

ST. MARY'S - ST. CECILIA'S PARISH

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April 3, 2020

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

Dear Parishioners:

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

I want to assure you that our parish is carefully following the Liturgical Protocol put into effect by the Archdiocese of Kingston to minimize the risk of infection through our liturgical practices. The Archdiocese remains vigilant—to that effect, it obtains information daily from the local, provincial and federal health authorities.

As the situation evolves, the Archdiocese of Kingston, 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.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca and to subscribe to its electronic Newsletter "Weekly News Bulletin" by sending a request to Elisabeth Santos, at reception@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

At the parish level, we would also like to stay in close communication with you by sending you our parish news. ***If the parish does not have your email address, please send it to the Parish Office (saintmary@bellnet.ca) 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 (stmary-stcecilia-parish.ca).

I 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.

I 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 financially 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 \$1,500.00 per week to pay its expenses.

You can do your part in one of many ways:

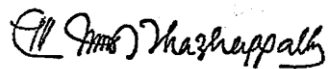
- a) By mailing cheques to the following address: P.O. Box 612, Morrisburg, Ontario, K0C 1X0.
- b) By depositing your donation at the parish office front door (on Meikle Street) there is a metal mail box, the box will be checked daily.
- c) Contact the parish office if you have any questions, special needs or if you can be of assistance in a special way. You can reach us by phone at (613-543-2544) and email Office (saintmary@bellnet.ca) or Father Thomas (frthomassaintmary@gmail.com). For example, a volunteer could pick up a donation envelope left by an elderly parishioner in their mailbox.

Dear Parishioners, let us continue to practice 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 my prayers are with you.

St. Mary - St. Cecilia, pray for us.

Yours in Christ;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr Thomas" followed by a stylized name.

Father Thomas

P.S. Details of the Holy Week observances and homilies will be sent in a separate mail.