



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} PITTSBURGH

OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN

May 17, 2020

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:18,21)

Beloved Fathers and Presvyteres, reverend Monastics, esteemed Metropolis, Philoptochos, and Parish Council members, dedicated Parish Secretaries, and devout faithful of the Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh,

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

I address you today with longing and hope: longing for the day when we can gather together once again in thanksgiving around the Lord's Holy Altar and celebrate with joy the gift of our unity in Christ; and hoping that day will dawn soon! Until then, however – until we are assured by the governing authorities that the dangers created by the current pandemic have decreased sufficiently – our gatherings will be limited in accordance with the following directives.

Before any parish can move forward with services and functions under what civil authorities have called “Yellow Phase” conditions, the priest and lay leadership will need to attest to the parish's full compliance with these policies. Only with my explicit written permission, conveyed by letter, fax, or scanned & emailed document, can the Church be opened beyond its current level, that is, no more than 5 persons including the priest.

This is not the end of the road, but a station along the way to a restoration of our fuller communion. Now is not the time to move with undue haste, as that would endanger the weakest among us. Let us instead go forward with the fear of God, with faith in Him, and love for one another, praying for God's enlightenment and guidance each step of the way. Let our prayer be that of the Psalmist: Show us the way in which we should walk, O Lord, for we lift up our souls to you.

With Archpastoral blessings and love in the risen Lord,

+ SAVAS

Metropolitan of Pittsburgh