

ST. ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR PARISH

9831 - 75 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA T6A 2Y8



Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Glory To Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

September 2, 2021

Summary of Modifications to the Parish Re-opening Plan

The following is taken from the letter to the parish members dated August 31, 2021 from the parish's Board of Management president and it provides a summary of how the parish **Reopening Plan** is currently modified. The completed **Reopening Plan** will be placed on the website once finalized. It was thought that the **Reopening Plan** could be finalized in September, but due to the recent mandate from the City of Edmonton and the continuing worsening environment considering the COVID-19 Delta variant, the completed **Reopening Plan** completion is forthcoming.

If you are Feeling Ill or Exhibit Covid Symptoms

We ask and strongly urge you – regardless of vaccination status, if you are feeling sick, have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with a COVID-19 or a variant case that you do not attend worship services or come to any other function at the parish. You must follow the AB Government's isolation and quarantining protocols.

Commencing September 5 – St. Andrew's "modified" response to Stage 3 of "Alberta's Open for Summer Plan"

Starting September 5 (the first Sunday in the month) the new protocol for attendance to worship services at our parish detailed below will be introduced.

The City of Edmonton indicated effective September 3, 2021 the donning of masks is mandated and physical distancing should be considered when in all buildings accessible to the public. Further examination of the City's mandate is necessary and the following protocol may change. Please be patient and flexible as the Board of Management navigates this ever changing environment of COVID related protocols imposed by the Province and the City.

The re-opening plan is further modified in an attempt to make a balance between those that continue to want to practice masking and distancing and those that are comfortable without distancing. The **Reopening Plan** includes both new and previously existing requirements. The new requirements are listed below in **bold text** and are so identified. The previously in place requirements are unchanged from July 16 and listed below in plain text.

- 1. NEW – this protocol is effective September 5, 2021 regardless of your vaccination status.**
2. Directional travel into and out of the church is removed – unchanged from July 16.
- 3. NEW – The church nave is split into two sections:**
 - 1. The north half of the nave (left hand pews while facing the altar) will be reserved for those that want to continue to practice wearing a mask and remaining physically distanced by 2m between separate cohorts.**

2. **The south half of the nave (right hand pews while facing the altar) will be reserved for those who are comfortable without masking or physically distancing. However, due to City of Edmonton mandated masking, a mask is to be worn and physical distancing should be considered if possible.**
4. **NEW – An usher will meet worshippers at the entrance into the nave to assist seating them in accordance with their masking preference.**
5. Pews are in their usual positions – unchanged from July 16.
6. **NEW – Every second pew will be blocked from use in the north half of the church to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.**
7. All pews will be used in the south half of the church – unchanged from July 16.
8. **NEW – Reservations are required for those who wish to attend Sunday worship services. See the separate section regarding reservations.**
9. Screening of attendees is no longer completed as worshippers come into the facility – unchanged from July 16.
10. Singing is acceptable during worship services – unchanged from July 16.
11. Kissing and touching of icons is allowed – unchanged from July 16.
12. Holding of the wooden candles during reading of gospel and memorials is practiced – unchanged from July 16.
13. Allow use of the memorial candle stands by worshippers with memorial candles available in the vestibule – unchanged from July 16.
14. Final veneration and kissing of the handheld cross at the dismissal is practiced – unchanged from July 16.
15. Antidoron will continue to be prepared and distributed in a sanitized fashion – unchanged from July 16.
16. Open all areas of the facility – unchanged from July 16.
17. Re-establish greeters for Divine Liturgies – unchanged from July 16.
18. The facility is no longer sanitized prior to its use – unchanged from July 16.

The donation box will remain in the vestibule – the collection of donations with passed baskets will not be practiced as long as part of the church is practicing masking and distancing.

The Board will monitor the member response to and evaluate the effectiveness of this new protocol for at least the month of September to determine if both distanced and un-distanced sections are necessary, whether there is confusion over who should sit in each side of the church, if there is a need for greater seating because of large worshipper turn-out, and the general level of integration of the two sets of worshippers attending each section.

Please note that worshippers who attend services may have received two COVID vaccinations, some may have received only a single vaccination, and some may not have any COVID vaccinations.

Reservations required to attend worship services

Starting September 5 (the first Sunday in the month), a reservation is necessary if you wish to attend Sunday Divine Liturgy services. To make the reservation, please contact Ernest Skakun (780-434-0543; BLUEMALVA@shaw.ca) no later than Thursday prior to the Sunday Service you want to attend. By making a reservation, you ensure the best opportunity to attend the service. Without a reservation, a spot may not be available for you when you arrive at church.