

# Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church

## Reopening Guidelines

Our community's health and safety are our highest priority during these unprecedented times. We ask everyone to be mindful of the following new practices to enable the Church to reopen for worship while adhering to public health directives.

### Arriving at Church

1. Everyone coming to church **must wear a mask at all times** while on church property.
2. All parishioners arriving at church will receive a temperature check—the church has procured several no-contact thermometers. For the safety of our congregation, anyone with **a temperate over 99.2 degrees (99.5 degrees for children under 12) must leave the church premises immediately**—they can neither attend church nor can they wait anywhere on church property. Recent studies put the baseline normal temperature at 98.2 versus the previous, commonly referenced 98.6 degrees, with an adult normal range between 97 and 99 degrees.
3. All parishioners who pass the temperature check **must individually sign-in to the registration book in the foyer** (a parent must separately sign-in for each child) and provide their full name (first and last name), address, phone number, and email. This information is critical for contact tracing if an attending parishioner later comes down with COVID-19. There must be a separate entry for each individual attending church and a family registration is not possible—the name of each attendee must be recorded.
4. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at three locations: 1) in the foyer; 2) in front of the church entry where the candles are lit; and 3) in the church hall. We encourage everyone to use hand sanitizer.
5. Parishioners are encouraged to **arrive no later than 10:15 am** to facilitate the timely start of church service at 10:30 am. Seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis and no pews or seats will be held for late arrivals. Overflow seating will be available in the church hall.
6. **Once the church and the overflow church hall seating are filled, newly arriving parishioners will not be able to enter.** If you have a hokehankisd, please arrive before 10:15 am to guarantee you have seating.
7. **Everyone at church must attend church service**, nobody will be allowed to remain on the premises waiting for others attending church service.

### Church Services

1. **Church services will continue to be live-streamed each Sunday** to allow all to participate. It is our goal to encourage maximum community participation in our Badarak services.
2. **Seating will be limited in both the church and the overflow church hall to allow for social distancing.** A number of pews have been closed and are marked with yellow caution tape—please respect this designation and don't try to sit in these pews. The first three pews on the right side are reserved for the church choir. In the church hall, five-chair seat clusters are organized with seat positions marked with an X taped to the floor. Only immediate family members (those living in the same home) may share a pew or seat cluster whether or not extra space is available. The Board of Trustees will reevaluate the number of seat clusters established in the church hall and will expand these based on demand.
3. **Church bulletins will not be distributed.**
4. **Voghchooyn (Kiss of Peace) will be delivered from the altar with those in attendance answering in unison.**
5. **The Bible will not be presented at the end of church services** for parishioners to approach and to kiss.
6. **Offering plates will not be circulated during church service** but will be placed outside the church entry. Parishioners are encouraged to place their donations in the offering plate.

### After Church Service

1. Coffee or fellowship **gatherings after church services are not permitted at this time.** Everyone must leave church after church service.
2. The back patio is closed and there will be **no smoking or vaping anywhere** on church property.
3. Board of Trustees members will be available to help keep everyone safe in accordance with these guidelines.