

ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH

Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

71 Estelle Street,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6C 2C3



OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Telephone: 705-949-8883



Pastoral Team:

Pastor: Fr. Trevor Scarfone
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Rob Thibodeau
cell: 705-975-2893/
E-mail: robthibodeau@hotmail.ca
Secretary: Cathy Fabiano

Third Sunday of Lent

Year A

Sunday, March 22nd, 2020

Celebration of Masses, Devotions and Sacraments

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday – Friday: 12:05 p.m.

Baptism

Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office. A preparation course is required.

Reconciliation (Confession)

Every Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45 pm or by appointment.

Marriage

Contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the wedding. A preparation course is required.

Visitation of the Sick

If any member of your family is sick at home or in the hospital, please call and let us know.

Welcome to St. Gregory's

We warmly welcome **NEW PARISHIONERS** to our parish. You are asked to register by completing a registration form, located in the entrance or by calling the Parish Office.

Share Lent

Commercial activities need land. Land that is forested. Land that houses indigenous and traditional peoples. They live off it sustainably and nurture it. But they stand in the way of those who want to profit off nature.

So, they are driven off. Brutally. Through criminalization.

Through divisive politics. And even through murder. Things are especially dire in Brazil, where the government is withdrawing protections from indigenous and traditional peoples and their lands.

As Catholics, we are called by our Church to share her deep concern about this situation. Pope Francis addressed this concern in his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Then, he convened the Pan-Amazonian Synod "for the cause of the crisis of the Amazonian forest, lung of fundamental importance for our planet."



E-mail: gregoryssm@shaw.ca / Website: www.stgregoryssm.com
[www.facebook.com/St. Gregory's Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.Gregory's.Church)

St. Gregory's Parish News

Intentions & Readings for week of March 23 - March 29, 2020

Monday, March 23—No Scheduled Liturgy

Tuesday, March 24—No Scheduled Liturgy

Ezebiel 47.1-9/John 5.1-16

No intentions requested

Wednesday, March 25—No Scheduled Liturgy

Isaiah 7.10-14/Luke 1.26-38

No intentions requested

Thursday, March 26—No Scheduled Liturgy

Exodus 32.7-14/John 5.18, 31-47

No intentions requested

Friday, March 27—No Scheduled Liturgy

Wisdom 2.12-22/John 7.1-2, 25-30

No intentions requested

Saturday, March 28—No Scheduled Liturgy

Jeremiah 11.18-20/John 7.40-53

Sunday, March 29—No Scheduled Liturgy

Ezekiel 37.12-14/Romans 8.8-11/John 11.1-45

During this uncertain and difficult time, we would like to remind everyone to check in on the elderly of our parish community as well as shut-ins. Although we are all working on social distancing, we can still show Jesus' compassion and love towards each other in the form of a telephone call, email, text or skype/facetime.

Together we are stronger.

Stay safe!

For COVID-19 updates please visit....

www.stgregoryssm.com

[www.facebook.com/St. Gregory's Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.Gregory'sChurch)

www.dioceseofsaultstemarie.org

Finance Report

Weekly Average	\$385.00
Pre Authorized	



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

THE DONATIONS USING REGULAR ENVELOPES CAN EITHER BE DROPPED OFF AT THE PARISH (IN MAIL BOX) OR MAILED TO THE PARISH, WHICHEVER IS MOST CONVENIENT.

Parish Activities for the Week

March 23—March 29

Monday 23	No Scheduled Events
Tuesday 24	No Scheduled Events
Wednesday 25	No Scheduled Events
Thursday 26	No Scheduled Events
Friday 27	No Scheduled Events
Saturday 28	No Scheduled Events
Sunday 29	No Scheduled Events

Parish Happenings



2020 MEMBERSHIP FEES (\$22.00) are now due. Please include your payment (cheque payable to St. Gregory's CWL) or cash in an envelope with your name, address & phone number. Payment can be dropped off at the parish office. New members are welcome!!!

2019 Tax Receipts

Remaining Tax receipts have been sent out via regular mail.



*We offer our condolences to the family of
Dora Frani*

*May you find comfort and peace in the
Eucharistic Celebration and in our faith
community during this difficult time.*

May her soul rest in peace.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATION PROGRAM

Thank you to the many parishioners who have started this program. This is an easy method of parish donation which will result in a win/win situation for you and our Parish. The forms are available at the entrance of the Church. Complete the P.A.D.P. form and deposit it in the collection basket. Please include a cheque marked "VOID". The program can be started at any time as long as we receive the form by the 10th of the previous month. If you have any questions, please call the Parish office. 705-949-8883
Thank you again for considering this convenient method of parish donation.

Dear Parishioners of St. Gregory
My reflection from the aisle

We all have our daily routines. The best example is the famous morning ritual. What would happen if we had to change our morning rituals in some way? For example, in the winter we shovel snow on our way to leaving the house. We become frustrated, disoriented because it would not be the routine. We have to find time to do it...place it with that morning ritual and would not be comfortable until we did. When we live our lives day in, day out, we become stuck in our ways. Life becomes stale, boring. We do things without even thinking about them because they've become second nature to us.

"We grow through change"....

Change is that spark, that spice which makes life a little more interesting. Change offers us an alternative. We may see things we never saw before. But to change is difficult because we are so comfortable with the way we are now. To change is then a challenge, a time to grow, to become different, to transform. It allows us to nurture our lives. In a sense, change is the death to the old/familiar while at the same time experiencing something new.

Isn't that what Lent is all about?

Change, transformation and maybe even conversion!!! Jesus asked his friends, those around Him to change. He is challenging us to do the same, to change/transform our lives. In what ways do we change? How are we transformed? We just have to look at the pillars of Lent. (To be continued).....

On a personal note, my hope is that you are enjoying reading and reflecting on the passages from the Lenten Reflection booklets.



Bishop's Office – Bureau de l'Évêque
30 Ste-Anne, Sudbury ON P3C 5E1
Tel: (705) 674-2727 Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 674-9889
m.damphousse@ssmd.ca

March 17, 2020

To all Pastors and faithful in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Dear brother priests and dear Faithful,

"Today, the Government of Ontario announced that it is taking decisive action by making an order declaring an emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. In doing so, Ontario is using every power possible to continue to protect the health and safety of all individuals and families." (News Release from the Office of the Premier, *Ontario Enacts Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public*, March 17, 2020, 9:13 A.M.).

It is imperative that you do not take this legal order lightly.

The government has ordered that **all organized public events of over fifty (50) people be prohibited**, including communal services within our places of worship. This is effect until March 31, 2020. Funerals and any other assembly of the faithful are included in this declaration.

We invite you to contact the Diocesan office if you have any questions regarding this new law.

Please be aware that additional communications from myself and the Diocesan Administration will be forthcoming on a daily basis during this period of unprecedented significance.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marcel Damphousse".

+Marcel Damphousse
Bishop of Sault Ste.Marie



Bishop's Office – Bureau de l'Évêque
30 Ste-Anne, Sudbury ON P3C 5E1
Tel: (705) 674-2727 Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 674-9889
m.damphousse@ssmd.ca

March 19, 2020

To all priests, deacons and parishioners of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Re: COVID-19 – New Pastoral Directives

Dear brother priests and deacons, dear parishioners,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, with rapid daily changes. I urge you to follow all guidelines and directives provided by our governments and our public health authorities. This situation compels us to make difficult but necessary pastoral decisions, in line with government orders and directives and in solidarity with all Canadians, in a serious attempt to slow down the spread of this threatening disease.

Effective immediately, the following new pastoral practices must be applied throughout the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

I. SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY LITURGIES, CHRISM MASS, HOLY WEEK, FUNERALS

1. ***Regular Masses***

- All Sunday and weekly public Masses remain cancelled until further notice. I grant all the faithful of the Diocese a dispensation from their Sunday and Holy Days obligations.
- Churches will be available for individual private time, at regular Mass hours.
- On our website, we will also post a series of links where you can access live daily Mass.
- The priests of the Diocese will celebrate Mass every day privately, for the intentions of parishioners, for people who are directly and indirectly affected by the virus, as well as for our health care professionals and facilities.

2. ***Holy Week liturgies*** are cancelled. We will inform you of live streamed liturgies for Holy Week in the near future.

3. ***The Mass of Chrism*** scheduled for March 31st in Sault Ste. Marie is cancelled. I will celebrate Mass privately at the Diocesan Center chapel, along with the Chairs of the Pastoral Regions. Following the Chrism Mass, the oils for the celebration of sacraments will be made available at the regional level.

4. ***Funerals***

During this emergency, there will be no vigils, no wake services nor funeral Masses at the church. We encourage that a prayer service take place at the Funeral Home, whenever possible, according to their protocols established during this crisis. A rite of Committal may be celebrated at the cemetery with immediate family members present, respecting always the federal and provincial regulations. Masses may be celebrated at a later date, once the crisis is over.

II. **SACRAMENTS**

1. **Baptism**

Communal celebrations of Baptism are not allowed. Individual Baptism is allowed with immediate family only and following the regulations established by health authorities.

2. **RCIA**

I dispense the catechumens from the scrutinies. Celebration of sacraments and reception in the Church will be postponed.

3. **First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation**

These sacraments will be postponed for the duration of the COVID-19 epidemic. This includes cessation of all meetings for sacramental preparation.

4. **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are not allowed at this time. All those who wish to receive the sacrament should contact a priest. The sacrament is to be celebrated, not in a confessional but rather in another location where confidentiality may be ensured and where the distance required by health officials can be maintained.

5. **Marriage**

Marriages without Mass may take place with the immediate family members, provided they follow the regulations established by health authorities. The setting of dates for new marriage celebrations should be postponed.

6. Marriage Preparation

Group marriage preparation classes are cancelled. Online marriage preparation programs can be found on our website at www.dioceseofsaultstemarie.org. Pastors are to ensure that individual couples are properly prepared for marriage.

III. VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

These visits should be discontinued during this crisis to avoid spreading the virus. In the spirit of community, I invite you to contact the sick by phone or other electronic means to see how they are doing, to pray with them and offer moral support.

IV. VISITS TO THE CRITICALLY ILL AND DYING

Visits to critically ill and dying should continue as much as possible but only if precautionary measures are respected. See addendum: "*Clergy Directives for Critically Ill and Dying in Healthcare Facilities and Homes*".

V. MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

All non-essential parish meetings, gatherings of outside groups, educational seminars, retreats and social events are cancelled until further notice.

STAY STRONG AND UNITED IN PRAYER

We will review our emergency provisions regularly in accord with the requirements of the public health officials and we will provide updates at : <https://dioceseofsaultstemarie.org/covid-19>

Let us pray fervently for the sick, the lonely and distraught; for the dead and families grieving their loss; for the healthcare providers, government and civil authorities and the volunteers helping their neighbors. Let us be Good Samaritans toward those in need of help.

On this Feast day of Saint Joseph, principal patron of Canada, Hope of the Sick and patron of the dying, and Solace of the afflicted, pray that he may intercede for us.

United in prayer,



+Marcel Damphousse
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie