**St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

**Oshawa, Ontario**

**Updated Parish Regulations**

**Regarding Attendance at Church Services and Vaccination**

1. **Parish Policy regarding Covid Vaccination:**

As Christians we are encouraged to care about the health and welfare of our neighbours.  People of many different ages, health conditions, etc. gather together here at St. John’s for spiritual and social activities.  Desiring to insure the greatest good and safety for our parishioners and guests, at our parish council meeting on August 9th the matter of covid vaccinations was discussed, and the following policy was adopted unanimously:

**Everyone, whether vaccinated against Covid or not, is always welcome to attend services and participate in parish activities in adherence with the Covid restrictions which are in force at the given time.  Those who serve on parish council, who serve in the altar (this includes guest clergymen), and those responsible for singing the responses to the services (including choir director, choristers, and cantors) must be fully vaccinated (or in the process of being fully vaccinated) against Covid unless there is a compelling medical reason which prevents them from receiving the vaccination.**

We thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.  If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Dr. Slavchenko or Fr. Bohdan.

1. **Parish Protocols Regarding Attendance at Services:**
2. If you belong to a vulnerable sector of society, are immunocompromised, or if your doctor recommends that you avoid public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ATTENDING SERVICES IN PERSON.
3. If you have a fever, a sore throat or other symptoms of the coronavirus, or if you in any other way are feeling unwell, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ATTENDING SERVICES.
4. 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.
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.
6. Upon entering the temple please disinfect your hands at the cleansing station.
7. All congregants must follow the current federal and provincial health guidelines in regard to the wearing of masks.
8. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. Icons and other objects may be venerated by bowing before them and crossing oneself, it is not necessary to kiss or touch them.
2. Neither the Gospel book nor the Cross nor any other liturgical items will be offered to the faithful by the priest for veneration.
3. Members of the faithful who wish to approach for confession and communion must arrange this with the parish priest in advance.
4. Following the service please wipe down the area around your pew with the disinfectant wipes provided, and disinfect your hands upon leaving the temple.
5. 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.

1. 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 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.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

May the Lord Save You!

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