



**Date:** November 22, 2020

**Subject:** Church Services During COVID-19 Second Wave Restriction

Dear Beloved in Christ,

“I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (3 John 1:2)

We are always thankful for our Lord’s countless blessings. We are glad that we were able to resume Liturgical services during the last six months despite of the pandemic. With the coming of the anticipated second wave of COVID, health officers in various provinces saw it necessary to increase restrictions even to lockdown state. Though this news might bring dismay, may we not forget the Lord’s on going presence with us as He promised “surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). As Christian citizens, it is our civic duty to comply with these laws to ensure the safety of our community at large.

The COVID Committee, headed by H.G. Anba Mina, had a meeting to discuss the impact of new restrictions in different provinces on church services. The committee agreed on the following:

- **In compliance** with the new regional/provincial restrictions of reducing the number of church attendees, **churches are to abide by restrictions particular to their region**; the restriction of the number of attendees (5 or 10, as applicable) includes priests, deacons, and possibly some congregant members. Congregant members’ attendance is left to the priest(s)’ pastoral discretion such as Baptism, critical illness, emergencies, members who have not attended liturgy for a significant period of time, etc..
- **Home communion** is for critical circumstances only following the regional/provincial guidelines.
- **“Kiahk Praises”** is to be prayed only by clergy and deacons; service is to be broadcasted to allow congregants to attend virtually.

These updates are valid until there are further changes in regional/provincial announcements that impact church services. We ask our beloved congregants to continue to follow all safety protocols at all times.

Always trust in the Lord as He says, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9).

**Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada**