

Parish Email 7-22-2020

RE: A Message from Fr. Kostandin

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

According to the calendar of our Holy Church, the last Sunday in July has been designated for the faithful to partake of the sacrament of Holy Unction. Traditionally this mystery of the church is performed in the evening. However, due to the current COVID-19 restrictions and the long distances that many of you have to travel to attend church, it is more practical to perform this mystery at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday July 26. Therefore, I invite all the faithful to come to church to actively participate in the sacrament of Holy Unction. And I invite all of us together, with one heart and one mind, to pray to God to forgive all our trespasses and grant us a healthy mind, body and spirit. May God keep us under His protection and have mercy on us.

For the elderly and other people who don't feel comfortable or safe coming to church and being part of a larger congregation, I will be more than happy to make myself available at a convenient time and place to give you communion and anoint you with Holy Unction.

I would like to remind you that on August 1st, the fast before the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos begins. Let's all make every effort to keep this fasting period and ask the Most Holy Mother to intercede before her Son and our God Jesus Christ, that He may grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. On August 6, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord with Divine Liturgy in the church at 10:00 AM. While on the 15th of August we have the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos with Divine Liturgy on that day as well. I invite everyone to attend Divine Liturgy on these days and to honor God and our Holy Theotokos by expressing our love for them.

And last but not least, I want to remind you that St. Nicholas Church follows the guidelines for safer Orthodox services during the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. Everyone attending services is required to wear a face covering at all times and maintain a distance of six feet from people not living in the same household. Please enter through the hall doors and register prior to entering the church. At the conclusion of services we ask you exit through the front doors of the church as the hall remains closed for social gatherings.

Thank you and may God bless you and keep you in His mercy.

With dedication and love in Jesus Christ,

Fr Kostandin

Many of you may not know that the Turkish court recently handed down a ruling to turn the iconic Hagia Sophia museum in Istanbul back into a mosque. Built by the Roman Emperor Justinian in 537 AD as an Orthodox Christian Cathedral, the architectural wonder was turned into a mosque in 1453 when Ottomans conquered the city, and converted to a museum in the late 1930s.

In a show of condemnation for this ruling and in solidarity with the Christian world, Metropolitan Nathaniel has invited all Orthodox priests in the Chicago area along with their parishioners to a special Paraclesis service at St. Demetrios Church in Elmhurst on Friday, July 24 at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.