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Hieromartyr Simeon of Persia

On the Removal of the Quarantine and the Opening of Parishes

Christ is Risen and life flourishes. (Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom)

Thank God, some of the states in our diocese have begun the process of easing their quarantines. God willing, more will soon be able to follow. I want to thank our clergy and parishioners for their zealous following of the quarantine rules.

In areas where the quarantine is lifted parishes must follow the diocesan policy in this regard. If the quarantine is not lifted in your area, or it is re-imposed, parishes must follow the diocesan policy in that regard.

In those areas where parish life returns at least partially to normal, at the first Sunday Divine Liturgy the priest should provide teaching in his sermon on the necessity of our thanks to God for all things. Also, the priest should encourage continued prayer for our nation, for our medical workers and first responders, for those who continue to suffer from the disease, and for those who have reposed. At this Divine Service a petition from the Thanksgiving Moleben should be added to the litany following the reading of the Gospel. There should also be added the following petition:

Look down, O Master, lover of mankind, upon the sacrificial labors of our medical workers; send them steadfast health, strength, and fortitude of spirit, wisdom to accomplish their work for the good of our people; and bring about through them the healing of Thy suffering servants, we earnestly pray Thee, quickly hearken and have mercy.

Призри, Владыко, Человѣколюбче на жертвенный подвигъ больничныхъ работниковъ нашихъ, послушай здравіе непоколебимое, силу и крепость духа, мудрость къ совершенію трудовъ во благо народа нашего и сотвори чрезъ нихъ исцѣленіе страждущимъ работамъ Твоимъ, прилежно молимъ Ти ся, скоро услыши и помилуй.

At the Great Entrance, those Orthodox Christians who have departed this life due to the pandemic, should be commemorated.

Finally, if the first Divine Liturgy after the quarantine takes place before the Ascension of the Lord, a Paschal Procession should be held after the liturgy, including the Paschal 3-candle holder, the Pascha icon, and other aspects of the Bright Week procession, including hynography from the Paschal feast, sprinkling of holy water, blessing with the Paschal 3-candle holder, etc.

I ask your continued prayers for me and our other bishops. Your prayers have helped, and, I am certain will continue to help in the future.

With Love in the Risen Christ,

+ Archbishop Peter

Peter, Archbishop of Chicago & Mid-America

