

March 25, 2020

Paroisse Ste-Anne-des-Chêne Parish  
162 avenue Centrale  
Sainte-Anne, MB  
R5H 1C3



SAINTEANNEDESCHÊNES  
PAROISSE | PARISH

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

Dear Parishioners:

In the context of the novel COVID-19 epidemic, I'm mostly preoccupied with the health and well-being of our parishioners and I pray that the Lord protects us all and very especially those of us who are vulnerable or who care for the sick.

On March 19 representatives from the Pastoral Council and Parish Administrative Council had an emergency meeting pertaining to the corona virus outbreak. In conformity with the Archdiocese we are remaining very vigilant as to the propagation of this virus. Directives from the Diocese are in constant evolution. For example, the province has just declared a state of emergency which has forced us to close all access to the church. Our office will be accessible on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. To access the office you will need to call 202-422-8823 or email [info@paroissesteanne.ca](mailto:info@paroissesteanne.ca) or call me at 204-226-4663. Unfortunately, you will not have physical access to the office.

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](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca) and to subscribe to its electronic Newsletter “Weekly News Bulletin” by sending a request to Daniel Bahaud, Coordinator of Communication, at [communications@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:communications@archsaintboniface.ca).

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 communicate it to the Parish at 204-422-8823, 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 ( <https://www.paroissesteanne.ca>) and our Facebook page.

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to encourage the parishioners to contact each other regularly during the closure of our church. This could be done over the phone where we could chat and share our faith together. We would like to create a support telephone chain with several people who would contact other parishioners on a regular basis in order to share their faith and grow together in prayer and in the love of Christ. If you so desire, you could contact the parish

office at 204 - 422-8823 and leave your telephone number or contact us by email ([info@paroissesteanne.ca](mailto:info@paroissesteanne.ca)) to join this network.

I also 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 on the Sunday collection to pay its expenses.

I understand that we are living in a time of crisis and that 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. Our parish needs approximately \$4000 per week to pay its expenses. Even if at this time the parish is in good financial standing we will continue to reduce our expenses, but things could turn around very fast.

You can forward your contributions in one of many ways:

- a) By mailing cheques to the following address: 162 Central Avenue, Saint-Anne MB R5H 1C3
- b) By depositing your donation at the parish office in the mail box located to the right of the entrance door of the Saint-Alphonse Hall. Between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM
- c) By credit card. The Diocesan Website is now set up to take donations on behalf of each parish. Click on the “Donate to my parish” button on the website’s home page at [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://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 204-422-8823 and by email at [info@paroissesteanne.ca](mailto:info@paroissesteanne.ca). For example, a volunteer could pick up a donation envelope left by an elderly parishioner in her mailbox.

Because of the many shut downs and the social distancing, Father Kevin will not be arriving in our Parish on April 1<sup>st</sup> as planned. Monseigneur LeGatt has asked me to continue as Parish animator for an undetermined period of time and I have accepted.

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 my prayers are with you.

God Bless

Aurèle Boisvert

Parish Animator