

COVID-19 Pandemic and American Orthodox Christian Parishes

(untitled)

1. What is your Orthodox Church jurisdiction?

- ☐ Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese
- ☐ Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
- ☐ Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
- ☐ Orthodox Church in America (including Romanian Episcopate, Albanian and Bulgarian Dioceses)
- ☐ Serbian Orthodox Church
- ☐ Romanian Archdiocese (not part of OCA)
- ☐ Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
- ☐ Ukrainian Orthodox Church
- ☐ Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church

2. In which state is your parish located?

Alabama
Alaska
American Samoa
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Guam
Hawaii

Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virgin Islands
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

3. Which best describes how you are currently handling worship services?
(Choose one)

- ☐ We were already posting online recordings of services or live-streamed services PRIOR to the Coronavirus pandemic and continue to do so now
- ☐ Because of the pandemic we began live-streaming services or recording and posting them online
- ☐ We have canceled all onsite services and do not offer any online services
- ☐ We conduct services in the church, but only clergy (and, possibly, altar servers and/or choir/chanters) are present. There are no parishioners in attendance and no online worship services are offered.
- ☐ We conduct services in the church with limited number of parishioners in attendance. No online worship services are offered.
- ☐ Any other answer

4. Do you track and record how many people watch online your services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. Is your most recent online attendance higher or lower than in-person attendance prior to this crisis?

☐ Lower. Approximately, by what percentage (%)?

☐ About the same

☐ Higher. Approximately, by what percentage (%)?

☐ Not sure. We cannot compare directly.

6. How do you measure your online attendance (select all that apply)

☐ By the number of views

☐ By the number of people who watched the entire service

☐ By assessing comments activity

☐ By feedback from parishioners

☐ Other. Please explain:

7. Are you finding the following to be an obstacle to offering online services?

	Major obstacle	Moderate obstacle	Minor or no obstacle
Difficulty to engage parishioners who are not digitally connected or computer savvy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your insufficient understanding and command of technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making parishioners interested in “attending” online services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient access to the necessary technologies (e.g., video and audio equipment, robust and reliable online platforms)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Challenges in paying for the technologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of video or sound as it is transmitted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating an engaging online worship and interaction experience (except for video/sound quality issues)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preaching/singing to an empty church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Is there anything else that you have found to be a major obstacle to offering online services?

9. Which of the following best describes your future plans for worship services while the pandemic continues?

- ☐ We are making plans to change/improve significantly what we are doing now
- ☐ Continue as we are doing now
- ☐ We are planning to return to in-person services with parishioners in the church as soon as legally permissible
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Other. Please describe

10. After returning to in-person services, will you also offer online services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

11. Choose your **three** current top work priorities from the list below. Check the boxes next to three selected areas of work.

- ☐ Care for parish members needing support (e.g. ill with COVID-19, job loss, loneliness/isolation)
- ☐ Outreach into the local community
- ☐ Dealing with financial impact of the crisis
- ☐ Organizing religious education
- ☐ Finding ways to keep teenagers/youth spiritually connected
- ☐ Learning new technologies (setting up online worship, online giving)
- ☐ Planning for the next three months (summer programs, festivals, etc.)
- ☐ Maintaining the parish office and facilities without the usual staff

12. What is the current status of your religious education classes? (choose one)

- ☐ We did not have regular religious education classes before the Coronavirus pandemic
- ☐ We canceled all religious education classes
- ☐ Religious education classes now meet online
- ☐ We continue to meet in person (perhaps, in smaller groups)
- ☐ Any other answer:

13. What is the current status of your small group ministries (other than religious education)? (choose one)

- ☐ We did not have regular small group ministries before the Coronavirus pandemic
- ☐ We canceled all small group ministries
- ☐ Small groups now meet online
- ☐ We continue to meet in person (perhaps, in smaller groups)
- ☐ Any other answer:

14. How have your ministries for children (below the “youth” age) changed in light of the current situation? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ We did not have regular ministries for younger children before this pandemic
- ☐ We canceled our ministries for children at this time
- ☐ We are meeting with children’s groups online
- ☐ We are providing resources for families and children to use at home

15. Tell us a few words about your current ministries for children. What are you offering specifically for children and their families?

16. Under current conditions of social isolation or “quarantine,” do you continue to offer Holy Communion to your parishioners? (choose one)

- ☐ We stopped offering Holy Communion
- ☐ We offer Holy Communion only to the people who are permitted to be physically present in the church at worship services
- ☐ We found ways to continue offering Holy Communion to all or most our parishioners (even outside of Liturgy)

17. Do you offer Holy Communion in a traditional manner, with the same spoon, or in some other way?

- ☐ Yes, we offer Holy Communion in the same manner as we did before the pandemic
- ☐ No, we changed the way of offering Holy Communion. Please describe

18. Please tell us, how do you distribute Holy Communion to your parishioners?

19. Presently, in your parish, do you perform the following sacraments?

	Yes	No
Baptism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chrismation (for Catechumens)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marriage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Would you like to add any additional explanatory note about current status of Sacraments in your parish?

21. How strong is the need for the following resources and help for you to lead your parish through the Coronavirus pandemic?

	Extreme need	Strong need	Moderate need	Not much need
Suggestions for finding ways to remotely offer spiritual support and nourishment to individual parishioners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support in posting services online or live-streaming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technology training for you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

you

Help with creating
engaging online
gatherings and social
media conversations
among parishioners



How to set up and lead
online small groups and
religious education
classes



How to set up some form
of electronic giving to the
church



Help with organizing
youth ministries and
activities under
conditions of social
isolation



Tips on how to
encourage parishioners
to give



Practical ways to help
your local
community/neighborhood



Tips on surviving the
financial crunch



Help with daily/weekly
devotionals for your
parishioners which would
address their current
major concerns



22. Are there any other areas where you urgently need better resources and support? Please describe:

23. How prepared is your church financially to face this crisis if it continues well into the summer? (choose one)

- ☐ We have sufficient finances to face this crisis into the summer
- ☐ Tight, but we can manage by reducing secondary expenses and making minor budgetary changes
- ☐ We are likely to make (or made already) significant budget cuts: e.g. layoffs, pay cuts, etc.
- ☐ We are likely to make (or made already) significant changes in funding by exploring new sources: e.g., pay more attention to online giving, grants, etc.
- ☐ We might not survive this crisis

24. Which of the following best describes your church's giving over the last month compared to a typical month before COVID-19? (choose one)

- ☐ Up. About.....%

- ☐ About the same

- ☐ Down. About.....%

25. Would you like to offer any additional comment on changes in giving?

26. There have been many negative effects of the pandemic on people's lives. With regard to your parishioners, how many have been affected by the following:

	Many parishioners	Some	Few/None	Don't know
Parishioners have difficult Faith questions brought on for them by the pandemic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parishioners have become sick from the Coronavirus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parishioners have died due to the Coronavirus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parishioners are struggling with isolation, loneliness and feeling of helplessness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parishioners have more family problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parishioners have lost their jobs (or have been furloughed)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parishioners are struggling now (but not before pandemic) to pay their bills and mortgages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. What other negative effects have you noticed in your parishioners?

28. Overall, how prepared are you to help your parishioners with their present mental and emotional burdens caused by the pandemic?

- ☐ Very well equipped
- ☐ Sufficiently equipped
- ☐ Somewhat equipped
- ☐ Not well equipped

29. Please select **three** words which best describe your overall state. Check the boxes next to three selected words.

- ☐ Hopeful
- ☐ Encouraged
- ☐ Resilient
- ☐ Lonely
- ☐ Determined
- ☐ Learning a lot
- ☐ Calm
- ☐ Struggling
- ☐ Exhausted
- ☐ Uncertain
- ☐ Frustrated
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Depressed

30. Overall, how is your current personal state?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below average
Your physical well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your spiritual well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your emotional and mental well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. How important and helpful have the following sources of support been to you in leading your parish through this crisis?

	Unimportant	Somewhat important	Important	Extremely important
Overall support from your parishioners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support from parish leaders (e.g., parish council, religious educators, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support or information from fellow Orthodox clergy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support or information from other (non Orthodox)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

clergy in your
local community

Support from
your bishop

Support and
resources
offered by your
local community
(city, town,
county)

Resources
which you found
online and
through social
media

Resources
offered by
diocesan or
national church
leadership

Support from
your immediate
family: wife,
children,
siblings, parents

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32. Are there any other major sources of support that help you to go through this crisis?

33. Has your parish established any outreach ministries to help your local communities (neighborhood, town, county) to deal with the pandemic?
(check all that apply)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, and we do this by ourselves
- ☐ Yes, we do this by partnering with other churches or NGOs
- ☐ Yes, we do this by partnering with government authorities

34. Please describe what your parish does to help the local community deal with the burdens and consequences of the pandemic

35. Does your parish have any special forms of assistance to help your members at this time?

- ☐ Not at present
- ☐ We continue to offer needed assistance as we have done in the past
- ☐ We have established new forms of assistance to meet the new needs created by the pandemic

36. Please describe what your parish does to help your members deal with the burdens and consequences of the pandemic

37. Approximately what percent (%) of your parish households are not "digitally connected:" that is, households that either have no access to equipment/connectivity at home or are not capable of using computers/email/Internet?

38. How are you reaching these "digitally not connected" households?
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Currently our outreach to households that are not digitally connected is very limited
- ☐ Priest makes phone calls
- ☐ Church office staff or volunteer parishioners make phone calls
- ☐ We mail materials with updates on parish life
- ☐ We make "safe distance" or drive-by house visits
- ☐ We offer some training, tutorials, or explanations to help build basic computer capabilities for parishioners
- ☐ We provide/lend devices to parishioners who need them or offer them financial assistance for "getting online"
- ☐ Other approaches to better reach "digitally not connected" households.
Please describe:

39. Are there any innovative strategies and methods that you are using to facilitate your parish liturgical life and other activities/ministries in these times of social isolation/quarantine? Is there anything that you learned or developed that could help other parishes?

40. What is your age?

41. Approximately, how many persons total are involved in the life of your parish? When answering, think of your “big extended parish family” and include in this number everyone: adults and children, regular and occasional attendees, paid stewards and persons who do not contribute financially

42. What was the average attendance at your regular Sunday services (include in this number both adults and children) prior to Coronavirus pandemic?

43. Of all *adults* (age 18 and over) in your parish, what percent (%) would you estimate:

Are senior citizens (age 65+)?

Are college graduates?

Volunteer regularly at the parish?

Live below the poverty level?

Live within 15 minutes of the parish’s place of worship?

Are converts to Orthodoxy?

Are American born?

Are recent immigrants (0-5 years in the U.S.)?

44. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Check one for each statement.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our parish has a strong ethnic heritage and identity that we are trying to preserve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our parish has a clear mission and purpose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our parish is willing to change: to try new things and to meet new challenges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our parish is outreach-oriented and actively involved in our local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

45. How much does your parish emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? (Check one for each practice.)

	Not at all	A little	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
Frequent Holy Communion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fasting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-depth study of Scripture and Orthodox Faith by both children and adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regular worship attendance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

46. If you would like to share any other important (either negative or positive) experiences of dealing with the Coronavirus epidemic, please do so here: