

# **DIOCESAN EVENTS AND NEWS**

**2021**



28/05/2021

## **UPCOMING PASTORAL CHANGES IN OUR DIOCESE**

As of July 1st, 2021 there will be some significant pastoral changes in our diocese and in some parishes.

As of that day, both *Maureen Graham-Szewczyk*, Pastoral Associate for Saint Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish and *Monsignor Pat Lafleur*, Pastor of this same parish and Vicar General of the Diocese of Timmins will be starting their retirement.

On that day, *Father John Lemire* will become the new pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish while remaining pastor at Sacred Heart Parish.

As well, *Father Ghislain Ndongji Tshiwisa O.F.M.*: appointed Vicar General and Pastoral Coordinator of the Diocese, while remaining Parish Priest of St. Croix Parish in Haileybury.

*Father Germain Turcotte:* is also taking his retirement this coming June but although retired, he is appointed a collaborating priest for Sacramental Ministry in the Parishes of Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Earlton and Nativity Parish of Our Lord in Elk Lake.

*Father Ghislain Muthu Miji O.F.M.:* appointed Parish Priest of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Parish in Earlton, Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours in Belle Vallée and Nativity of Our Lord in Elk Lake, while remaining Parish Priest of the Sacré-Coeur Parish in New Liskeard.

*Father Stéphane Kazadi Sanga O.F.M.:* appointed **Coordinator of the Southern Pastoral Region**, while remaining Parish Priest of Assomption-de-la-Bienheureuse-Vierge-Marie Parish in Kirkland Lake, Notre-Dame-du-Lac Parish in Larder Lake, Saint-Pierre-Apôtre Parish in Virginiatown and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Matachewan.

*Father Richard Ngoy:* appointed **Coordinator of the Northern Pastoral Region**, while remaining Parish Priest of Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix in Timmins

We are carefully following the evolution of the pandemic that affects our daily lives. Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Doug Ford announced new measures that considerably limit activities.

Thus, starting Monday April 19, **only 10 people will be allowed to participate in a liturgical celebration.**

This still requires new arrangements on our part. Obviously, we must respect this norm.

This morning, while celebrating Mass, I personally found comfort in the text of the Gospel of St. John (6:16-21):

*<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles,<sup>[d]</sup> they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I;<sup>[e]</sup> do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.*

In the rough sea that surrounds us, we must continue to row courageously. The Lord remains present through all winds and tides!

As the first reading reminded us of the institution of the first deacons, let us pray especially today for our own.

On this feast of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, let us not forget our First Nations brothers and sisters.

*+ Serge Poitras*

✠ Serge Poitras  
Bishop of Timmins

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Following the statement on new lockdown from Prime Minister Ford of April 7, 2021, here are some indications for the parishes of the Diocese of Timmins:

1. Churches remain open according to the latest rules in force, namely a 15% presence according to capacity, with the rule of physical distance of 2 meters and mandatory wearing of the mask.
2. If some staff members can work from their residence, it would be preferable.

*+ Serge Poitras*

+ Serge Poitras

## Calendar -Pastoral Year from February to April 2021

February 17: Ash Wednesday celebrated in the parishes respecting the 30% capacity allowed in churches.

February 21: First Sunday in Lent

February 22: Feast of the Chair of St. Peter: Prayers for the Pope and the Church - Celebration at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Timmins.

February 28: Second Sunday in Lent

March 7: Third Sunday in Lent

March 13: 24 hours for the Lord: Sacrament of Reconciliation

March 14: Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18: Virtual Meeting for Priests and Deacons

March 19: Solemnity of saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, Patron of Canada and declared by His Holiness, year 2021 as the Year of saint Joseph

March 21: Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 25: Annunciation of the Lord

March 28: Palm Sunday

March 30: Chrism Mass at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in New Liskeard at 7:00 p.m.

April 1: Thursday of the Holy Week: Last Supper of the Lord

April 2: Good Friday – Holy Cross and The Passion of the Lord

April 3: Holy Saturday – Light celebration

April 4: The Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Sunday Celebrations

April 11: Second Sunday of Easter or of Mercy

April 18: Third Sunday of Easter

## 2020

September 21, 2020

### Nomination - Chancellor for the Diocese of Timmins

Mr. Michel Néron, permanent Deacon, has worked for several years as vice-chancellor of the diocese, for which we are all grateful, in particular for his great availability to answer competently the various questions which he regularly receives. Having expressed a desire to reduce some of his activities, we sought to find, in our local resources, someone who could take on the Chancellery file and start preparing for it now.

To this end, I asked Fr. Henri Touaboy .C.S. Sp, currently parish priest of Saint-Joachim of South Porcupine, present in the diocese since 2006 and doctor in theology, to gradually assume this ecclesial service, at the rate of one day per week, without prejudice to his responsibilities as parish priest. Thus, since last August, Fr. Henri has become chancellor of the diocese; he will be present on Tuesdays at the Diocesan Center.

Mr. Néron continues to support him in learning this new mission; he himself remains at the Tribunal for matrimonial causes, as well as master of ceremonies during Episcopal liturgical celebrations.

I thank Fr. Henri and M. Néron for their ecclesial service.



✠ Serge Poitras  
Bishop of Timmins

September 02, 2020

Fr. Mitch Sliwa retired his services for the Diocese of Timmins and will be returning in his homeland of Poland when international travelling is safer in reason of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bishop Poitras went to Holy Name Parish and Holy Trinity Parish on August 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate Fr. Mitch's last masses with him and in the name of the diocese of Timmins, thanked him for his priestly mission and cooperation during his journey with our diocese.

Appointment of Fr. Justin William Ato Dawson, as Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus parish in Kirkland Lake, ON and of Holy Trinity parish in Englehart. Bishop Poitras celebrated his Installation on September 5-6 at these two parishes.

**\*\*Please note that due to the Corona-19 pandemic, the Diocesan regular scheduled meetings are cancelled until further notice. Please verify with the Diocesan centre at 705-267-6224 for more information. We invite you to visit the home page of the website for information on activities and procedures in place during this pandemic.**

### **Infifax 69 from Bishop Serge Poitras date March 17, 2020:**

## **COVID-19**

On Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, I wrote Infifax N. 68 on some of the local effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the coronavirus. As our Diocese, at that time, had no cases of this disease and gatherings of 250 people were allowed, I felt that we could have our usual Sunday celebrations.

However, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada invited Canadians to eliminate gatherings of more than 50 people in order to limit the spread of the new coronavirus; today, March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Premier of Ontario made this measure mandatory. It seems that we should expect, as for the United States, an even greater reduction in the more or less short term: 10 people!

- 1- **As such, it is no longer be possible for the faithful to go to church for our usual Sunday and even of weekday Masses until April 5 2020.** According to Canon 1248 § 2, *"if participation in the Eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful ....devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family"*.
- 2- The priests will, however, continue to celebrate Mass in church, alone or with one or two assistants. Unable to be physically present at these celebrations, the faithful are invited to be spiritually united with their priest at the time they usually go to mass, or according to the new timetable indicated by the priest. It will be the same for daily mass.
- 3- As Catholic faithful, we must live this moment in faith, taking the example of Our Holy Father Pope Francis who went to meditate before the crucifix that saved many from the plague and before the image of the Blessed Virgin protector of the Roman people.
- 4- Masses are broadcast on television and on the internet:

#### **Television Masses:**

Vision TV: Sunday 8:00 am; Monday – Friday 8:00 am & 12:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am & 9:30 am.

Salt+Light: Monday – Saturday 6:30am, 9:30am (with the Pope), 11:00 am, 3:00 pm & 10:30 pm;  
Sunday 11:00 am & 10:30 pm.

#### **Online Masses**

Daily TV Mass (any time access) <https://www.youtube.com/dailymass>

Salt + Light TV (see above for times) <https://saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1>

5- It is also possible to use these written resources : **Free Online Mass and Prayer Resources**

*Magnificat* (daily mass prayers & readings, daily meditations and more)

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

*Word Among Us* (daily mass prayers & readings, daily meditations and more)

<https://wau.org/meditations>

### **Catholic Resources for Children**

My Catholic Kids (includes Sunday video to explain Gospel to children)

<https://mycatholickids.com/>

The Catholic Kid (colouring pages) <http://www.thecatholickid.com/>

The Kid's Bulletin (activities based on Sunday readings) <https://thekidsbulletin.com/>

Catholic Mom (activities and worksheets)

<http://catholicmom.com/kids/catholic-gospel-coloring-worksheets-sunday-mass/>

### **Liturgy of the Hours**

Unversalis <https://universalis.com>

6- **It is possible to unite spiritually to the Masses celebrated privately in the diocese:**

a. Mass of the Bishop in his chapel, Monday to Friday at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m.

b. Masses in the parish church: own timetable.

7- **How can we spiritually unite with these local Masses?**

a. Turn off the TV or radio.

b. Take a moment of silence:

i. Make the sign of the cross: place oneself in the presence of God;

ii. Call to mind your church: altar, tabernacle, crucifix, statue of Mary

iii. Remember the face of the priest, regular faithful

c. Express our faith in the communion of saints: the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, angels, patron saints;

d. Express our union with the Pope, bishop, parish priest, faithful of the parish, and of the world.

e. Read the Word of God: *Living with Christ* or Bible

f. Recite the Rosary : glorious mysteries on Sunday and Wednesday; joyful mysteries (Monday) and Saturday); sorrowful mysteries (Tuesday and Friday); luminous mysteries (Thursday).

Here is an example of the glorious mysteries.

i. *Resurrection*: pray for the COVID-19 patients and the deceased, families, personal intentions (families, friends)

ii. *Ascension*: pray for medical personnel and public services (security, food, medication).

iii. *Pentecost*: asking for light and strength for medical researchers and workers affected by the economic context.

iv. *Assumption*: pray for those in charge that they make the right decisions for people and society

v. *Coronation of Mary*: pray for pastors: that they will find the means to spiritually accompany the faithful in this time of crisis.

#### **Rosary Meditations**

Dynamic Catholic: How to Pray the Rosary (step by step guide) <http://bitly.com/3b7otfT>

Dominican Rosary Meditations

<https://www.marburydominicanuns.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/dominican-jubilee-rosary-meditations.pdf>

#### **7- Make the Spiritual Communion like proposed in Infobox n. 68 :**

Recite the *I believe in God*, the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary* 3 times, then the following prayer of Saint Alphonsus Liguori:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

One recites then three times the *Glory to God, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit*.

Conclusion : *May God Bless us and keep us from every evil and lead us to Eternal Life.*

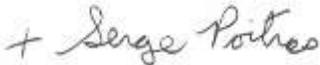
#### **Spiritual Communion**

<https://aleteia.org/2018/09/20/cant-receive-the-eucharist-heres-how-to-make-a-spiritual-communion/>

8- The churches will be open at certain times for a private visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

- 9- The priests remain available for the Sacrament of Penance, the Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum.
- 10- All activities of our parishes which bring together several people are suspended (i.e. movements, sacramental preparation, committees).
- 11- For Holy Week:
- a. The palms will be blessed by the priest and can be taken from the church.
  - b. The Chrism Mass will not take place in New Liskeard as planned, but will be celebrated privately at the cathedral or perhaps even in the Bishop's Chapel.
  - c. Holy Thursday, we will offer moments for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.  
**Online Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**  
Virtual Adoration (Eucharistic Adoration Chapels with live webcams)  
<https://virtualadoration.home.blog/>
  - d. Good Friday: the church will be accessible for private visits (Way of the Cross).  
**Stations of the Cross**  
Bishop Barron (video reflection of the Stations of the Cross)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJNjtA-Awb4>
- 12- In this difficult situation, the end of which we do not know when, as Catholic faithful, we also think of people who are deprived of money; they continue to have needs and find themselves in precariousness. Our parishes are also deprived of financial support.

May the Lord accompany us!



✠ Serge Poitras  
Bishop of Timmins

Diocesan Priority 2019-2020  
**Personal Relation with Christ**  
**Through the Sacraments**

6/03/2020



## Timmins' faithful gather for World Day of Prayer

This year's world prayers were for Zimbabwe

**Rev. Valerie Isaac, from left, Tuula Bernard, Bishop Serge Poitras and Marie-Paule Guenette, were among those celebrating the World Day of Prayer service at Timmins Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix on Friday.**

Timmins Notre-Dame-de-laPaix church joined the World Day of Prayer service on Friday. Marie-Paule Guenette, a member with the Notre-Dame-de-laPaix, said this day is recognized every year global..

Diocesan Priority 2019-2020  
Personal Relation with Christ  
Through the Sacraments  
March 2020

## Eucharist

Introduction: It is fundamental for us Christians to understand fully the value and meaning of Mass, to live ever more fully our relationship with God. (Pope Francis)

Word of God: [1Co 11, 23-26](#)

For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took some bread, gave thanks o God, broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' And in the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me.'

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing: As a Christian, what importance do I give to the Eucharist in my life?

Why?

What feeds me in the Eucharist?

Is there a moment, a few words of the celebration that touches me in a special way?

Prayer: Fill me with your presence - Stéphane Quéry

I need to feel you right next to me.

To be touched by your presence

As if it were the first time...

I'm not indifferent to what you've done for me.

I fully realize how much I need you.

Fill me with your presence

Come and fill me with your power

Like a rain on my life

The Power of the Holy Ghost

As the river goes to the sea

I will go to you giving you everything I am

So you can fill my life.

***March 18: Meeting for the Ordained Ministers and Persons Mandated in Pastoral Ministry at Holy Name Parish; 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)***

**Diocesan Priority 2019-2020**

## Personal Relation with Christ Through the Sacraments

February 2020

### Sacrament of the Sick

**Introduction:** In our diocesan Church, this February, we are invited to reflect on the importance of the sacrament of the sick to better deepen our relationship with Christ. The Church is attentive to the sick or weakened. To break the isolation of those who suffer, we are invited to show the compassion of Christ and our fraternal solidarity.

**Word of God:** James 5, 14-16

*Any one of you who is ill should send for the elders of the church,  
and they must anoint the sick person with oil  
in the name of the Lord and pray over him.  
The prayer of faith will save the sick person  
and the Lord will raise him up again;  
and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.  
So confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another to be cured;  
the heartfelt prayer of someone upright works very powerfully.*

**Sharing:** A Christian does not only prepare for his/her death, but also for his/her resurrection.  
We are not just mortal, but eternal, invited to eternal happiness.  
"Happy are the guests at the wedding feast of the Lamb! » (Rev 19, 9)  
What is your experience of the sacrament of the sick:  
Have you already received it?  
Have you participated in this sacrament with a dear person?  
How do I reach out to sick people,  
how do I offer them the sacrament of the sick?  
What do you think of this sentence: as Christians,  
we do not only prepare for death but for resurrection?

**Prayer:** Luke 2, 29-32

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel."

**Why the Sacraments?**

**Introduction:** Tonight, we are invited to reflect on the meaning of the sacraments in the Catholic Church.

What is a sacrament? Why does the Church give them such a great importance? Personally, how do I enter into a relationship with Christ through the different sacraments?

**Word of God: Jn 20, 30-31**

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Faith:** In the Catholic Church, as in the Orthodox Churches, there are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Sacrament of the Sick, Holy Orders and Marriage.  
" The sacraments, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, are efficacious signs of grace perceptible to the senses. Through them divine life is bestowed upon us."

(Compendium 224).

**Sharing:** Which of the seven sacraments appeals to me the most? What questions would I like to ask about the meaning of sacraments for today?

**Prayer:** May our lives be a reflection of your life, Lord.

We thank you for your Word.

Thank you for your voice that speaks to us in the scriptures.

May your Word turn us into witnesses,  
as prophets, men and women of dawn.

Trace for us the paths in the middle of our deserts.

Keep among us the signs of your presence.

Revive in our families and communities

faith in your promises of life,

and in the memory of your faithful love,

send us as far as your Spirit leads us.



Diocese of Timmins  
Five-year plan (2017-2022)



Priority 1 (2017-2018)  
Teaching of the faith  
"They spent their time in learning from the apostles"  
Acts 2, 42  
"Teaching of the faith  
which leads to a personal relationship with Christ"

Priority 2 (2018-2019)  
Our personal relationship with Christ  
"They spent their time ... sharing in the prayers"  
Faith education of adults  
And growing in our personal relationship with Christ



Priority 3 (2019-2020)  
The Sacraments  
"They spent their time ... sharing in the fellowship meals"

Priority 4 (2020-2021)  
Leadership  
"They spent their time ... participating in the fellowship"  
Pastoral leadership and formation of the faithful

Priority 5 (2021-2022)  
Vocations



**Diocesan Priority 2019-2020**

**Personal Relationship with Christ  
through the sacraments**

Greetings!

For the last two years,  
we have been invited to intensify

our personal relationship  
with Christ

To help us deepen  
this proposed diocesan journey  
which is proposed to us,  
we encourage everyone  
to share in small groups.

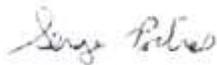
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to reflect and share on the theme  
of the sacraments.

**Action plan:**

As decided at the DPC meeting last May,  
the year 2019-2020 will guide us in a better  
understanding of faith lived through the sacraments:

- *September:* general introduction to the sacraments
- *October:* Baptism (in connection with the missionary month)
- *November:* Confirmation / *We are sent*
- *December:* Reconciliation
- *January:* return to the meaning of the sacraments
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- *March and April:* Eucharist
- *May:* Holy Orders
- *June:* Matrimony

**Joyful journey to all!**



† Serge Poitras, Bishop of Timmins

## Diocesan Priority 2019-2020

### Personal Relationship with Christ through the sacraments

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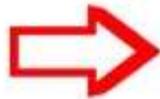
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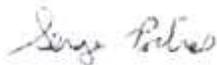
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