



PAROISSE
ST. NORBERT
PARISH

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25 FEBRUARY 2020

RE: Impact of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 on our Parish

Dear Parishioners:

In the context of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 epidemic, we are mostly preoccupied with the health and well-being of the parishioners of Saint Norbert and we pray that the Lord protects us all and very particularly those of us who are vulnerable or who care for the sick.

We want to assure you that our parish is carefully following the Liturgical Protocol put into effect by the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface to minimize the risk of infection through our liturgical practices. The Archdiocese remains vigilant—to that effect, it obtains information daily from the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and relies on the advice of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, Dr. Brent Roussin. As the situation evolves, the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, in consultation with other dioceses, reviews its protocol. For information on the measures the Archdiocese has taken and to find inspiration in the spiritual guidance resources it suggests to us, we invite you to regularly visit its website at www.archsaintboniface.ca and to read its electronic Newsletter “Weekly News Bulletin”.

We have chosen to open the Sacristy door on Friday morning from 10:00 AM to Noon to allow individuals and families to come and pray. The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will run during the same time. I will also be available to hear confessions in the church while respecting the Protocol. When the time will be favorable, the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help will be open.

At the parish level, we would also like to stay in close communication with you by sending you our parish bulletin, amongst other things. If the parish does not have your email address, please send a message via email, so that we can include you on our distribution list. We also invite you to share your current telephone number with us. As much as possible, we will also share information with you on our Website (www.stnorbertparish.ca).

We have the delicate task of addressing the question of the financial impact of the suspension of Sunday Liturgies because of the pandemic. As you well know, our parish relies enormously on the Sunday collection to pay its expenses. Furthermore, our other sources of revenue are diminishing at this time.

We understand that we are living in a time of crisis and we are all touched in one way or another by COVID-19. In prayer, we invite you to evaluate how you can continue to support our parish to ensure that it can carry on—maybe some of you will be able to do a little bit more while others need to scale back. In total, the parish needs an approximate revenue of \$2,600.00 **per week** to pay its expenses, which averages out to \$45.00 per registered family.

You can do your part in one of many ways:

- a) By mailing cheques (no cash) to the parish address (see top of letter).
- b) By depositing your donation at the parish office. In case you don't know, the office is located at the entrance of the Chalet 110 - 80 rue St-Pierre.
- c) By credit card. The Diocesan Website is now set up to take in donations on behalf of each parish. Click on the "Donate to my parish" button on the website's home page at www.archsaintboniface.ca and follow the prompts. The Archdiocese will send you your official income tax receipt and, at the end of each month, will send the donations to the parishes.
- d) Contact the parish office if you have any questions, special needs or if you can be of assistance in a special way. You can reach us by phone at 204-269-3240 and by email at paroissestnorbert@gmail.com. For example, a volunteer could pick up a donation envelope left by an elderly parishioner in her mailbox.

Dear Parishioners, let us continue to practise solidarity during these trying times and participate in our own way in the healing ministry of Christ.

Sincere thanks for your attention in this matter and please know that our prayers are with you.



Father Charles Fillion
Pastor of Saint Norbert Parish

Roger Dubois
Chairperson of the Finance Council

Bernard Lemoine
Chairperson of the Pastoral Council