

## **St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church 305 Walnut St. Jermyn, Pennsylvania 18433**

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet all of you as we are celebrating the Ascension of Jesus Christ and are drawing near to the Great and Holy Feast of Pentecost. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, His Eminence, Archbishop Mark and the guidance he has given us **as we begin to prepare to open our Church, this Sunday, June 7 for the 9:30 a.m. celebration of the Divine Liturgy and at 1:00 p.m. we will have a Parastas at our Cemetery.** The last time we have gathered for services was in the middle of March.

It would appear by now, we are taking every precaution coming from the CDC, wearing face masks, using hand sanitizers and social distancing. Lackawanna County will be going into yellow on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. As we begin to transition into resuming our liturgical services for this Sunday, please be advised of the following CDC rules we have in place:

- You must wear a face mask during the service and if you don't have one, it will be provided for you
- All the doors in Church will be open.
- There will be a hand sanitizer on the first and on the second floor and if you use the banister please use the sanitizer.
- If you use the elevator a candle man will operate it for you and push the button.
- The beeswax candles will be given to you by a candle man wearing gloves.
- Bow before the Holy Icons without kissing.
- Our Church is large enough for each person to be separated by 6 feet, families may sit together.
- The Liturgy will be chanted in front of the Church by Bill and Maryann Dubee.
- Holy Communion will be distributed only by Fr. John and please stand on the markers provided before approaching the Chalice, and do not kiss the chalice. The post communion bread will be in large pieces and wine will be in individual cups.
- There will be no veneration of the Cross at the end of the Liturgy and no Coffee hour and everyone will exit the Church one pew at a time.

I take this opportunity to thank our anonymous donor for making face masks for adults and children and Al Wanas Jr. for providing and donating a case of the necessary hand sanitizer.

May the our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to illumine all our lives and please be assured of my continuing prayers and love for all of you, looking forward in being with all of you this coming Sunday. I remain,

With Love in Christ,

Very Rev. John Kowalczyk (Pastor)