



ЕПИСКОП ИСТОЧНОАМЕРИЧКИ  
СРПСКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ ЦРКВЕ

BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA  
THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

E. No. 11

January 14, 2021

TO ALL CLERGY AND ORDAINED MONASTICS  
OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN AMERICA  
THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**SUBJECT: DIRECTIVES REGARDING THE SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19**

Very Reverend, Reverend, and Venerable Fathers,

I pray that this circular finds all of you, your families and those entrusted to your pastoral care well in the Lord!

As we approach the Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic hits hard around the world, the following additional directives are to be implemented with regard to the above-mentioned pandemic:

- The rite of the Great Blessing of Water is to be celebrated in the church or in the churchyard, or else at the nearest source of "living water," whether it is a lake, river, or the ocean.
- Priests are advised not to perform House Blessings with holy water except where permitted by the law of the state in which the parish is located. Rather, the faithful should be instructed to come to the church and receive the bottled holy water, which they can take home in small bottles provided by the church; and
- It is imperative that all church services continue in our parish churches and monasteries per earlier issued instructions, through the use of additional precautions with respect to mandatory mask-wearing and adherence 6-foot social distancing at all times.

Should the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic turn for the better in the future, the possibility of reexamining the topic of home visitations will in all likelihood be discussed at the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year (September 1 - Beginning of the Indiction).

The above is for your information and, accordingly, implementation.

WITH ARCHPASTORAL BESSINGS,

BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA



65 Overlook Circle • New Rochelle NY 10804-4501 • USA  
+1 (914) 633-9000 • [diocese@easterndioocese.org](mailto:diocese@easterndioocese.org) • [www.easterndioocese.org](http://www.easterndioocese.org)