

Governor Re-Opens Churches

(with strict precautions!)

Dear St. Anthony Parishioners,

On Monday, May 18th Governor Charlie Baker announced the Commonwealth's re-opening, phased approach. With this, all places of Worship are authorized to re-open their doors with strict precautions. We will continue to offer liturgies online if you are still experiencing anxiety and fear. Please stay at home if you feel sick, have a fever, or have been exposed to anyone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19. Beginning this coming weekend (May 23/24), the doors of St. Anthony Church will be re-opened!

Preparing our Church:

- Our church capacity is about 300. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Phase 1 requirement will only allow 40% capacity at each liturgy. That means 120 parishioners only will be allowed in the church at any one time.
- Every other pew will be roped off leaving 1 open for occupancy. Maintain 6 feet between parties. People from the same household can sit together. Everyone else must maintain a six-foot distance throughout the liturgy.
- The church has been sanitized. After each liturgy the church will be sanitized including the wiping down of all pews, door knobs, light switches, altar, pulpit, microphones, etc.
- There will be no bulletins available. We encourage our congregation to use their cell phones as they do now while online to follow the liturgy.
- There will be a basket at the foyer door for envelopes/donations. There will be no collections.
- All liturgical books will be removed. Again we encourage our congregation to use their cell phones as they do now while online to follow the liturgy.
- Holy water at the doorway entrance will be not available.
- Inner doors will remain open, only the outside doors will be closed.

Liturgy Times (beginning May 30th):

- Saturday liturgies:
 - o 4:00pm (English)
 - o 6:00pm (Arabic)

- Sunday liturgies:
 - o 9:00am (English)
 - o 11:00am (Arabic/English) - Main Church
 - o 11:00am (Arabic/English) - Church Hall
- All liturgies will be live streamed, the same as today.
- We are trying to hold multiple services on the weekend. Thorough cleaning will take place after each service.
- No Clergy greeting or saying goodbye will take place in the foyer.

Liturgy Attendance Requirements:

- **FACE MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED** prior to your entering the church building. No one (over the age of 5) is allowed in the building without a mask
- Be mindful of everyone's health and safety by practicing a non-contact and non-touch experience. We must greet others in a no-contact way. Please avoid handshaking, hugs and kisses, and always maintain a six-foot distance from others during the entire time.
- The sign of the peace will be without contact throughout the church.
- Please read and follow the signs directing parishioners to designated areas, maintaining space at 6 feet apart.
- The center isle will be taped every 6 feet and only one line will form for communion. If you choose not to receive communion, simply read the "Prayer for Spiritual Communion."
- Communion will be given in the "HAND" only. You **MUST** wear your face mask to receive communion. This is for the safety of the clergy and yourself.
- **AFTER** you receive communion in your hand, you may take off your face mask/covering to place communion in your mouth then immediately put it back.
- Return to your car immediately after the liturgy. Do not congregate in the foyer.

Ushers, Greeters and Volunteers:

- We will have ushers and greeters at every liturgy. We ask that you kindly respect what they ask of you and remember they are there to protect everyone's safety and health.
- Greeters will be there to help answer your questions.
- If you are interested in volunteering to be a greeter or usher, please contact the rectory office.
- We are also seeking volunteers to help disinfect and sterilize the church after each liturgy. Please contact the rectory office.

Choir Members:

- Choir members will maintain physical distance and always practice good safety measures throughout the liturgy.

Amenities: Coffee, Pastry, Bulletins, and Hand Sanitizer:

- We will continue to follow state and local health department guidelines for opening places of worship, churches. Please note changes may occur at any time.
- Use of the hall is prohibited and the doors will be locked.
- The only bathroom that will be open is the first one on the right. This is a male/female or unisex bathroom. All others will be closed until further notice.
- There will be no coffee and pastry in the church hall.
- No bulletins will be distributed or available for pickup.
- We encourage people to bring their own supply of hand sanitizer and wipes with them.
- All ministries and organizations will continue to meet online. No gatherings or meetings will occur physically at the church.