Opening the Doors

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook

Beloved in the Lord,

We know, as Christians, that the most important thing that we do each week is the celebration of the Eucharist. When the Faithful of the Lord gather together to offer themselves, and one another, and our entire life to Christ our God in Thanksgiving and Communion, the entire Creation rejoices at that foretaste of the Kingdom of God. Our role as ministers of the grace and love and joy of the Lord is to be the good leaven that leavens the entire loaf of this troubled world. The last several months has brought home to us all just how much the world is in need of that leaven - and yet, we have been unable to gather, unable to pray together, and unable to celebrate the Eucharist together. This is a challenge that none of us ever expected to face, and certainly one that none of us have ever faced before.

There have been blessings along with this challenge, of course. Our families have had more time together, to rest and to work, to learn and to pray. We have been reminded that our Christian Faith is not limited to the precincts of the Church, or to only Sunday morning. We have had the opportunity, being absent from the Church, to establish on a firmer foundation the Church in each of our respective homes – and I pray that we have taken full advantage of that opportunity, and continue to invest our time and effort into building up that reality in the weeks and months to come.

I am overjoyed, however, to announce that this time of Church closure is coming to an end. On June 21st, we will be able to open the doors of the Church and celebrate the Eucharist together once again. This will not be an immediate return to normal, but it will be a first and careful step toward a future without restrictions.

In this first stage of reopening, the guidelines for reopening have been established by the CDC and by our hierarch, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit. Those guidelines are available in full online at the Metropolis website (detroit.goarch.org), but I will sum them up below.

- Church capacity is limited - for our parish, that limit is a total of 100 people in the pews.
- Everyone in the pews and narthex is required to wear masks. The priest will wear a mask while distributing Holy Communion.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained between individuals/family groups.
• Anyone experiencing ANY symptoms of illness MUST stay home.
• At risk persons (with pre-existing conditions, or over 65) are urged, but not required, to stay home.
• No choir, tray passing, coffee hour, or meetings.

If the Church reaches capacity, then the doors will be closed and locked, but we will still make sure that everyone who wishes is still able to receive Holy Communion. Any who are uncomfortable attending in person, but would like to receive Holy Communion, are welcome to arrange a time following the service to come by appointment and receive the Holy Mysteries. Any who arrive late and find the doors closed are urged to remain in their vehicles until the end of the service, at which time I will come outside and offer Holy Communion to them.

We have also prepared a sign-up sheet, so that any of you that would like to reserve your place at a given service can do so. You can access that from the Church website. You can also call the Church office to sign up.

During this summer, we know that many plans for vacations, summer camp, and other travel have been disrupted. I am therefore offering a classes on a variety of topics for anyone who may be interested, of all ages. Class topics will include music, Liturgical/Biblical Greek, Church History, the Orthodox Church and Other Religions, & Principles of Orthodox Prayer. You can register on the Church website.

Throughout all of this, the Church remains in need of your support. Please make use of the links on the Church website to request prayers, to light candles, and to make your regular donations to support the ongoing work of the parish. And as you do so, please continue to pray for one another, for the chanters, for our staff, and for me, as you pray for all the world, that we may all may be sustained and restored to health and peace.

Please note, as well, that the Parish Council is working hard through these disruptions, and is preparing a number of much needed updates and improvements to the facility. You will find more details on the next page. Please attend carefully to these matters.

With love in Christ,
+Fr. Anthony Cook

St. George Essential Links
Church Website: http://stgeorge.mi.goarch.org
Church LiveStream: https://www.youtube.com/c/franthonyc-stgeorgesouthgate
Prayer/Candle Requests: https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/386d5ce0-a634-45e9-923b-03d58137967b
Online Giving: https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/st1630219
Parish Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeGOCSouthgate/
Fr. Anthony Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/franthonyc

Fr. Anthony has been reading aloud for the parish young people from a series of books on Facebook over the past month. You can find those readings at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMHXjfGV79VwoXxMnKmsdtRBoerLVivbkk

PARISH ZOOM INFORMATION for Virtual Coffee Hour, Bible Study, etc
https://zoom.us/j/9419524282
1-312-626-6799 OR 1-929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 941 952 4282
To our Parishioners:

In normal times, significant projects are undertaken after review and recommendation by the Parish Council with the approval of the parish at a General Assembly meeting.

As we are all painfully aware, these are not normal times.

So with the approval of Metropolitan Nicholas for the procedure outlined below, we request your permission to proceed with renovations/repairs of the Grecian Center as outlined on the attached.

We have discussed these and similar needed repairs at previous General Assembly meetings. Because of the lighter workload of Contractors at this time, the Parish Council unanimously believes it is necessary to proceed immediately and is requesting your approval to do so using the procedure discussed below.

The total cost is capped at $360,000 and is broken down below. We have the funds available from the Repairs and Maintenance fund.

If you would like more information about any of this work, please contact Nick Minton, Peter Georvassilis or Peter Vougiouklakis.

If you are not in favor of proceeding, please provide a negative vote to the Church office.

If we receive 18 or more negative votes from members of the parish within 10 days of this letter, we will not proceed with the project without a General Assembly meeting being held. (The number of 18 is arrived at by taking 51% of the 35-person quorum necessary to hold a General Assembly and 10 days is the required General Assembly meeting notice.)

We pray for your safety and look forward to more normal times.

Fr. Anthony Cook
Parish Priest

Nicholas Minton
Parish Council President

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<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>DESC</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAIN LOBBY</td>
<td>REMOVE ALL EXISTING AND REPLACE W TILE</td>
<td>38,950.06</td>
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<td>4 PARTHENON BATHROOMS</td>
<td>REMOVE EXISTING AND REPLACE W TILE</td>
<td>28,469.90</td>
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<td>2 APOLLO BATHS</td>
<td>REMOVE EXISTING AND REPLACE W TILE</td>
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<td>BATHROOMS</td>
<td>WALL PARTITIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>APOLLO / PARTHENON</td>
<td>SEE DETAILS - MAIN ITEMS ARE CEILING TILE, NEW LIGHTING, CHANGE LIGHTING, DRYWALL BATHROOMS, FOYER DEMO AND REBUILD OF INTERIOR</td>
<td>152,812.50</td>
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<td>PARTHENON ENTRY</td>
<td>NEW FOYER TO MATCH EXISTING LOOK. BRICK CORNER COLUMNS, 1/2 GLASS WALLS, NEW APPROACH AREA</td>
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<td>CONTINGENCY ALLOWANCE</td>
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$360,000.00
From the Parish Council President

Nick Minton

Hello Friends

All of us have been waiting for the time of being able to come back to church. During the Memorial Day Weekend, a directive came from Metropolitan Nicholas with a startup date of June 21st as Phase 1. Things will not be the same for several months. The Parish Council is at work with Father Anthony to help make things as easy as possible under the circumstances.

There have been some cancellations. We did not have our Spring General Assembly. If anybody is interested in the financial information, please contact the church office. We did have a report for the Memorial area. Hopefully by the time we have our next meeting it can be done. We have a nice area near the entrance of the church where we will use pavers.

The Grecian Center has had few cancellations as most parties were able to be rescheduled. We have been trying to utilize the kitchen with meal ideas, like Easter, Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day Meals for the parish. We are also working on a fundraising effort to feed essential workers.

As you see on the previous page, we have been investigating some renovations of the Grecian Center that need to be done and while the hall is vacant this could be a good time to have work done.

The church twice applied for the PPP loan under the Cares Act from the Federal Government. We were approved the second time. Seventy Five percent is to be used for payroll. We need to come up with usage of the remainder within 8 weeks of the deposit of the funds. We have plenty of items to work with. We still have leakage issues we are trying to have repaired. We are also discussing remodeling the multipurpose room to help with storage.

During these times of Covid-19 there are two groups of people in our parish we think of especially. Our seniors who have been stuck inside and are very vulnerable to the virus. The other group are the children. They must miss their friends from church and school. They must miss being able to do a lot of their normal activities, most especially the seniors, who missed out on the senior activities like prom and graduation. Our Sunday School Teachers and OPA have come up with a plan to still have some kind of graduation celebration at Church, which we will be doing this coming Sunday, June 14th. We will continue to work on more ideas for activities for everyone as restrictions loosen up a bit. I think it will be a good thing for the spiritual good of the parish.

So if you have any suggestions for summer activities, please speak with me or with Father. I hope you all have a blessed summer!

Nick
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**St. George Calendar of Events • JUNE / JULY 2020**