

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
2200 Irwin Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001
Rev. Branslav Golic, Parish Priest

e-mail: stelijah@comcast.net
webpage: stelijahaliquippa.com

Parish Office: 724-375-4074
Center Office: 724-375-9894

MARCH 15, 2020

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COVID 19 Protocol for the Serbian Orthodox Churches

- In an emergency call 9-1-1;
- Anyone, clergy, monastics and laity alike, exhibiting the symptoms of Coronavirus (i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms that may be published by medical authorities) should immediately seek medical attention and self-quarantine for the recommended period of fourteen (14) days, and wait until afebrile without medication for a full 24 hours before returning to the community;
- Our parish and monastery complexes should be maintained using enhanced sanitization and hygiene protocols as recommended by authorities, which includes increased vigorous custodial cleaning of the entire church facility and the availability of hand sanitizer dispensers at all entrances, in the narthex, common areas, elevators, and so forth;
- Clergy, monastics and faithful, should thoroughly and frequently wash their hands, cover their coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues, and avoid sharing personal items, especially altar servers when cutting the liturgical bread (antidoron, or naphora);
- Choirs and cantors should also exercise extra precautionary measures. Choir members are asked to mark their sanitized music books with their names and take them home with them so that they do not unintentionally become a vehicle for the transmission of the virus;
- Clergy and church caretakers should see to the routine cleaning and sanitizing of liturgical objects and frequently touched surfaces such as icons, glass coverings, blessing crosses, and increased prescribed washing of chalices, communion spoons, communion cloths, and the like;
- Holy Communion will be received by the faithful, as is customary, from the chalice with a liturgical spoon, however, at this time, no one is to close their mouth on the spoon;
- In greeting one another and during concelebrations, the traditional three-fold Kiss of Peace is not to be exchanged, rather everyone is requested to simply bow respectfully one to another, and faithful are to refrain, at this time, from kissing the hands of celebrants and when asking for blessings;
- All liturgical handbooks and the like that are located in the pews are to be removed at this time and until further notice;
- Collection plates/baskets are not to be passed, rather put next to the central icon for receiving donations;
- Following the conclusion of Liturgy, the cross is not to be offered for veneration, the faithful should simply make the sign of the cross before the icon, bow their heads respectfully and continue to receive the liturgical bread (antidoron, or naphora) from the hands of the celebrant, who will have, once again, thoroughly washed or sanitized his hands before distributing the bread;
- Regarding any uncertainties, especially in areas where the virus is discovered, your Diocesan Bishop must be notified immediately and consulted for Archpastoral blessings to adopt additional temporary measures to prevent the spread of disease at liturgical gatherings; and
- Our communities and organizations should shut down all non-liturgical activities, such as folklore, Church and Serbian school classes and social events (i.e. coffee hours, luncheons, brunches, dinner, meetings, etc.), until further notice. It is incumbent upon our church boards to review the federal and state laws, rules and regulations of their jurisdictions and follow them.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Epistle Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Hebrews 7:26-8:2 Gospel Mark 2:1-12 John 10:9-16

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VISITS: Baby Girl Marshall - Sewickley Hospital Aurelia Patricia Butler - Villa St Joseph Ljubi Kuga - At home

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SSF FESTIVAL IN MONROEVILLE: Parents if you would like your child to participate in the JR CHOIR the weekend of May 23rd and 24th at the 79th Annual Serbian Singing Federation Festival in Monroeville please call Snezana Lazich at 724-874-7514. This is an opportunity for our children of the St. Elijah Parish to join in and sing with children from all over the United States and Canada. It is our hope to have representation from our parish on stage of the festival.

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Every Wednesday during Great Lent PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES will be served every **WEDNESDAY at 6 pm** Abstinence for Holy Communion at Presanctified Liturgies begins at 12 noon **Saturday Vespers Services** will be held through Great Lent, beginning at **5:30 p.m.** followed by Bible Study Class. For confessions for Great Lent please contact Fr. Branslav.

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The Choir is taking orders for SARRIS EASTER CANDY ONCE AGAIN. Please see Donna August following Divine Liturgy this week and next week to place your order.

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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>

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The St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church By-Law Addendum is available upon request we will gladly supply a copy to you. We can arrange for it to be electronically emailed, mailed or you may pick up a copy in the Tutor's Room.

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KCC NEWS- The KCC is currently taking orders for Easter for tortes/cookies/nut rolls/noodles etc. please pick up a flyer by the bulletin for further information.