

From: stjohnalaska@aol.com,
Subject: Vaccines and Invitation to Write
Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2021 12:25 pm

Faithful and Friends of St. John's,

We can all be thankful to God that Covid vaccines are now being distributed in Alaska and that many in our parish have begun to be vaccinated. This is a light at the end of a long tunnel and it will eventually alleviate some of the restrictions we have endured for so long.

Schedule Till Lent

From now to the beginning of Lent (Clean Monday is March 15), we will continue to have three Liturgies per week, assigning Groups as we have done for months. This schedule is now posted on the Church website [here](#). But I am hopeful that by the beginning of Lent we can eliminate the need for these Groups and find a new way to schedule people for Sunday Liturgies, Presanctified Liturgies and other Lenten services. Having more people who are fully immunized will be a key part of being able to make this change. So let us be patient until then, and also be faithful in attending Liturgies on the day we are scheduled. Remember that from now on Wednesday evening Liturgies are open to all who want to attend, regardless of what Group you are in.

Chronicling our Experiences

This has been an extraordinary year for all of us, with many differing experiences. I regret to think, however, that when the pandemic ends we will forget how we felt during this time. So I invite each of you to write a brief reflection at this moment, sharing some part of your experience during this past year, mostly how it affected you personally. Did you get Covid? Did you stay very isolated? Were you afraid? How did you see God in all of this? What did you miss most? If you will write something short, no more than 250 words (*this paragraph is about 190 words*), and send them to me at frmardc@aol.com by the end of this month, I will collect them and eventually find a way to share them anonymously. Again, I think it is important to document our varied experiences and feelings at this moment, so that we can remember them. Whether this is a good idea or not, will be seen, I suppose, by the number of those who respond. Please consider it, and if you like the idea, take a moment and write something quickly and send it to me.

Finally, please let me know if you or any of our faithful are in need of anything that the Church can help with, financially, spiritually, or emotionally. We will do what we can, and we will all get through this together with God's help.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Marc

*Church Office
Saint John Orthodox Cathedral*

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