



## Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church

1723 EAST FAIRMOUNT AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21231

REV. FATHER JOHN VASS, PASTOR

**March 20, 2020**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

In the last seven days, our lives have been significantly impacted by the Coronavirus. Earlier this week, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church published more detailed guidelines on conducting Divine Services amidst the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)<sup>1</sup>. Clergy and laity are exhorted to implement extra precautionary procedures and to strictly follow the recommendations of health and governmental agencies in order to reduce the chance of spreading this disease.

Furthermore, just yesterday, the State of Maryland announced updated restrictions that have the force of law<sup>2</sup>. **All social gatherings of 10 and more people are prohibited.**

And so, we at Holy Trinity Church must implement these new restrictions, effective immediately.

- Divine Services will continue, but attendance will be limited **to only nine individuals:**
  - Only clergy, certain choir members and parish council members will attend
- Liturgies and vigils will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HolyTrinitySermons>
  - We strongly encourage everyone to pray along with us, on-line.
- The Passion Service scheduled for March 22 is canceled
- All Presanctified Liturgies are canceled
- Moleben services "During times of pestilence" will also be live streamed once a week.
  - We strongly encourage everyone to pray along with us, on-line.
  - The days/times of these molebens will be announced in the bulletin
- All other activities are canceled
- To request panikhidas, molebens or other services contact Fr. John at 443-527-7067. Call him even if you "just need to talk."

### **Candles and Proskomedias**

We know that many of you regularly place candles in prayerful support of your loved ones and submit lists of names (living and departed) for commemoration during Proskomedias. And so, we want to give you the opportunity to "remotely" place candles and/or submit names for commemoration during Divine Liturgy.

**To request candles / commemorations, please complete this online form:**

<https://forms.gle/Si3X1Ja5KaLyYw8K7>

It will ask you the types and quantities of candles you wish to purchase and where to place the candles. We will do our best to place them as you requested, space permitting. Also, in this online form, you can submit names of your loved ones for commemoration during Proskomedia. At the end of the request form you will find directions on how to submit your donation online for the candles and commemorations.

### **Pledging Members**

We encourage all our members and guests to continue offering your contributions in support of our parish. Unfortunately, our expenses continue. We need and greatly appreciate your generous contributions. Pledging members, please use your donation envelopes. Thank you very much!

Please send your checks to:

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church  
1723 E. Fairmount Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21231

Dear Brothers and Sisters, these are extraordinary times that demand from us extraordinary effort. We fervently pray that God will bless and protect us, giving us the strength, patience, faith and trust in His Will to bear whatever we have to during this worldwide crisis.

Pray at home every day. On Sundays and other days when we conduct services, please pray with us as you watch the live-streamed services. Just as you earlier set aside time to come to church, continue to do the same, but from your homes watching online. During the services, turn off your phones, remove any possible distractions and pray attentively, just as you would if you were in church. When we pray, we are touched by God's Grace. May God bless you!

In Christ,

*Fr. John*

Rector

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<sup>1</sup> Instructions from the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church: [https://mospatusa.com/news\\_200318\\_1](https://mospatusa.com/news_200318_1)

<sup>2</sup> Updated restrictions from the State of Maryland: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/03/19/governor-hogan-announces-further-actions-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19-relaunches-maryland-unites-initiative/>