



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes June 3, 2020

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

**Members present:** Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Joanne Georgostathis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Gus Koutsogiannis, Sylvia Rombis, Andrea Siouris, Tom Tsiominas

**Members absent:** Peggy Kehayes, Gus Poneris

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

### MEETING

The meeting was held via Zoom to comply with stay-at-home orders.

**Call to order:** Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in the opening prayer.

### **Introduction of Phased Reopening Plan from Metropolitan Nicholas**

- Fr. Mark
  - Each metropolitan is responsible for his own metropolis, so each metropolis will likely have different procedures. Our main guidance comes from Metropolitan Nicholas.
  - Parishes will follow state requirements.
  - Metropolitan Nicholas made it clear that we will approach this in a cautious way. We will maintain social distancing. Opening will be in two phases.
  - Phase 1 will begin on June 14, with 50% of maximum allowed capacity. Ohio has no state-determined maximum, but 6-foot social distancing must be maintained. Our maximum number for half capacity is about 160 parishioners, but with social distancing that number is reduced to about 120 parishioners, assuming 24 family units of around 5 people each.
  - To maintain necessary social distancing in all directions, we have marked every third row on each side, with two sections usable and divided by a marked center section. Suitable seating is marked with blue tape and may fit around 5 people per section, which gives us around 24 spaces.
  - Anyone with symptoms must stay home. At-risk people are strongly encouraged to stay home (65 years old and above, those with pre-existing conditions).
  - Churches may have health checks at the entrance, possibly including questionnaires or temperature taking using touchless thermometers. Everyone must wear masks (we will not

provide them), there will be no liturgical books or bulletins, antidoron will not be distributed, there will be no choir until further notice, we will not pass trays (they will be placed at both side aisle entrances), regular cleaning will take place, and we will have no coffee hour.

- Phase 2 will primarily mean an increase to 100% of allowed capacity, though realistically with social distancing requirements we are unlikely to see a real increase. We may consider opening the balcony for phase 2, but it will require consideration and planning before we allow it.
- Anyone who wants to help in the altar or with chanting must be an adult and must take their temperature before arrival.
- Holy Communion will be administered as normal, except that the spoon will be turned over within the mouth rather than the mouth closing over the spoon. In the event that contact occurs, the spoon will be exchanged for another. There will be no red cloth, but instead people will dab with a paper towel that will be placed in a basket for appropriate disposal.
- Pastoral visitations can resume, including confession, unction, and so on, if care facilities and other considerations make it possible. The strict limit of 10 attendees will be relaxed to match aforementioned capacity limitations.

### **Specific Plans for Our Parish Phased Reopening**

- Fr. Mark
  - Father worked with Dn. Nick and Eugene to prepare a first draft.
  - Opening will include Sunday services only.
  - We will have people register via internet or telephone. We will ask for the name of the group leader and the number of people in the family group. Only people who reside in the same dwelling can sit in the same section. Family groups that do not reside together will be seated in different sections. For groups larger than 5 people, we will have the single family take the entire pew.
  - Registration will be open Monday through Wednesday, from 9 to 8, via telephone or online. If you need to cancel, then let us know by Thursday. Those who can't get a spot will automatically roll over to the next week.
  - Physical entry will be through one access point: the east entrance to the Bishop's Walk. Parking will be in back. People will go from the rear parking area up the Bishop's Walk to the check-in table at the lobby. This will allow us to mark 6-foot spaces for the queue at the table. Doors will be propped open.
  - The check-in process will have a council member with the list of reservations and the number of people in the group. We will not allow extra people beyond what was registered. We can include the questionnaire and/or temperature check. The group will then move up the stairs into the church, where beeswax tapers will be available. Candle contributions and other monetary transactions will not give change back. Red altar candles will require council members to take them up. No parishioner will handle them. Two council members will escort groups to their spaces, filling from front to back. There will be no exceptions.
  - Bathroom access will be one person at a time, with all but one stall taped off. Craig will monitor them and clean the stall between uses.

- Father will request permission from Metropolitan Nicholas to distribute communion at the end of the service, to limit movement from the pews.
- Fr. and Dn. Nick will be at either side rather than the center. Council members will release space by space rather than row by row, staggered to maintain spacing. Each group will go to the center, and then approach the clergy on the corresponding side. Communion will be tipped into the mouth and a disposable cloth will be available for dabbing and will be placed in a basket for appropriate disposal. The group will then exit through the side door, either to the side parking lot or to the garden next to the Bishop's Walk. In the event of inclement weather, they will exit via the side isles and out the back, down the stairs, and out through the Bishop's Walk, maintaining spacing and not clustering or congregating.
- Once people have exited the building we are not responsible for managing their movement or spacing.
- We will not be providing masks for people when they come in. We have a limited supply of masks and gloves for council members only.
- Orthros will begin at 8:30. Parish Council members should be there by 8:15.
- We will resume our Springfield Township police detail on June 14.
- We hope to have an announcement and instructions for registration by Friday.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Closing prayer:** The meeting adjourned and Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:37 PM.

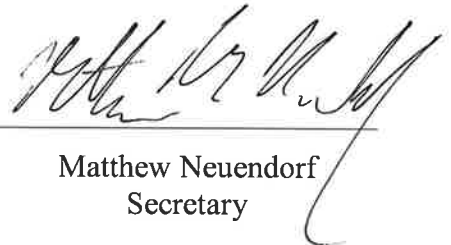
Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares  
President



Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary