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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saint John NB, April 22, 2021

POSSIBLE COVID-19 EXPOSURE PROMPTS TWO-WEEK PREVENTATIVE CLOSURE OF HOLY SPIRIT PARISH IN SAINT JOHN REGION

Holy Spirit Parish (Saint Matthew's Church) in the Saint John region of the Diocese of Saint John has been advised by Public Health of one possible Covid-19 exposure during the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, April 18, 2021. Given the current pandemic and with the increased risk of variants, the Pastor has followed the advice of Public Health to close the church and cancel Masses for the next two weeks. Those in attendance at the 11:00 am Mass at St. Matthew's on April 18 are in the process of being contacted to either self-isolate for the required period of time or monitor for symptoms. Out of an abundance of caution, St. Rose of Lima Church (also part of Holy Spirit Parish) has also been closed for the next two weeks, with Masses resuming the weekend of May 8-9 in both places.

Understanding that churches offer an essential service and that we have demonstrated our ability to welcome the faithful safely given our robust protocols, we also recognize the serious nature of the current situation and the need to respond out of love for our neighbour. We realize that this news may be disappointing, but the Parish looks forward to welcoming parishioners back into both churches to worship together in time for Mother's Day Weekend, May 8-9. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Pastor and parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish during this difficult time.

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