



# Welcoming Our Family of Faith Back Home

## *A Plan to Transition to Public Gatherings at our Liturgical Celebrations*

*“We are the children of your Church, and with our Lamps lit,  
we come to Church as to the harbor of our salvation.”*

*From The Rite of the Coming to the Harbor*

### What do I need to know about attending Divine Liturgy at OLOP During Phase 1?

On May 25, 2020 we released a plan entitled “Welcoming Our Family of Faith Back Home - A Plan to Transition to Public Gatherings at our Liturgical Celebrations.” This is a very comprehensive plan that allows us to comply with all of the requirements necessary for our Church to once again allow public gatherings. For the short term, attendance at Liturgy will be a little different than it was before March. Our plan is designed to take every reasonable effort to help protect the health of our Parishioners while allowing our Parishioners to once again gather and receive Holy Communion.

**1. When I’m at Church can I sit with other members of my household?**

Yes. You can sit with other members of your household in the same pew. We have cordoned off every other pew to help provide the social distancing that is required by Governor Baker’s Order.

**2. Do I have to wear a mask or face covering when I attend Church at OLOP?**

Yes. Every person over five (5) years old must wear a mask when you attend Church at OLOP during Phase 1 unless they are prevented from doing so by a medical condition. We encourage you to use the mask or face covering you are comfortable using. If you forgot to bring a mask or face covering with you, we will be distributing disposal masks for your convenience.

**3. I’m not feeling well, but really want to attend Church. Is it okay for me to attend if I wear a mask?**

No. Although we look forward to the day when all our Parishioners can once again gather at Divine Liturgy, individuals who are feeling sick or have been advised to self-quarantine shall not be allowed to attend the Divine Liturgy at OLOP during Phase 1.

**4. I just celebrated my 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday and want to attend Church. Is it okay for me to attend if I wear a mask?**

Although we look forward to the day when all our Parishioners can once again gather at Divine Liturgy, pursuant to the Commonwealth’s Safer At Home Advisory, persons aged 65 years or older, or persons who have underlying compromised health conditions, are encouraged to remain home in Phase 1.

**5. Will the Church be cleaned and sanitized during Phase 1?**

Yes, all surfaces will be disinfected and sanitized and an aerosol disinfectant will be sprayed through out the Church after every Liturgical Celebration. Doorknobs will be disinfected regularly during the Liturgical Celebrations.

- 6. Will I have access to hand sanitizer or will I be able to wash my hands while at Church?**  
Yes. There are hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol at each door and the newly constructed bathroom will be available for handwashing.
- 7. Are there restrictions on which door I can use at Church?**  
Yes. During the pendency of Phase 1, the main doors to the Church on Pleasant Street will remain locked. Parishioners may enter the Church through the Franklin Street Door. Parishioners may only exit the Church (unless there is an emergency) through the Parking Lot Door. Those requiring a handicap entrance will be allowed to enter and exit through the Parking Lot Door. The outer aisles will be marked as one way toward the back of the Church and the main aisle will be marked as one way toward the Sanctuary. There will be Ushers at each Liturgical Celebration to assist you.
- 8. Will I be able to receive Holy Communion?**  
Yes. One of the main reasons that we have worked to create a comprehensive and safe plan to allow limited public attendance to Divine Liturgies in Phase 1 is to allow our Parishioners to once again receive Holy Communion. Communion will only be distributed in the hand without the precious blood for the safety of all. We encourage our Parishioners to offer the loss of being able to receive Communion by intinction for the suffering souls in Purgatory.
- 9. I like to follow along with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Book of Offering in the pews. Will I be able to do this?**  
No. All Books of Offering will be removed from the pews during Phase 1. We will be producing a disposable handout for each Divine Liturgy containing the hymns and responses for that particular weekend.
- 10. I miss seeing other OLOP Parishioners. May I remain after Divine Liturgy to see them and catch up on how they are doing?**  
No. Although we look forward to once again gathering socially as a Parish, the Commonwealth's Safety Standard for Houses of Worship specifically prohibits pre or post Liturgy public gatherings. Therefore we must ask that you not gather outside of Church before or after Divine Liturgy during Phase 1.

We will also be issuing a Frequently Asked Questions to help Parishioners understand the reservation process we will need to follow during Phase 1 to attend Divine Liturgy.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Please contact Fr. Vince at (508) 996-8934 if you have any questions or comments.

*Our Lady of Purgatory, Pray for us.*

Dated: May 25, 2020