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УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ПРАВОСЛАВНИЙ КАТЕДРАЛЬНИЙ
СОБОР Св. ІВАНА

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST. JOHN

10611 - 110 STREET,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
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10 February 2022

To: The Faithful Members & Supporters of the
Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Beloved in the Lord!

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Approximately two years ago, at the threshold of the Holy and Great Fast, our cathedral priests circulated a letter to our membership encouraging us to prepare for the challenges to come related to the COVID-19 pandemic. They emphasized the importance of not losing hope, to be creative with expressing our faith throughout the crisis, along with the importance of tending to one another and collectively doing everything we can to stay healthy and help keep our neighbour safe. Our cathedral family members are to be commended for all your effort, understanding, and cooperation exhibited over the last two years! You have been faithful, helpful, respectful, and have made necessary sacrifices which ensured the good estate of our parish through the most challenging phases of the pandemic, allowing us to transition relatively smoothly as we slowly move out of restrictions. For this, we are truly grateful!

Two days ago, the Government of Alberta announced a three-step lifting of restrictions – largely dependent upon downward hospitalization trends – leading to a supposed end to restrictions altogether, later this spring. This announcement has already stimulated much speculation and inquiry about how our parish is reacting to the plan, now in Step 1.

Therefore, we wish to announce changes to how we will worship, interact with one another, and carry on inside the cathedral and cultural centre, in response to the new conditions:

Worship: Effective Monday, 14 February 2022, capacity limits are removed, and you will no longer be required to show your vaccination record to attend any worship services in our cathedral. Masking (with the exception of children 12 years of age and under) is still mandatory, however, and we ask you to seriously consider not attending in person if you are ill or have symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to offer designated space for those who would be more comfortable remaining in their cohort or distanced from other worshippers. Simply state your request to our greeters, upon entry. Current practices for participation in the Holy Mysteries of Repentance (Confession) and Communion remain.


Interaction within the Cathedral (outside of worship times) & Cultural Centre: You are no longer required to show your vaccination for events in the Cultural Centre (e.g. monthly Varenky Suppers). Masking (with the exception of children 12 years of age and under) is mandatory at all times (this includes visits to the Administration or Priest's Offices). For those considering renting the facility – capacity limits on all spaces have been removed. Table capacity

remains limited to 10 people and mingling between tables is prohibited. Interactive activity (e.g. dancing) is also prohibited at this time.

Brothers and sisters! We have successfully battled together throughout the worst days of the current pandemic and the "light at the end of the tunnel" is beginning to glimmer, faint as it is, and the end will come. We are tired; we are frustrated. Nevertheless, we need to remain vigilant! We continue to encourage you to follow the example of our bishop, clergy and parish council – get vaccinated, mask, recognize symptoms and respond accordingly. We want to see you in our cathedral, praying together as the One Body of Christ. If you have stayed away – please come back! You are most welcome! We want you to be as safe and healthy as possible and caring for the safety of others, however! We ask you to continue to be respectful, understanding, and cooperative in helping us and our community as we move out of restrictions and approach the end of the pandemic.

With love in Christ,


Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Stephan Semotiuk
Cathedral Dean


Marshall Kachmar
Parish Council President

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