Protocol 20-05

Beloved Brothers in the Lord,

As we all know, the coronavirus situation continues to evolve and change, and I appreciate your continued patience and flexibility. Metropolis Protocol 20-04 that went out just last night, allowed for the celebration of the Sunday Divine Liturgy in parishes where it is “possible and prudent.” Recognizing that restrictions from government officials are becoming more strict, and to create a consistent approach across the Metropolis, it has been decided that until further notice the Sunday Divine Liturgy should be celebrated by the clergy, one chanter, and one altar server, and that the faithful should remain prayerfully at home. Where possible, these services (along with the other services of Lent) should be livestreamed, so that the faithful can access them from home. This approach is consistent with communications we received today from the Archdiocese, as well as other metropolises around the country.

Since the reception of the Holy Eucharist is central to our relationship to Christ, each parish should make accommodations to make it available to any and all parishioners who seek to receive it. A process for this is outlined in yesterday’s protocol letter.

I know that this directive will be difficult for you, as priests of the Lord, to accept. I too am deeply troubled and pained to take these steps. However, for the safety of our faithful, the consistency of our parishes, and the unity of our Church, they are necessary. As well, given these significant limitations, I encourage you to increase other means of ministry to address the needs of your parishioners.

May our loving God deliver us from this current plague and strengthen all who take refuge in His Church, unto life eternal in His coming Kingdom.

With paternal blessings,

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver