

Good morning Dear Friends! **UPDATED - April 11, 2020**

*“Christ IS in our midst!”*

I wanted to follow up on a Directive that His Grace sent this morning regarding allowing our people to come in and venerate the Holy Tomb during Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and issue the following Parish Invitation to all our faithful:

**“Dear St. Sava Family”:**

We pray that all of you are staying safe and being as prayerful as possible as we persevere through this current Corona Virus pandemic. In order for those who wish to be able to have some **limited time** within our Church Temple during Great and Holy Friday, and Holy Saturday, the following steps are now in place:

1. In order to allow our faithful to venerate the Holy Shroud of our Lord, **The Church will only be open between the hours of 4:30 and 6:30pm on Great Friday.** There will be **no hours** to come and venerate the Holy Shroud on Holy Saturday. Fr. Stevo will be present on Great Friday to supervise visitors.
2. **To mitigate any possible contamination as you come in to Church, please observe the following:**
  - Please sanitize your hands BEFORE you come into the Church, and up to the Tomb.
  - The Tomb of our Lord will be cordoned off immediately after the Holy Shroud is placed in it on Great Friday and will remain that way through the Liturgy of Holy Saturday, when it will be placed in the Altar afterwards.
  - Do NOT touch anything at all (pews, candles, the Tomb, etc.)
  - Do NOT touch or kiss the Holy Shroud – a deep bow will suffice.
  - No one is permitted to make prostrations and thereby touch the floor.
  - In keeping with the directive that **only 5 people** can be present at one time, please adhere to this when you come: if there is someone already ahead of you, please wait outside....
  - This year, there will be NO guarding of the Tomb (We know the Angels do a good job...)
3. IF you wish to have the **WHITE 7-day Votive Lights** put up for Pascha, please let either President Steve Kracinovsky or Myself know BEFORE Great and Holy Friday – and send your donations into the Church for the amount. (They will be set up before Paschal Sunday services....)
4. **ALL Holy Week services will be LIVE-STREAMED** on BOTH our St. Sava FB page ([facebook.com/StSavaSerbianOrthodox](https://www.facebook.com/StSavaSerbianOrthodox)), as well as posted to YouTube!
5. **On PASCHA** – Fr. Stevo will bless a Paschal basket at the end of the service – you may hold your own Paschal Basket at that time while I read the prayer!

If you do have any questions at all about anything related to the upcoming Holy Week (including making appointments For Holy Confession) feel free to give me a call at the Parish Land-line number of (412-672-1872).

In closing, know that when this is finally over, we will have a glorious PASCHAL celebration (complete with our AGAPE MEAL and our Paschal foods, afterwards) **on the FIRST Sunday that allows us to do** so - in the meantime, fervently pray that all of us continue to be safe!

Our loving prayers and 'hugs' to all, and I greet you with that most beautiful Of Ancient Greetings - *Christ IS Risen!*

Fr Stevo