

Restoration of Divine Worship with the Presence of the Faithful

Revised June 4, 2020

Our Lady of Lebanon Church reopened for Masses on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 9am. Weekend Masses will resume on Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 5pm (English) and Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 10am (Arabic & English). An additional Mass has been added on Sundays at 12pm (Arabic) to accommodate social distancing rules during the “yellow phase” of quarantine. Liturgies will continue to be live streamed via the church’s Facebook page for all those who do not feel comfortable attending Mass in person or for those who are having health issues.

In accordance with the Eparchy of St. Maron and the Diocese of Allentown, guidelines for the Restoration of Divine Worship with the Presence of the Faithful are listed below and must be followed, unless otherwise noted by the clergy. All revisions to our normal practices are subject to change at any time by our Bishop, in concert with federal, state & local authorities.

CHURCH ENTRANCES/EXITS - To maintain control over the number of people entering the church, only the hall doors should be used to enter, and the church’s front doors will be used to exit. This does not apply to handicapped individuals who will use the hall doors for entrance and exit. Parishioners who view the Mass in the hall should also exit through the hall doors.

VENTILATION - Interior doors and windows will be propped open to prevent unneeded contact and to allow for greater ventilation during Masses.

SPACE AND PEW DELINEATION – At least six (6) feet is the proper social distancing for individuals. Families in the same household may sit as close as they want however, anyone else sitting in the same pew must maintain social distancing guidelines. Seating will be available in every other pew. Painter’s tape will be used to mark spaces in the pews that are designated for safe seating. Weekday Mass attendees will be directed by Father Youssef on where to sit to allow for more efficient sanitization.

SANITIZATION REQUIREMENTS - The church pews, doorknobs, glass surfaces and bathrooms will be cleaned according to CDC guidelines after each Mass.

THE CRYING ROOM – Closed

OCCUPANCY FOR MASS AND OTHER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS - To provide proper social distancing, no more than 25% of total Church occupancy may be present inside the Church at a given time. Based on seating, this has been determined to be approximately a maximum of 70 people, including the clergy, the cantor, the lector, designated members of the choir and the organist.

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OVERFLOW - Once the maximum capacity is reached in the church, overflow seating will be available in the church hall, also subject to a 25% maximum of total capacity. A wide screen Smart TV will be set up in the hall to provide viewing of the Mass via live stream. Clergy will distribute communion to parishioners who are celebrating Mass in the church hall. The hall will also be cleaned and sanitized after every Mass. No other parish activities will take place in the hall during the “yellow phase” of quarantine.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION – Holy Communion will be received in the hand only for greater caution.

HOLY WATER - All holy water fonts will remain empty.

MASS BOOKS - All books and pamphlets will be removed from the church. Please contact Father Youssef if you would like to purchase your own Mass book.

VOTIVE CANDLES - Access to lighting votive candles is to be restricted from the public. Parishioners may request the pastoral staff to light a candle for them.

SACRISTY - Because sacristies are confined spaces with little or no ventilation, only clergy are permitted in the Sacristy.

CLOTH FACE MASKS - All parishioners must wear a facemask before entering the church. For parishioners who cannot wear facemasks for medical reasons, we ask that you view the Mass from home. The only time you are permitted to remove the mask is when receiving communion. We ask that you replace the mask before returning to your seat. The clergy will wear a facemask for the distribution of communion. A cantor may participate without a facemask. The lector may remove their facemask before the reading.

GATHERINGS BEFORE/AFTER MASS - All formal and informal gatherings are not permitted.

ALTAR SERVERS – Not permitted.

CANTOR/CHOIR/ORGANIST - Participation is at the discretion of Father Youssef.

CONFESSION - By appointment only.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION – Baskets will be provided at the front and rear of the church and in the hall for anyone who brings their weekly envelopes to Mass. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to use our online donation portal or mail in your donations.

EXCHANGE OF THE SIGN OF PEACE - Omitted.

MARRIAGES/BAPTISMS/FUNERALS – These may resume effective June 2, 2020 with no more than 25% occupancy and with all protective measures as indicated above.