

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Oshawa, Ontario
Parish Regulations Regarding Limited Attendance at Church Services

1. Anyone with underlying health issues, belonging to a vulnerable sector of society, who is immunocompromised, whose doctor recommends that they avoid public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, or has regular contact with someone in any of the above categories to whom they might spread an infection (such as aged parents) IS ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICES IN PERSON.
2. Everyone wishing to enter the temple must self-screen in accordance with the notices posted on the outside doors of the Church and in the vestibule. Anyone with a fever, a sore throat or other symptoms of the coronavirus such as runny nose, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, or who is in any other way feeling unwell, **MUST RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY AND MAY NOT ENTER THE CHURCH.**
3. The parish will abide by all provincial and federal health guidelines regarding limits to the numbers of congregants, social distancing measures, hygiene protocols, etc. at all times.
4. Parishioners shall not come to the church by a ride share (i.e. Uber, etc.), taxi, or by any other means of public transit. It is strongly recommended that parishioners arrive in their own vehicle or arrange for another parishioner to transport them.
5. Parishioners wishing to attend services must register through the parish office either on-line or by phone in advance, and will be registered on a first-come first-served basis, with the understanding that parish members in good standing will be given preference.
 - a. Until such time as all limitations on attendance are lifted, we will strive to have as many services as necessary to accommodate all those who wish to attend each week.
 - b. We ask that the faithful attend no more than one service per week in order to give others the opportunity to attend as well.
6. Until further notice, in order to avoid even the slightest possibility of contagion Vespers will only be live streamed with no public attendance. Sunday (and when called for Festal) Liturgies will be open for limited attendance by congregants in accordance with the current provincial guidelines.
7. In accordance with provincial guidelines funerals may also be served in the temple. When a funeral is served in the temple all parish and provincial guidelines must be adhered to, and the funeral home attendants will be responsible for keeping a log of all attendees, their names and contact information, and must provide a copy of this log to the parish priest or council president.

8. The temple will be properly disinfected after each Liturgy or Funeral in accordance with the current health guidelines and recommendations.
9. Upon entering the temple all congregants MUST disinfect their hands at the cleansing station.
10. All congregants must wear masks when moving about in Church, and are highly encouraged to wear masks during the service as well, in accordance with the current provincial health guidelines.
11. All those who are registered to attend a service must be in the temple no later than 10 minutes before the service starts, and in their places no later than 5 minutes before the start of the service. The church doors will be locked when the service begins.
12. Various sizes of candles will be available in \$5 and \$10 bundles on a table at the rear of the Church on the right as you enter. Congregants wishing to purchase candles must have exact change, they should take the candles they wish to purchase without touching any of the others, proceed to the front to light them (observing social distancing protocols), and then proceed to their place.
13. An usher will be available to assist with candle purchasing, provision of donation envelopes, and retrieval of memorial booklets (“hramatky”). The usher will also be responsible for keeping the attendance log.
14. The pews are taped off so that all congregants are at least two metres from each other. Congregants may only sit in the places which are open to the aisles and may not move the tape. Couples/children/faithful living in the same home or in the same “social bubble” may sit together.
15. Parents are requested as much as possible to make sure their children remain in their place and do not wander about the Church or otherwise violate social distancing protocols.
16. Once you have reached your place, please do not move from it and maintain social distance protocols for the duration of the service.
17. All prayer books and other items have been removed from the pews. Please bring your own prayer books and take them home with you after the service. Parishioners wishing to purchase prayer books for personal use may arrange this with Father in advance.
18. **Congregational singing is prohibited until further notice.** If it is your habit to sing along with the chanters please make sure to wear a mask in case you accidentally sing along by force of habit.

19. Icons and other objects may be venerated by bowing before them and crossing oneself, it is not necessary to kiss or touch them.
20. The candles normally held by the faithful for the Great and Little Entrances, the reading of the Epistle/Gospel, at the Funeral or Panakhyda **will not be distributed to or held by the faithful** until further notice.
21. Neither the Gospel book nor the Cross nor any other liturgical items will be offered to the faithful by the priest for veneration.
22. Parishioners should avoid using the washrooms, unless it is absolutely unavoidable. Only one parishioner (or a parishioner with their child) will be allowed in the washroom at a time. Those using the washrooms must wash their hands thoroughly before and after using the toilet. Upon returning into the church from the washroom, parishioners must again sanitize their hands.
23. Following the service please wipe down the area around your pew with the disinfectant wipes provided, and disinfect your hands upon leaving the temple.
24. If you wish to receive the blessed altar bread (antidoron) after Liturgy it will be available in individual paper cups on a table at the back of the Church near the exit doors. Those who are not registered for the PAR program may leave their donations in a basket which will be placed on the same table. Please abide by all social distancing protocols on your way out, and do not touch any of the paper cups other than the one(s) you will take with you.
25. Anyone failing to abide by these guidelines will be reminded of them by the usher on duty. If such behavior continues they will be asked to leave.
26. **If you or someone in your family develop COVID symptoms within two weeks following a service you have attended in Church please inform the parish immediately.**

We are deeply concerned for both the spiritual as well as physical health of our Faithful. If there are any questions regarding these guidelines please contact either the parish priest or the parish council president for clarification.

We ask all the faithful to be as conscientious as possible in following the guidelines of the provincial and health authorities as well as these parish guidelines, as another outbreak or increase in cases may result in further lockdowns, which is something none of us desires. Let us remember that attention to detail on the part of everyone is the key to safely re-opening our Church for limited numbers of congregants. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

May the Lord Save You!

Fr. Bohdan Hladio, Parish Priest Dr. Paul Slavchenko, Parish Council President

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Dear Friends,

With the blessing of Bishop Andriy our church is open for limited attendance at Divine services. Our parish guidelines for attendance are on pages 2 – 4 of this letter.

We will continue to live-stream our services on our parish YouTube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq6XFajpj5rTAOvvTSnutHA/featured>

Upcoming services are as follows (Live-streamed services are indicated in **bold type**):

July 3 rd	Friday	6:30 PM	Small Compline with Akathist
July 4th	Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
July 5th	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
July 6 th	Monday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
July 7 th	Tuesday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>)
July 10 th	Friday	6:30 PM	Small Compline with Akathist
July 11th	Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
July 12th	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Holy Apostles Peter and Paul</i>)
July 17 th	Friday	6:30 PM	Small Compline with Akathist
July 18th	Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
July 19th	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
July 24 th	Friday	6:30 PM	Small Compline with Akathist
July 25th	Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
July 26th	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
July 27 th	Monday	6:30 PM	Great Vespers
July 28 th	Tuesday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Feast of St. Vladimir the Great</i>)
July 31 st	Friday	6:30 PM	Small Compline with Akathist
August 1st	Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
August 2nd	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Holy Prophet Elijah/Ilya</i>)

If you wish to attend services you must register in advance by phone at (905) 433-5577 or by e-mail at priest@stjohnshawa.org. If there are any questions, or if you require pastoral care of any kind please do not hesitate to contact Father Bohdan.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You!