

Official COVID-19 Church Policy, as of May 7, 2021

PARISHIONERS MUST PRE-REGISTER (CALL OR EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE, OR FILL BLANK SHEET IN THE CHURCH) BEFORE ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY TO ENSURE WE DON'T GO OVER OUR LIMIT OF 15 PEOPLE PRESENT, in accordance with provincial restrictions.

The Government of Alberta has issued new restrictions to “Stop the Spike.” The following mandatory public health measures apply specifically to places of worship. **Expanded Restrictions for high case regions (most of the province, including County of Minburn No. 27): All communities with more than 50 cases per 100,000 people and with 30 or more active cases:**

- *Places of worship – Effective May 5*
 - **Faith services are limited to in-person attendance of 15 people.** This is a decrease from the previous 15 per cent capacity limit.
 - Physical distancing between households must be maintained at all times.
 - Virtual or online services are strongly recommended.
- *Funerals – Effective May 5*
 - No more than 10 people can attend funeral services, including participants and guests.
 - This is a decrease from the current limit of 20 people, and brings funerals in line with wedding services.
 - Funeral service and facility staff, funeral clergy, cantors, and event organizers who are not considered to be invited guests are not counted in the capacity limit
 - Wedding and funeral receptions are still not permitted.

These measures will be in place until further notice and will be reviewed later on. The faithful are encouraged to follow liturgical services via livestream or recording on the internet.

- **Masks are mandatory, unless you have a medical exemption. Those choosing not to wear a mask will not be permitted to enter the church for the safety of other parishioners.**
- Two-metre physical distancing between households must be maintained
- Hand-sanitizing at entrance/exit to church is required.
- The faithful are required to sign-in upon entry for tracking purposes should someone present as COVID-19 positive.
- Ushers are to remind the faithful of the above requirements.
- Recited liturgies are encouraged. Where singing is practiced, no congregational singing. Rather, a single cantor may lead the responses, while the faithful remain prayerfully silent.
- Online liturgical services are encouraged
- Receptions are not permitted
- **Maximum of 10 people for funerals, weddings and baptisms**
 - This includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses
 - This does not include staff or organizers who are not considered an invited guest
 - This applies to any facility, including places of worship and funeral homes.
 - This includes services held indoors or outdoors, seated or non-seated.