our live-stream platform. We ask anyone exhibiting flu-or cold-like symptoms, or who has been in contact with anyone exhibiting symptoms, to remain at home until you can safely return to church. If you do not find the answer to your questions or concerns after reading through this guide, please contact the church office so that we may better assist you. Let us give thanks to our Lord!

Service Reservation:

A reservation method has been established to assist in managing capacity and distancing guidelines. No one without a confirmed reservation may attend a service. Each family member's name needs to be identified **separately even if you are registering under one family** (according to the Metropolis directive). We recognize this might be difficult at first, but we ask for your continued patience and love of neighbor as we all work to return to worshipping in the church. Sunday services will continue to be live-streamed in addition to in-person attendance. We strongly encourage those who have a more flexible schedule to attend our weekday services to allow those in our Holy Apostles family with less flexible schedules to attend on the weekends. We ask that parishioners arrive **on time** or before Divine Liturgy to expedite procedures. Stewards in good standing may make reservations by using the following link: <https://cutt.ly/ServiceReservations>

Service Schedule:

Reservations may be made for Sunday services by visiting the reservations link. Additional services and reservation reminders will be communicated in our weekly email and on our website.

What to Expect:

As we return to life in the church, things may appear a little different. We ask for your patience and cooperation while in attendance. We created a list of what to expect upon arrival, during services, and when leaving the church.

Preparing for Church & Online Tray and Candle Donations:

Please make sure you and or your family members have made a reservation and received a confirmation using the link in the reservation section above. Tray and candle donations can be made in the Exonarthex, but no change will be given. Therefore, we ask that you consider making your candle and tray donations prior to your arrival at church. You can easily donate using the website, text, or app by following the directions below:

- To donate to Tray and Candles using our website, please visit the following link. Trays and candles can be found in the second section beneath "Other Donations":
<https://cutt.ly/8tOSpm0>
- To donate using the text-to-give method, enter the number 833-926-1848, then enter the donation amount you wish to donate in the message section (e.g., \$5, \$10, \$20), then press send. You will then get a reply text with a link to enter your payment information and complete your transaction.
- To donate using the Give+ App, please download from AppStore, find Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, Westchester, IL and then select the + and add your donation. If you choose to create a login and password, you will be able to save your information for future transactions: <https://cutt.ly/GivePlusMobileApp>

Upon Arrival:

Once you arrive, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- Please park in the North Parking Lot (the side where the church office is located) prior to the start of Divine Liturgy. We ask that you be on time.
- All church doors will be locked, and an usher will greet you at the door upon arrival.
- Your reservation will be confirmed by an usher.
- All persons over the age of 2 **must** wear a face-covering/mask for the duration of your time inside Holy Apostles.
- In the Exonarthex, you may offer a monetary donation for both tray and candle donations. Please note no change will be given, and we strongly encourage online donations prior to arrival (please see above).

- Your ushers will be wearing the appropriate protective equipment when handing out candles.
- Please venerate icons without the use of physical contact, by making the sign of the cross and bowing.
- You will be guided to a seat which will be six feet in distance from your neighbor.
- Please note that family members from the same household may sit together.

During the Service:

You may notice that during the service there will be some changes that reflect the [directives](#) of our Metropolis.

- The priest will cense only from the Solea.
- Processions (Small and Great Entrance) will be confined to the Solea area.
- The Gospel will be read from the Royal Doors.
- During the “Kiss of Peace” we ask that you bow to your neighbor and refrain from any physical contact.
- An usher will guide those who are prepared to receive Holy Communion.
- Everyone will sanitize their hands prior to taking Holy Communion.
- The priests, according to Metropolis directives, will be wearing masks and glasses when they administer Holy Communion.
- You will be able to lower your face covering to take Holy Communion. Please refrain from touching the Communion Cloth. An Acolyte will hold the cloth beneath your chin in a contactless manner.
- You will not wipe or blot with the cloth after partaking of Holy Communion.
- There will be no antidoron as indicated by the Metropolis policy.
- Upon dismissal by the ushers, parishioners may venerate an icon while the priest offers his blessing from a distance.
- You will be escorted and asked to exit the main doors of the church.

After the Service:

We know that you are excited to be back and see each other, but we ask that you help us follow the Metropolis directives. Therefore, please refrain from congregating in the parking lot after services. The church will be properly sanitized and prepared for the next services.

Offerings Brought to Church:

Please note that in an effort to remain as contactless as possible, we will be taking commemoration requests and memorial requests virtually using the link below. If you are unable to fill out the forms, please phone the church office, and the requests will be submitted digitally on your behalf.

Commemoration Requests: cutt.ly/PrayerRequests

For any physical offerings, the following procedures must be followed:

Kolyva: Kolyva for a memorial service must stay with you throughout the duration of the Divine Liturgy and memorial service. At the conclusion of the memorial service, you must bring the Kolyva back home; please do not distribute it to anyone else.

Prosforon, Wine, Oil and other Offerings: If you are planning to make one of the following offerings, please find an usher and notify them upon your arrival. The offerings will be deposited in a designated holding area in the narthex until the end of the Divine Liturgy. After these items have been properly cleaned and disinfected, they will be used in a future service.

Final Thoughts:

We recognize that all of this may feel different than the procedures we are accustomed to when we come to church. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continuously work to adjust our practices and procedures with your spiritual and physical health at the forefront of our minds. Holy Apostles remains your home, and we look forward to seeing you all return to the sacramental life and healing of the church. May God be with you all!