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**To:** fmarcd@aol.com,

**Subject:** The Eucharistic Gathering and St John's Liturgy Schedule for September

**Date:** Tue, Aug 25, 2020 1:11 pm

August 25, 2020

Dear Faithful of Saint John's,

In Hebrews, chapter 10, the wonder and mystery of the Eucharistic gathering is contrasted with the Temple ritual of the Old Testament. Written 35 years after our Lord's Death and Resurrection, these words were meant to be an exhortation for endurance. They are worth reading again in the light of our own circumstances:

*"Therefore, brothers and sisters, having boldness to enter the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (verses 16-25.)*

It is difficult in this time of pandemic restriction to enjoy the community aspects of our Church. We miss freely visiting with one another, working and celebrating together, and also studying and learning together. The heartbeat of the Christian community, however, remains its Eucharistic gathering, and while we cannot meet on Sunday morning all together, in our smaller Eucharistic gatherings we have the opportunity to pray and worship, to stand with others in the presence of God, and to receive Holy Communion. This blessing is enough to keep us anchored through these stormy times and to protect us from "Covid drift," a phrase Fr. Tom recently used.

So let us take to heart the words of the apostle: "...forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." As we enter into the new liturgical year, which begins on September 1, we will return to the larger Eucharistic gatherings of early summer by assigning two of our Divine Liturgy Groups to each service. I ask you to pay attention to what Group you are assigned, to mark on your calendar when your Group is scheduled, and to the best of your ability commit to being present on that assigned day. When you come and pray, you will be standing there for all of us who cannot.

Here are some important things to keep in mind:

- By assigning two Divine Liturgy Groups to each service, each of us will be able to worship and receive **Communion about twice a month**, whether it be on a Wednesday night, Saturday morning, or on Sunday.
- **Saturday Vespers is open** to any who want to attend. Just sign in when you come. If this number becomes too large for our present purposes, we can limit it by assignment. **Confession** is available on Saturday nights after Vespers or by appointment during the week.
- If you feel especially cautious about exposing yourself to any potential virus and for this reason cannot receive Communion from a common spoon, you may let me or the priest who is serving know ahead of time and we can reserve some of the Sacrament from that Liturgy before we serve Communion to the rest. Then, after the Dismissal, we can serve you from this **reserved Sacrament** just as we might take Communion to those who are in the hospital.
- We will continue to **livestream** services on Saturday night and Sunday morning and also on special Feast Days. Please make use of this as it is helpful, and if you are having any trouble with the technology, let me know and I will look for a way to help.

- Find your Group or Sign up for a Group here: [signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com)

See the schedule of Liturgies here: <https://stjohnalaska.org/schedule>

See livestream services here: <https://stjohnalaska.org/live>

Finally, I want to thank our team of chanters for their faithful service in singing three liturgies each week. They have risen to the occasion remarkably and have made our worship beautiful.

Blessings and prayers,

Fr. Marc

## Divine Liturgy Group Assignment

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Group</b>
Wed. Aug. 26	6:15pm	Liturgy	E
Fri. Aug. 28 John the Baptist	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	C
Sat. Aug. 29 John the Baptist	9:15am	Liturgy	C
Sat. Aug. 29	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Aug. 30	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	D
Wed. Sep. 2	6:15pm	Liturgy	F/G
Sat. Sep. 5	9:15am	Liturgy	H/I
Sat. Sep. 5	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Sep. 6	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	J/K
Mon. Sep. 7 Nativity Theotokos	6:15pm	Vesperal Liturgy	L/A
Sat. Sep. 12	9:15am	Liturgy	B/C
Sat. Sep. 12	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Sep. 13	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	D
Sun. Sep. 13 Elevation of Cross	6:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Mon. Sep. 14 Elevation of Cross	6:15pm	Vesperal Liturgy	E
Sat. Sep. 19	9:15am	Liturgy	F/G
Sat. Sep. 19	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Sep. 20	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	H/I
Wed. Sep. 23	6:15pm	Liturgy	J/K
Sat. Sep. 26	9:15am	Liturgy	L/A
Sat. Sep. 27	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Sep. 27	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	B/C
Wed. Sep. 30	6:15pm	Liturgy	D
Sat. Oct. 3	9:15am	Liturgy	E

Sat. Oct. 3	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Oct. 4	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	F/G
Wed. Oct. 7	6:15pm	Liturgy	H/I
Sat. Oct. 10	9:15am	Liturgy	J/K
Sat. Oct. 10	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Oct. 11	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	L/A
Wed. Oct. 14	6:15pm	Liturgy	B/C
Sat. Oct. 17	9:15am	Liturgy	D
Sat. Oct. 17	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Oct. 18	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	E
Wed. Oct. 21	6:15pm	Liturgy	F/G
Sat. Oct. 24	9:15am	Liturgy	H/I
Sat. Oct. 24	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All
Sun. Oct. 25	9:30am (Stream)	Matins/Liturgy	J/K
Wed. Oct. 28	6:15pm	Liturgy	L/A
Sat. Oct. 31	9:15am	Liturgy	B/C
Sat. Oct. 31	7:15pm (Stream)	Vespers	All