

SS Peter & Paul, Atlantic St. Mary's, Anita

16 October 2020

Dear Friends,

As many of you will know, there has been an increase in recent weeks of COVID cases in our community.

Sadly, we are in a different place than we were a month or so ago when we were able to hold our golf tournament. Community spread is much more profound. Cases are on the rise. At Diocesan recommendation, following guidance and procedures in place, commencing today, we will take a 2 week hiatus from all non-liturgical parish activities. I thank those groups including the Knights of Columbus, Walking with Purpose, Sewing Circle, and Faith Formation, who will have to postpone activities for their cooperation. Over the next two weeks, if you need to visit the parish office, please call ahead for an appointment.

This note provides me with a chance to highlight how well our parish is doing at mitigation. Thanks to the guidelines in place around the liturgy, even with a rise in cases we are still able to gather for Sunday worship, the most important thing we can do as Catholics. Many in our own state are not so lucky. It is well known in one city of our state, 8 active parish priests are presently quarantined. One parish in our Diocese was fully closed for 2 weeks just a short time ago. Priests are already stretched very thin; there is no backup, and when a priest is quarantined, just like all of you, he can do nothing, not even give "last rites." On a more positive front, in several parishes, careful following of protocols in the offices have enabled the parish to continue to function even when individual staff members were exposed or tested positive. When followed, the procedures we have in place work. They keep people from being exposed, they keep people from having to quarantine, and they keep us from shutting down. Our continued ability to have Mass and other future events is likewise conditioned on our common prudent behavior. Our input to the present situation to an extent determines the situation's output. Please consider your own choices in light of the parish protocols surrounding social distancing, hygiene, staying home if you are ill, and mask wearing. Let's keep at it together; let's pray for the sick and be grateful to those who continue to work in the community on behalf of us all.

In the Lord,



Rev. Trevor M. Chicoine
Pastor