



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

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**ADDENDUM to the Guidelines of May 26, 2021
for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey,
On the Continuing Re-Opening of Our Churches, Missions, and Chapels
Addendum Issued June 9, 2021**

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of Our Diocesan Family:
Christ is Risen! – Indeed He is Risen!

Following the issuance of the most recent Guidelines On the Continuing Re-Opening of Our Churches, Missions, and Chapels, issued May 26, 2021, inquiries were received by the Office of the Archbishop from clergy members of the Diocese with regard to related issues not specifically addressed in the May 26 document.

In consideration of these inquiries, the following additional guidelines are announced with respect to the liturgical services and fellowship activities of our Diocesan churches, missions, and chapels. These additional guidelines are intended to supplement, not to supersede or alter, the Guidelines of May 26, 2021.

- The traditional practice of offering Confession in person, with the epitrachelion over the head of the penitent, may be resumed, so long as the priest is fully vaccinated and both the penitent and the priest are comfortable having Confession in this manner. The practices of offering Confession and Absolution in person while being socially distanced, or by telephone or video conference, are still permitted at the present time.
- Blessed bread (*antidoron*) is no longer required to be given in individual cups or bags.
- Wine offered after Holy Communion (*zapifka*) should continue to be offered in individual cups.
- Questions concerning the return of the parish choir to its former configuration are to be addressed with all pastoral sensitivity between the parish priest and the choir director, with consideration given to any concerns expressed by the priest, the choir director, and the choir members.
- Offering baskets may be passed among persons in church, at the discretion of the parish priest.
- Baptisms and Weddings may resume, in compliance with the May 26 guidelines pertaining to attendance at the Divine Services.
- Coffee Hours and fellowship activities may be resumed; however, they must conform to the indoor-dining standards of the locality where the fellowship space is situated with respect to masking, social distancing, and the maximum gathering capacity of the facility.

The Church should minister in every way possible to those who remain hesitant to return to the Divine Services in person. Communion and community must extend beyond the doors of the parishes in this time of healing, so that all may receive the loving touch of the Divine Physician.

Any questions or concerns regarding these Directives should be conveyed to the Office of the Archbishop.

With my humble prayers, archpastoral blessing and sincere love,

+ Michael
+ M I C H A E L

Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey