

June 22, 2020

Dear parishioners,

We hope you are staying strong and remaining in touch with your loved ones and friends. We wanted to share an update on how COVID-19 is impacting our parish and the steps we are taking towards an eventual reopening. We continue to keep everyone's wellbeing as our central focus in all that we do.

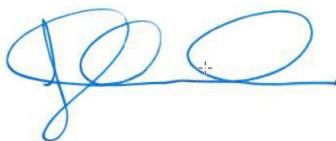
The Quebec Government decreed that all churches close back in March. This closure negatively impacted our revenues obtained through our weekly collections and rentals of our parking lot and church basement. Hopefully you have kept your weekly collections aside for when you return, as this would allow us to catch up. Upon reopening, we will be counting on the resumption of your financial support.

The temporary closure of our parish coupled with the suspension of our weekly collection and rental revenues, has qualified our parish to receive the Federal Government's wage assistance program. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program will help to support the health and well-being of our Priests, Pastoral Team and paid parish employees.

Recently, the Quebec Government permitted the reopening of Churches and Father Manus and Susan Gardner decided on a prudent and gradual approach to opening slowly and only a few Parishes at a time. It was decided to begin with the opening of St. Mary's, Good Shepherd, St. Augustine and Saint Gabriel's on the weekend of July 4 and 5. St. Francis will remain closed given the limited number of priests available.

The Government has set 50, as the maximum number of parishioners permitted in the church at any one time. In addition, the Diocese issued a 15 page protocol for reopening church buildings and we will monitor the implementation with the four (4) trial parishes before more parishes are opened. The protocol does call for the closure of church basements, bathroom and kitchen facilities. Holy water (at entrances), candles, Sunday missals, and bulletins will not be available. Parishioners are welcome to attend other open churches but must register first. This registration process will be announced soon and registration will take place during the week of June 29th. Mass will continue to be offered via Facebook Live and Zoom (contact Anne-Marie Armeni Tel. 450-671-1042).

We understand this new reality created its share of anxiety but the health and safety of our Parishioners remains paramount in our work towards a return to Mass. We look forward to seeing you all again soon and until such time be well, stay safe and God bless.



Ted Colavecchio

Marianne Hinger – Anne-Marie Armeni
Julie Belanger – Amanda Simard
Richard Zavergiu – Craig Mcara

Chairperson and Wardens
Fabrique of St. Francis of Assisi