

All Saints of Alaska Orthodox Church COVID-19 Reopening Plan

The All Saints reopening plan was created after consulting members of the Orthodox Church in America Archdiocese of Canada, other places of worship, and the Government of BC. This document is not meant to be exhaustive. As our understanding of COVID-19 changes with time, the reopening plan will change accordingly.

At this time, All Saints will continue providing a combination of in-person services on Saturday mornings and online services on Sunday mornings.

Before attending any in-person services, parishioners should familiarize themselves with COVID-19 symptoms. Please refer to the latest information from the BC Center for Disease Control at <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions should consult their doctor before attending in-person services.

Parishioners who are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, in quarantine, or at high risk for contracting COVID-19 should not attend in-person services.

Children unable to maintain social distancing should not attend in-person services.

General Precautions During In-Person Services

- Social distancing of two meters will be required at all times.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available and must be used upon entry.
- The building will be regularly sanitized.
- After using the washroom, parishioners will be required to spray isopropyl alcohol on contact surfaces: sink, toilet, handrail, doorknob, etc.
- Masks must be worn while on the premises by all people from arrival to departure.
- All sacred items (icons, blessing crosses, chalice, etc.) must not be touched when venerating them.
- The priest will not offer their hand when giving blessings.
- Zapivka (blessed bread and wine) will not be offered.
- People should not gather in the “Sunroom.” It should only be used as a corridor from the upper parking lot to the Nave. The bookstore will remain open as long as people do not linger.
- The lending library will not be open.

Registration for Services

All people wishing to attend in-person services will need to register beforehand to ensure proper social distancing, and to enable public health to contact trace if needed. Those who come to an in-person service without registering will not be admitted. Instructions for registration can be found on the registration sheets.

Arriving at All Saints

- Plan to arrive 10 minutes before the start of Liturgy as the doors will be locked at the beginning of the service.
- An usher will greet parishioners at the door and screen for symptoms of COVID-19. The ushers will complete the registration sheets, ensuring a full name and phone number is confirmed for each person.
- A mask will be required before entering. Parishioners should provide their own.
- Hands must be sanitized upon entry.
- Several places to stand have been designated with tape on the floor. Parishioners may choose one, in which they are to stand after venerating the icons (without physical contact- three deep bows with the sign of the cross is what we suggest). Please do not move around the nave during services. Families are to stay together.
- In order to maintain social distancing, personal items (jackets, purses etc.) will be kept with each person on the pew beside them.

Divine Liturgy

- The Liturgy will be served by the priest and one singer/chanter.
- Only one person will go downstairs to the bathroom at a time. If a child needs help, a parent will accompany the child. Cleaning supplies will be provided for each person to sanitize high touch areas of the bathroom after use.
- Social distancing must be maintained in the line-up for Holy Communion.
- Masks may be removed for Holy Communion and are to be immediately put back on after communing.
- Holy Communion will be given using individual, metal spoons. Each person will hold a paper napkin under their mouth while communing. When finished, each napkin will be placed in a tray for burning.
- Following the Post-Communion prayers, all people – except ushers – will immediately leave the premises. Ushers have been given in-depth instructions including sanitizing of high touch areas following liturgy.