

Open letter to parish priests from Bishop Grecco

Solemnity of St. Joseph - 2020

Dear Father,

As I said in my letter of March 17, 2020 the cessation of the public celebration of the Eucharist and the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is a source of “spiritual heartache” for the Catholic Church in PEI. At this unprecedented moment we priests are given the opportunity to examine our efforts at accompanying the faithful on their Lenten journey.

Accompaniment by Offering Mass Privately

Our ministry should seek to soothe the broken hearted with encouragement, kindness and the assurance of prayer as we endure this dreaded affliction. This includes the explicit intention in your private masses, especially the “missa pro populo” “mass for the people” in your parish. In the midst of the current health crisis the Eucharist continues to sustain the Church. It is our responsibility as “ambassadors for Christ”(2Cor. 5:20) and in persona Christi, as mediators between God and humankind(1Tm.2; 5-7) to offer Mass privately with the intention of strengthening the faith of our people, and alleviating the suffering of victims around the world.

Accompaniment to Enable Prayer and Devotion

We can communicate to our people the importance of our Lenten spiritual exercises of prayer, almsgiving and fasting through postings on our parish web and Church bulletin board and Church foyer. We should leave our Church doors open to encourage people to visit the Blessed Sacrament and spend some time in silent adoration. We may make available at the doors of the church copies of the Stations of the Cross. Given the dimensions of this crisis the Stations seem most relevant. (It is important that such devotions be done privately and not organized by groups as this is contrary to Health Department Guidelines.) Also do encourage people to watch Sunday Mass at 9am from Holy Redeemer on Eastlink Community TV or Fr. Frank Jay’s Sunday Mass which he live streams on Facebook. Finally, encourage people to reserve some silent time for contemplation, to pray the rosary and to read the Sacred Scriptures.

Our hope is in the Lord. By being active, spiritually strong and prayerful we do accompany and enable the faithful to persevere during this health crisis.

I conclude by sharing with you St. Paul’s message to his Pastoral Associate, Timothy:

“As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.” 2Tm. 4:5

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Bishop Richard Grecco



The Saint John-Paul II Pastoral Unit
Stella Maris, St. Anne’s & St. Augustine’s Parishes, Prince Edward Island

4th Sunday of Lent ✘ March 22, 2020

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday No Mass

Tuesday No Mass

Wednesday No Mass

Thursday No Mass

Friday No Mass

Saturday No Mass

Sunday No Mass

Sunday No Mass

Fr. Raj Santiago: 902-393-0572

rajstaugustin@gmail.com

Pastoral Associates:

Jacinta Doiron 902-621-0638

Marion Murphy 902-621-0725

Carol Probert 902-963-3089

Anne-Marie Vessey 902-964-3442

Lorraine Lemay 902-360-2060

Confessions: Fr. Raj is available in the vestries after weekday masses for the sacrament of Reconciliation. All are encouraged to experience the Mercy and Love of the Ever Forgiving Father

Communion at Home: If you know of anyone who should be receiving communion at home because of inability to attend church, please contact one of the pastoral associates.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the Sick & Dying will be said following weekday Masses.

Scent Free: Please avoid scented products in our churches. Some parishioners are strongly allergic to chemical fragrances.

Hospital or Home Visits: If you have a family member or friend in the hospital, at home or other care facility who would like to see a priest please call Fr. Raj

Mass Requests: Contact Fr. Raj for all Mass requests

Last Week’s Collections & Donations

St. Augustine’s: \$643.90

St. Anne’s: \$427.00

Stella Maris: \$815.00

Thank You for Your Donations to Our Parishes!

Please consider including your Parish in your will.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Brian, Evan, Grace, John, Laura, Theresa, Alfred Barriault, Roy Doiron, Beatrice Doucette, Donnie Doucette (Roxy), Tyrel Doucette, Dale Gallant, Edmond Gallant, Stella Gallant, Vic Greenwood, Paul LeBlanc, Naomi (age 13), Monique MacLeod, Baby Cole Peters, Kelly Power, Doris Reid, Dane Simpson, Susie Smith
To have a name added or removed from the prayer line please contact

Marion Murphy 902-621-0725

Angela Gallant 902-393-0960

Rose Gallant 902-963-3516

Fr. Raj Santiago 902-393-0572

Bulletin Announcements: Email bulletin notices to bulletins@jp2pastoralunit.com or call Francis @ 902-886-2761. Deadline for weekly bulletin is Thurs. at 4pm.

Questions: If you have any questions about your religion, faith or parish...please write them down, put them in an envelope marked “Questions” and drop it in the offertory. We will try & post answers in a following bulletin.

Baptisms: Contact Fr. Raj for Baptismal Preparation.

Take God for your spouse and friend and walk with him continually, and you will not sin, will learn to love, and the things you must do will work out prosperously for you.

St. Teresa of Avila

www.jp2pastoralunit.com/bulletins.php

Youth Ministries — www.jp2youthministries.com

Confirmation Class

Grades K-8 Class Schedule

Mass As A Class Schedule

Retreat: TBA

All Cancelled or reschedule

All Cancelled or reschedule

Confirmation will be re-scheduled

Unit Notices

Holy Week Programs: More information will be announced closer to Holy Week.

Way of the Cross: St. Augustine's has cancelled for now the Way of the Cross that was suppose to take place the next 2 Sundays, March 22 & 29.

Message from Father Raj: I ask the parishioners to keep praying for the situation to improve and especially those who affected by this deadly virus and every one experience peace and good health.

Stella Maris' Notices

Annual Financial Statements: Extra copies are available on the table at the back of the Church. Please take one home. *Property & Finance Committee*

St. Anne's Notices

Annual meeting St. Anne's Church will be rescheduled once mass begins again.

Diocese Notices

www.dioceseofcharlottetown.com

Until further notice, beginning on Monday the diocesan Centre will only be open from Monday to Friday, 10am until 2pm.

Livestream of 10:30am Mass from St. Pius X Parish this Sunday: Join us for a live stream of the Sunday Mass at 10:30am on March 22, 2020 using the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/stpiusxpei/videos/228693251515339/> You need not have a Facebook account to access. Spread the word! Facebook users are invited to like and follow the parish facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stpiusxpei>) for up-to-date news from the parish.

Community Notices

Star of the Sea Seniors' Club: All activities at the seniors club have been cancelled until further notice.

Legally Blonde: The Musical: Bluefield High School's production of Legally Blonde: The Musical has been cancelled for the time being. If it is rescheduled we will post the new dates and times in the bulletin.

The Annual Meeting at Central Queens Funeral Home is cancelled indefinitely. The Annual Meeting will be held at a later date, once it is safe to do so and will be posted in our bulletin.

Due to the recent corona virus risks and restrictions, the Fiddlers' Sons concert at Central Queens United Church, Hunter River, has been cancelled. We hope to host this talented group of musicians at a later date when life returns to normal.

Provincial Credit Union Dinner & Annual Meeting that was scheduled to be held at North Rustico Lions Club on April 7 has been cancelled.

Al-Anon Group Meeting: Tuesday's meeting at St. Augustine's Church is cancelled for the now. Call 902-892-9974 for more information.

Friends of the Farmers Bank Annual General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 is cancelled. A later date will be announced in due course.

Subtle Yoga with Paula will be live streaming classes from her Facebook page beginning on Monday, March 23. You can access her classes from Facebook: Subtle Yoga with Paula. New to yoga, no problem. Take it at

your own pace, in the comfort of your own home. Schedule: (subject to change) Tuesday 10:30 am ~ mindful yoga on the mat. Thursday 10:30 am ~ mindful yoga on the mat. Saturday 11 am ~ mindful yoga in the CHAIR. Classes are by donation. Email transfers (itsallyogaright@gmail.com) Finances should not stand in the way of your participation. If you are not able to contribute at this time, this is respected and you are welcome to join the class for Health: Mind & Body. If you need help to find Paula on Facebook please contact: itsallyogaright@gmail.com or 782-234-5845 (text or call)

Letter from Bishop Grecco

March 17, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Given the report of the first case of Covid-19 on PEI and the latest provincial health directives, I am directing all priests in the Diocese to cease the celebration of Sunday and weekday Eucharist until further notice.

The Catholic people of the Diocese of Charlottetown are dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass until the resumption of Sunday Masses is announced.

I am pleased to announce that Eastlink Community TV has agreed to televise Sunday Masses (live) from Holy Redeemer Church at 9am beginning March 22, the Fourth Sunday of Lent. In addition to the Celebrant there will be in attendance a Reader and two Acolytes only. Holy Redeemer Church will open its doors after televising the Mass.

Weddings, baptisms, funerals may proceed but parish priests are reminded to guide the faithful to compliance with provincial health directives regarding the size of the crowd and personal distance between individuals.

Individual confessions may continue as usual and churches may be left unlocked for individual devotions. However, Communal Celebrations of Penance are suspended.

Finally all parish catechism classes are to be suspended until further notice.

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our life in Jesus Christ. The extraordinary measures described above, while necessary, are nevertheless a source of spiritual heartache for all of us. And so, as we enter this time of Eucharistic deprivation, let us plan our own schedule of prayer, of visiting a Parish Church, of making the Stations of the Cross, of almsgiving and fasting. Above all, let us pray for the thousands of people who are suffering from this viral infection and the many thousands more who will certainly endure economic hardship.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Bishop Richard Grecco