



SAINT ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Church School Congregation Executive Board

СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА СВЕТОГ ИЛИЈЕ
Управни Одбор Црквеношколске Општине

March 19, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St Elijah,

Our executive board is thinking about each and every church member in these trying times. As you are all aware, the world is experiencing something unprecedented right now, with the global pandemic of a new coronavirus (Covid-19)

I understand you may be having feelings of anxiety. As Serbian Orthodox Christians, we all have a deep faith, an unwavering faith. We all need to rely on our many years of learning; through prayer, fasting periods, liturgies and all teachings that have built the foundation of our faith.

The priority right now is to follow the government guidelines. This is being done for our protection. Our number one concern for our St Elijah family is your health and wellbeing. We have a very dedicated church family. Your dedication and faith is not in question, but everyone needs to exercise caution. The bishop has already administered protocols for church services that we are following. This brings me to my next point.

Some people may struggle with "Church is open, I have to be there." Many of us can relate to this. Everyone has their own personal and medical situations. The older you are, coupled with any underlying conditions, puts you at a higher risk. You may be young, but caring for an elderly loved one. You may be younger but have a certain condition. Everyone's situation is different. We want you to err on the side of caution.

Again, the priority is your health and the health of your loved ones. Our faith is deeply rooted; it is a living faith that is unwavering, unconditional. That has never been the question for you. This is who we are. However, we are in a different place right now. The government is telling us to stay home for a period of time to help suppress this virus. They have closed most non-essential businesses where people "congregate" to stop interaction. The more people that stay home, the safer everyone will be. Limiting interaction, regardless of age is the key right now.

If you choose to stay home from church for whatever reason, it is ok. This doesn't question your faith; because you are our faithful. Our seniors are encouraged to stay home, especially if you have any types of underlying conditions. You know your situation better than anyone. You and your family are the priority. We will continue our spiritual journey no matter what.


The current circumstances will pass. Our faith and spirituality, along with our Lord Jesus Christ, will be our shining light that will guide us through this difficult time.

For those who will attend church, please follow protocols established by our government and health agencies. A summary for church protocol is outlined in the attachment and the Bishops letter can be found on our church website.

On behalf of Father Branislav and the entire St. Elijah executive board.

May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Kosanovich Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Kosanovich Jr
President, Executive Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Loverich", written in a cursive style.

Kathy Loverich
Secretary, Executive Board



SAINT ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Branislav Golic, parish priest

СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА СВЕТОГ ИЛИЈЕ

Јереј Бранислав Голић, свештеник

March 19, 2020

Dear St. Elijah Parish Family,

As we continue to navigate the Coronavirus experience within the context of practicing our Orthodox Faith, the Church Board emphasizes the following points:

Anyone, clergy 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. People who are at high risk of getting this infectious disease are encouraged to stay at home.

All participants at services are expected to use hand sanitizer upon arrival and maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others. We are doing everything we can to maintain cleanliness of our facilities and we sanitize common areas frequently.

Everyone 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)

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

The faithful are to refrain, at this time, from kissing the hands of clergy and when asking for blessings.

All non-liturgical, in-person meetings and activities are cancelled until further notice.

St. Elijah Church will be open for the following services:

- Wednesdays 6pm – Presanctified Liturgy
- Saturdays 5:30pm – Vespers Service
- Sundays 10:00 – Divine Liturgy

Additional information to protect you, and those around you can be found:

- [COVID-19 Updates: Eastern American Diocese, Serbian Orthodox Church](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Health, COVID-19: Help Stop The Spread](#)

For all other church related needs and questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rev Branislav Golic, Parish priest

2200 Irwin Street

Aliquippa, PA

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frgolic@gmail.com

