



“Let us not give up assembling together..”

Hebrews 10:25

PHASE TWO

Information regarding the Re-opening of the Saint Barbara Parish - Effective June 22, 2020

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church - 480 Racebrook Road - Orange, Connecticut

WHAT TO EXPECT

How your church experience will be temporarily modified in this phase:

1

GREATER ATTENDANCE LEVEL

State and local regulations have expanded and now allow up to 25% of the occupancy rate (including the priest) to be present. As such **we are able to invite up to 96 people** to join us in person for the celebration the Divine Liturgy.

2

ADVANCE REQUESTS ARE STILL REQUIRED TO ATTEND

We will continue the established procedures of Phase One to ensure all parishioners have opportunities to attend services if they wish. Parishioners will need to make advance reservations before attending any services in the church.

Please call the Church Office at 203-795-1347 (Monday - Friday) to make your reservation. Reservations will not be taken via e-mail or text. Reservations must be made by Friday 5:00 p.m. for the Church service taking place on the upcoming Sunday.

3

WHO IS NOT RECOMMENDED TO ATTEND

Those with any signs or symptoms of any acute illness (whether it is COVID or not) **MUST** stay home, as should those who have come into contact with COVID-positive persons within the last 2 weeks.

In accordance with State Guidelines, those who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (65 years or older, live in a long-term care facility, underlying medical conditions such as asthma, heart conditions, immunocompromised, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, or liver disease) should not enter the church building at this time and should continue to participate in services online. Questions should be directed to your healthcare provider.

PHASE TWO

4

ARRIVAL TIME

Because your parish council will need to provide for your arrival and guide you to a seating area, it will be **most helpful and appreciated for you to arrive between 8:25 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**

We will have the front doors to the Church open. We ask that only one family unit at a time enter the Narthex – and that all others patiently wait outside (maintaining social distance) until they are able to enter the Church. Consider leaving personal belongings safely locked in your automobile. The parish council will monitor the front door area until all attendees are inside. After 10:20 a.m. the doors will be shut.

5

PLEASE DO NOT JUST 'SHOW UP'

The reason that we are taking reservations is to assure that we stay within the legally allotted number of attendees. By 'just showing up' you place undue stress on our parish council who may be placed in the uncomfortable position of having to deny entrance to a fellow parishioner. No one wants to have to do that.

6

MASKS REQUIRED

All attendees over the age of 5 are required to wear protective face masks.

7

FOLLOW THE SIGNS

Please follow posted entry points, aisles and designated seating areas. These have been prepared in advance to provide safe social distancing and need to be respected for everyone's well-being.

8

YOUR SEATING AREA

Designated seating areas will provide for spacing between individuals and family sections. Members of the same household may be seated in the same section without social distance between them.

9

NO ALTAR BOYS OR CHOIR

There will continue to be no altar boys or choir at this time. All altar boys and choir members are asked to please sit with their families in the pews. Our choir director, Stacey Grimaldi, will continue to lead us in the chanting of the hymns from the psalterion (chanter stand), and Presbytera Vangie will continue to serve as our reader. We ask that no one else approach the chanter stand or enter the altar area, so that proper social distancing can continue to be maintained.

10

WORSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

Your experience during services will continue to feel different than before the start of the pandemic. You are asked to reverence sacred objects, and/or greet one another by bowing instead of kissing. These temporary measures help ensure the safety and comfort of all.

11

HOLY COMMUNION

Our Orthodox Christian faith and worship remain unchanged at their core. However, with pastoral sensitivity toward all parishioners during this unique time, you will receive specific instructions from Fr. Peter and the Parish Council members in attendance, regarding Holy Communion.

12

PREPARE FOR OFFERINGS IN ADVANCE

To minimize the handling and exchanging of currency in the church, please consider either making your offerings to the church through electronic giving or by preparing your offering in an envelope to be brought to the church and deposited in the Narthex. Trays will not be passed during the service.

13

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE ON EXITING

Please follow the directions provided by the priest and the guidance of any ushers regarding exiting with social distance.

14

PLEASE DEPART IMMEDIATELY

Much as this goes against our common practice following services, please do not congregate in the Narthex or other areas of the church building. All attendees are asked to directly depart following the service.

15

COFFEE HOURS—NOT YET!

Coffee hours will not be held during this phase.

Please understand they will return as soon as possible when restrictions are loosened.

16

REMEMBER

Your positive support of the outlined measures are meant to help us all be uplifted as we continue in prayer, hope, and strength in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

17

PRAY WITH US ONLINE

We thank all who have participated online throughout our internet broadcasts. We will continue to broadcast Live Internet Services every Sunday via our parish website: www.saintbarbara.org

Please continue to pray with us online on those days when you are not able to be present in person. No weekday services will be attended in-person at this time until further notice.

18

CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE - CONTINUE TO PRAY!

Please do your best to keep your stewardship contributions current and up to date as best as possible considering the current circumstances. Donations can be made online on our parish's website or by mail to the Church Office.

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THANK YOU!

Fr. Peter, the Saint Barbara staff, and parish council members thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation during these temporary measures. We will continue to do our best to keep you informed as things move forward.

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Assembling: The assembly in the Old Testament (Hebrew: *koheleth*) is translated *ekklesia* in Greek, which we translate as “church.” God instructs the faithful not to forsake *assembling* as the church. Corporate worship on a daily basis, such as morning prayers or Matins, increases our expectation of **the Day**, the coming of the Kingdom.

Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1666.