



Website: stmarysparishreddeer.ca
Email: StMarys.RedDeer@caedm.ca

St Mary's Parish

6 McMillan Avenue
Red Deer, AB
T4N 5X8
Office: (403) 347-3114 Fax: (403) 346-5115

March 24, 2020

Dear Family of St. Mary's,

In an effort to slow and mitigate the COVID 19 pandemic Archbishop Smith communicated to us on March 16 that all parishes will be closed to public masses until further notice. As much as possible parish offices will continue to be open to serve the needs of parishioners. As a pastor, supported by Parish staff I wish to accompany you through this difficult time as much as I can while being conscious of the guidelines provided by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer. I pray that the Lord protects us and particularly those who are vulnerable or care for the sick.

I know that these are spiritually and financially challenging times. Nothing is stable at this time, our jobs, businesses and savings. Our health safety and spiritual strength is a big concern. Especially now we all know and understand that the primary care and financial responsibility is first to provide for your own home and family. At this time, we look at each other with compassion and love and raise our eyes to heaven asking for God's care and providence. As we all struggle, the same reality applies to the church which relies completely on Her members who offer the fruits of labor to our Lord and His church in thanksgiving. In this unpredictable time when we do not have our public Celebrations and gatherings in our church, I am grateful that our faith family cares for our spiritual home and that we receive donations and support as it is important to realize that many of the everyday expenses to run our parish continue as it is in our households.

Through this letter we want to respond with the same care and make ourselves available to all those who need assistance and help on a daily basis. The Knights of Columbus and our office are ready to assist especially the elderly in our community and those who are self isolating at this time. If we can be of service or you have questions or concerns, please contact our parish office at 403-347-3114.

This letter is being distributed via email, and I would ask that you forward this letter to any other parishioners from your own contact lists. It is possible people will receive this letter more than once, but the intent is to connect with as many people as possible.

Please be also assured that you are always in my daily prayers.

In Gratitude,
Reverend Miroslaw Kostarzewski