

## **Latest stricter pandemic measures again affect Church-going in Greece; vaccinations reach one million**



**The Greek government this week announced even stricter pandemic-related measures on public assembly and non-essential movement outdoors, amid a latest spike in the number of confirmed new instances of the Covid-19 virus, as well as related fatalities and intubated patients being treated in hospital ICUs.**

The stricter measures again affect Church-going and the holding of Holy Services in cathedrals and chapels throughout the country.

For instance, in regions where the risk factor for Covid-19 exposure is highest, the holding of sacraments – weddings, baptisms and memorial services – will be

suspended. During funeral services and interment in such regions, the presence of up to nine mourners will be allowed.

Moreover, only clergymen, a cantor and sexton will be allowed during the holding of Church services, meaning no worshipers will inside cathedrals.

The latest and stricter restrictions will apply for another week until mid-March.

In a bid to offer encouragement and optimism to the Greek people, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Wednesday evening referred to a “last challenge, as we’re entering the final stretch,” speaking on the occasion of vaccinations against Covid-19 in the country now exceeding one million.

