



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

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Parish Reopening Guidelines

After nearly a full year of being sheltered in place, through the grace of God, Annunciation Cathedral is reopening for worship.

Having received a green light from the City and County of San Francisco, , we plan to open the doors of the Annunciation Cathedral to 40 people for in-person worship on **Thursday, March 25, 2021**. Forty people is the number of people we can accommodate in the chapel, based on adherence for social distancing requirements.

Please be aware that the Cathedral will be adhering to strict social distancing protocols and face covering requirements, in accordance with City and County guidelines, and our capacity for church services will be limited. In order to come to church, **you will need to make a reservation and fill out a health screening form**. The reservation link can be found at <https://www.annunciation.org/liturgysreservation>. Once your reservation has been confirmed, you will be sent an informed consent form (also found below) and a health screening form. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND LITURGY UNLESS THE FORMS ARE RETURNED BY 1:00pm THE DAY PRECEDING THE LITURGY.**

Note: if you are unable to place the reservation electronically, please call the Cathedral at (415) 864-8000, Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm.

Important Information

- You must arrive at least 20 mins prior to the posted start time (all scheduled services can be found on our website calendar) in order to allow for time to check in.
- Please note: If you or anyone in your household has cold or flu-like symptoms, or is generally not feeling well, please stay home and view the service online.
- If you are 65 or older and/or have immunocompromised conditions, we ask that you consider continuing attending Liturgy online.
- **Please bring a mask to church.** Everyone who attends Liturgy on-site must bring and wear a cloth or disposable face mask throughout the entirety of their stay, except for children under 2 years of age. If you arrive without a mask, we will give you a disposable mask.

What to expect when you arrive

- At the parking lot entrance and also in the garage, you will be met by volunteers, who will direct where you may self-park.
 - Note: valet services have been suspended during the pandemic.
- Exit the garage by using the staircase as directed. **Do not walk up the ramp.**
 - Upon exiting the foyer doorway, walk along the courtyard corridor and enter through the hallway doors. Those arriving by foot or who are being dropped will enter through the main entrance on Valencia (marked ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL 245).
- Face mask/ coverings must be in place prior to entering

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What to expect when you arrive *(Continued)*

- When you check in you will be asked a series of health screening questions in accordance with the guidelines of the San Francisco Health Officer.
 - These questions can be found at <https://annunciation.org/SFDPH-questionnaire>
- After you have checked in, you will be escorted to your seat.
- If you need to use the restroom, please use the facilities closer to the Valencia Street entrance. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly. Hand sanitizer will also be available outside the bathrooms and in the narthex. Only one person should be in the restroom at a time unless assisting someone else in the restroom (a caregiver or parent assisting child).
- Once you enter the narthex, you may light a candle. Or if you prefer, your candle can be lit for you during the Epistle reading by visiting <https://www.annunciation.org/candle> to make a secure online donation via PayPal. You may place your donation in the collection basket or you may make it electronically.
- Do not kiss or touch the icons. It is appropriate, during the pandemic, to venerate icons simply by making the sign of the Cross and bowing your head.
- Refrain from hugging, handshaking, elbow/fist bumps, and any other physical contact, either with the priest or with your fellow congregants.
- The Cry Room will not be open or available; there are changing stations in the bathrooms.
- Please refrain from speaking extensively to one another.
- The chanters will recite the Creed and the Lord's prayer. You should not recite these or any other prayers or hymns out loud. Singing and chanting by the congregation are not permitted.
- You may bring your own book or tablet with you to follow the Liturgy, as there will be no prayer books on the seats. There will be no bulletins or handouts (weekly Sunday bulletins can be found at <https://www.annunciation.org/news/bulletins>)
- The chairs have been set up based on social distancing guidelines. **Please do not move them.**
 - We will make every effort to seat members of the same household together.
- Please note, our water fountains are out of service for the duration of the pandemic.

Holy Communion

- Holy communion will be administered to the safest extent possible:
 - During Holy Communion come down the middle aisle, standing at least 6 feet behind the person in front of you.
 - When you reach the altar, you may remove your mask momentarily to receive Holy Communion.
 - The priest will be wearing a mask and face shield while distributing Holy Communion.
 - When receiving Holy Communion, please open your mouth so that the Body and Blood may be dropped onto your tongue. **Do not close your mouth until the spoon is removed, and do not lick the spoon.**
 - Antidoron will not be distributed following communion.
- While, at the end of the Liturgy, memorial services may be held, there is no offering of *kollyva*.
- When the Liturgy has ended, please exit the chapel using the double doors in the Narthex. Enter the courtyard and follow the path to the garage lobby, if you are returning to the garage, or to Valencia Street, if you are parked on the street.
- *Antidoron* will be distributed in separate plastic bags as everyone exits.
- There will be no passing of the collection plate.
- Until further notice, there is no coffee hour or social gatherings. When baptisms and weddings resume, during the pandemic, the responsible parties must cover the costs to the Cathedral to have task force oversight and to adhere to the applicable protocols, as the wearing of face coverings and the practicing of social distancing.

Important Links:

- Online Screening Form: <https://annunciation.org/screeningform>
- Online Informed Consent Form: <https://annunciation.org/informed-consent>

We acknowledge these are difficult times. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding. Your safety is paramount.

Informed Consent for In-Person Attendance of the Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA, during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

The United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation (a/k/a Annunciation Cathedral), intends as best it can to follow all mandated Metropolis safety protocols and county regulations for public worship services. However, the county medical officer has advised that public gatherings may nevertheless present an increased possibility of disease spread even if safety precautions are taken, and therefore has asked us to inform you that your participation may increase the risk for yourself and for your family.

In particular, if you are over the age of 65 or have a chronic or underlying medical condition, a gathering increases your risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus, and may lead to serious illness that could even result in death. If you feel sick or are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, or if any of these symptoms are being experienced by someone in your household, you should stay home. The church cannot guarantee that there is no risk of infection for attendees.

- By marking this box, you acknowledge that, by voluntarily entering the church facility, you understand these risks and agree to abide by all social distancing and safety protocols and to follow all other instructions that may be given, including the Parish Reopening Guidelines, and that you acknowledge the risks involved and that you will hold the Cathedral harmless, should you contact the virus as a result of your attendance at the Divine Liturgy. This information will be kept confidential to the extent the law allows.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone Number: _____

NOTE: A separate consent form must be completed by every person, age 18 or older, who will be attending the Divine Liturgy at the Annunciation Cathedral. For those under the age of 18, they must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian who is consenting on their behalf, and their names must be noted on this form.

Screening Form Questions: <https://annunciation.org/screeningform>

SFDPH Guidelines for Indoor Worship: <https://annunciation.org/SFDPH-directives>