

Church Attendance Protocols : Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral

Protocols for Attending Services at the Church

IMPORTANT: By attending the Divine Liturgy or volunteering in person at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, you agree to assume all risks associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, officers, employees, agents and assigns for any losses, causes of action, suits or claims arising from your attendance at a church service during the Covid-19 Pandemic. If you choose to attend, you must understand that you are doing so at your own risk and are required to follow all protocols of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and those that have been put in place at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral for your health and safety.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. **Health:** Only people free of symptoms of COVID-19 are permitted to attend service at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. If you have a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, or shortness of breath or do not feel well PLEASE DO NOT attend Divine Liturgy in person. We will continue to live stream services for those not able to attend in person. Please use the Health Canada self screening tool at <https://ca.thrive.health/covid19/en> before attending church services.

- If you have been in close contact with confirmed or presumptive cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days, you are prohibited by law from entering Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and attending the Divine Liturgy.

- If you have travelled internationally in the last 14 days, you are prohibited by law from entering Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and attending the Divine Liturgy.

2. **Attendees:** Our Metropolitan of UOCC strongly encouraged those who are over the age of 65 and/or in any of the high risk groups for COVID-19 (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, lung disease, or people with weakened immune systems from a medical condition or treatment such as chemotherapy) to not attend liturgy. This is in line with the health directives set forth by the SHA.

- We recommend those who live with at risk people to not attend while COVID-19 restrictions are still in place.

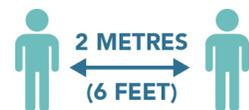
3. **Masks:** Parishioners and volunteers are required to wear non-medical masks at all times throughout the facilities. This precaution is in place to protect the most vulnerable in our congregation and for areas of the facility (e.g. stairwells, aisles, and bathrooms) where physical distancing is difficult. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own masks. If you do not have one, masks will be provided by donation. Fr. Taras will only wear a mask if he is required to be closer than 2 meters from attendees (e.g. consultation or greeting at the end of service).



4. Physical Distancing:

Due to physical distancing requirements, every second pew will be closed for seating. You are required to maintain a 2-meter physical separation from members outside of your household. You will be seated by the monitor and cannot change location or pew after being seated. Children must always remain with a parent or other responsible adult.

- This physical distancing requirement is to be maintained at all times on church property and inside the building. Choir Loft & the entire basement (except for bathrooms) are considered closed to attendees. -



5. **Vaccination:** Parish Council is asking everyone to provide proof of a double vaccination or COVID test performed at a Government approved testing site showing a negative result in past 72 hrs.



6. Preregistration:

You are required to preregister by Saturday 12 pm of the week of the Liturgy. To register by phone or email, please call Stan Hawryliw at (306) 229-9041 or (306) 652-3178 or email pa.st@sasktel.net

Only those attendees who have pre-registered and had their attendance confirmed may attend liturgy. If you show up & your name is not on the list, you will not be able to enter the church.

We ask that if you have attended the previous Sunday Liturgy that you allow others to register for the next Sunday who had not had a chance to attend. If room is available, we will accommodate you.

7. **Prayer Lists:** Names of individuals for health or healing must be sent electronically or by phone no later than Friday to Fr. Taras at (306) 222-0274 or otm.makowsky@sasktel.net if you wish to have a loved one remembered in the proskomedia.



8. **Memorial Services/Panachyda/Панахида:** Please let Stan know when you register that you wish to have a Memorial service. See separate sheet on protocols for Memorials/Панахида under Covid protocols

9. Arrival at Church:

We ask that you put on your **mask before** entering the church and to maintain the social distancing at all times.

Parishioners are asked to arrive on time. Attendees are required to arrive 15 minutes before the beginning of the service. **Note:** Once registrants have arrived, the Church doors will be locked.

NOTE - For now, as the SHA has determined, we will only be able to accommodate 30 individuals for each service.

10. **Prior to your entry** into the church a scribe will confirm that you are registered and will be asking: if you have any symptoms of COVID-19; have travelled internationally in the last 14 days; or have had close contact with an individual with a confirmed case or presumptive case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, you are prohibited by law to enter the church.

Continued. . . .

Church Opening : Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Relaunch continued. . . . Protocols for Attending Services at the Church

Entrance to the temple will be through the main doors of the church. The doors will be open so that there will be no need to touch the handles to enter. You will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided by the church before entering the nave.



11. Prayer Books, envelopes, pens:

Due to the high risk of transmission from common objects, shared prayer books, donation envelopes and pens are not permitted. Please **bring your prayer book, envelopes, and pens** from home for your personal use.

12. Donations can be left (unsealed) in the plate at the back of the church as there will be no passing of the plate during the service. Candles can still be purchased from the elders. Masks will also be provided by donation if you forgot yours. Sunday bulletins will be emailed although some hard copies will be available from the elders.

13. Seating: Please wait for a volunteer to direct you into the nave and where you may sit. Once seated, please do not move around the church unless necessary to use restroom. Infants and children are to remain between parents so that social distancing may be maintained.

14. Restrooms: Only one person is allowed in the restroom at any given time. Disinfecting products will be provided for your use. If you use the restroom, you are responsible for sanitizing before and after use. The door will remain open for contactless entry.

Divine Liturgy

15. No Singing:

Due to the higher risk associated with singing, singing will be limited to the choir (limited to 2-4 members).

16. Veneration: All practices of venerating Icons, Gospel, relics, crosses, kissing of the hand of a priest and anointing with oil are suspended at this time and are replaced with a low reverence bow.

15. Candles: Holding of candles at certain times in the Liturgy are suspended at this time. No blessed foods are allowed to be distributed to parishioners according to SHA guidelines.



16. Sacraments: Confession, Communion will be available as per COVID-19 safety protocols.

Sanitizing Protocol

Before and after each service, all high touch surfaces such as door handles, pews, counter tops, etc. will be properly sanitized as approved by the SHA.

All hand sanitizing stations will be refilled after each service.

Support for Contact Tracing

To enable the management of cases through contact tracing and follow-up, we will be keeping a list of attendees present for the Divine Liturgy for 14 days. The list will only be made available to the SHA if requested by them. The list will be destroyed after 14 days.

Exiting Church

Exiting from the church will be one family at a time and will be directed by our volunteers. You may cross yourself and bow towards the icons as your group departs.

- You will exit through the front doors of the church.
- Parishioners must sanitize their hands when leaving the church. Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Proceed directly to your vehicles and/or public transportation.
- Physical distancing between families must always be maintained (2 meters).



COMPLIANCE

Since the safety of all is our utmost concern, if any attendee does not comply with physical distancing or the local protocols of the SHA and this congregation, you may be asked to leave and may not be permitted to return during the COVID 19 restrictions.

Note: Upon confirming your registration, you will be asked to answer questions about Covid-19 symptoms, if you have had contact with someone with Covid-19 and travel outside the province and country. You will also be asked to provide contact information for you and your family that have come with you.

The first & greatest Commandment: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls, and with all your mind”* Deuteronomy 6:5 and *“You shall love your neighbour as yourself”* Leviticus 19:18

We need to be concerned about the safety of others more than we are concerned about ourselves. This is the expression of God’s love for others.

