



November 26th, 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

This weekend the season of Advent begins a time to prepare for Christ's second coming and his first with his birth that we celebrate at Christmas. This year's advent is starting out much different than usual with the closure of our churches.

Last week in my message on Wednesday, I spoke about encouraging everyone to wear masks at mass. The next day the provincial medical health office said it was mandatory to wear masks and also closed down in person faith services until Dec. 7th. The next day on Friday we had a Zoom meeting with Bishop Gary. There was some frustration and sadness that our masses are cancelled and yet restaurants, pubs, malls are open still. It is the spiritual and emotional welfare of our parishioners that are affected with the closure. I understand there is a need to flatten the curve of people being affected by the virus. This shutdown period has been called a circuit breaker and I hope it does not extend beyond Dec. 7th. There have been no cases of outbreaks in our diocese at any churches and there has never been any since we were allowed to open up at the beginning of June; with the protocols directed to us by the government and the diocese. Maybe there have been some religious gatherings, where there has been an outbreak. The Fraser Health Region is the hardest hit area in the province. Archbishop Miller of Vancouver has written to the province his disappointment that one cannot go to church on Sunday and yet one can go to a pub on Sunday and watch a football game or go to a mall. A petition has been circulating through the Knights of Columbus to reopen the churches. If you want to sign it, that's your choice. I personally feel that the worst areas, in particular the Fraser and Coastal Health Regions that are having the most cases, could have some restrictions; but for the rest of province leave the churches open. The link for the petition is the following: <http://chnq.it/Nd5qcksy>

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Carmen Tellier would like to thank all who have donated generously to the Catholic Women's League in lieu of the annual bazaar. With the donations they will be able to give assistance to the parish and to organizations like Manna and others who help the needy.

This week Syl and Kathleen Brochez installed two beautiful stain glass windows in the church for the sacramental series. The newest ones they installed are the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders.

The annual appeal Horizons of Hope donations that you have given is near \$26,000.00 dollars with over 110 gifts. For the number of parishioners who have donated so far, that is great. The plan as you know is still to have a Marian grotto sometime in the New Year.

Although there is currently a suspension of in-person worship services, I will continue to celebrate at least one regularly scheduled mass for parishioner requested intentions. Where there are two masses scheduled on the same day (i.e. Sundays and Wednesday), the mass intention for the second mass of the day will be re-scheduled to the first available date. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Mike", is written above a horizontal line.

Fr. Mike