

**St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church**

**7, Church Street**

**Picton, Ontario, K0k 2T0**

**613-476-6276 Fax: 613-476-7293**

24 March, 2020

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

Dear Parishioners:

*In the context of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 epidemic, we are mostly preoccupied with the health and well-being of the parishioners of St. Gregory the Great Parish and we pray that the Lord protects us all and very particularly those of us who are vulnerable or who care for the sick.*

We 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](http://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](mailto: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 bulletin, amongst other things. ***If the parish does not have your email address, please send it to the Parish Administrative Assistant, Dona Geggie, 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 [www.stgregoryparish.ca](http://www.stgregoryparish.ca).

We 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.

We 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 \$3500.00 per week to pay its expenses.

You can do your part in one of many ways:

- a) By mailing cheques to the following address: St. Gregory Church, 7 Church St. Picton, Ont. K0K 2T0
- b) By depositing your donation at the parish office according to the following schedule: Tuesday – Thursday; 9:45-4:45.
- c) By making donations through the Canada Helps button on our Parish website.
- d) By signing up for monthly automatic debit donations via the parish's financial institution. Attached are the instructions and the form to fill out to enroll for an automatic debit from your account.
- e) 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 613-476-6276 and by email at [secretarystgregory@sympatico.ca](mailto:secretarystgregory@sympatico.ca). For example, a volunteer could pick up a donation envelope left by an elderly parishioner in her 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.

*Fr. George Okoye, SMMM*

**Instructions and form for monthly automatic debit donations**

Automatic Debit

**AUTHORIZATION FORM**

I/We herby authorize St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church, Picton, Ontario do debit my/our account on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month in the amount indicated below:

My Offering: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I/We understand that my/our participation in the Automatic Debit Plan does not include special collections.**

*Please print clearly, and attach "VOID" cheque.*

Name(s) of Parishioners(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bank/Trust/Credit Union:

\_\_\_\_\_

Branch Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Account#: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s)

You may stop automatic debit at any time by simply writing a letter with 30 days' notice to the Church. You have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with the agreement. To obtain more information your rights, contact your financial institution of St. Gregory Church.