

Date: August 13, 2020
From: Clergy team of the LRM
Subject: Fall 2020 and Reopening of Churches



Dear wardens,

In this memorandum, we address numerous important subjects. Please read it carefully and make sure to share with your fellow parishioners those that pertain to all.

Education Programs

This year again, the Laurentian Regional Ministry has a corporate membership with the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, which gives all members of the LRM a discount when they take courses offered by the College online or in-person. The list of courses offered is listed on the College's website: <https://montrealdio.ca/our-courses/>. This Fall, they offer courses on preaching, Anglican liturgy, an introduction to Paul, an overview of the Gospel of Mark, and many more. We encourage you to check their website and register.

Service Texts for Reopening Churches

Since we will not be able to use the worship books when reopening the churches, we have created a one-page document to be distributed to parishioners when they come. This document includes all the responses parishioners have to say in services. Parishioners may choose to discard the one-page after the service, or they may choose to keep it and bring it back at the service in the following weeks. There are 3 kinds of one-page documents: the Holy Eucharist, Service of the Word 1 and Service of the Word 2.

Memo to Parishioners Regarding the Reopening of Church Premises

Please find attached a memo addressed to parishioners regarding the reopening of churches. Please feel free to adapt it specifically to your own congregation.

Time Change for Online Services

Some churches will start reopening this Fall for Sunday services. Holy Trinity in Ste-Agathe and Grace Church in Arundel, hope to reopen on September 13; St. Simeon's in Lachute hopes to reopen on October 4; Trinity Church in Morin Heights hopes to on September 20.

Many parishioners have already told us that they do not wish to meet in person and prefer to continue to attend services and other activities online, so we plan to continue holding online Sunday worship services as well as restarting in-person services. Since the ministers, lay readers and worship leaders will start leading in-person services in all sectors of the LRM on Sunday morning, and therefore would not be available to participate in an online service at 10am, we are moving the Sunday online service to 4pm. The logic behind choosing this time is that it leaves most of the Sunday day-time free for those who have other activities and it is not in conflict with supper time or the preparation of supper.

This new schedule will start on October 4th.

Vestry Books – Closing and Reopening of Churches

In the vestry books of all churches of the LRM, we ask you to put the following note:

“Bishop Mary asked that all public services be suspended starting on March 17, 2020 due to the pandemic of Covid-19. The Laurentian Regional Ministry held online services starting March 22, 2020.”

If you wish to have something official from Bishop Mary to place in the vestry book, I have attached her letter of March 17.

If and when your church reopens, please add a note in the church’s vestry book as follows:

“Bishop Mary granted permission to this church to reopen for services on [date] under certain safety conditions.”

We will then enter attendance and other information as we did before the pandemic.

Special Prayers for Thanksgiving and for All Saints and All Souls

For the services on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11, we would like to offer special prayers from members of our congregations. If you wish to offer a petition or special thanks to God, and you would like it to be said aloud during the service, please send your prayer to Nick no later than October 1st. All these petitions and thanks will be offered during the time of the Prayers of the People at the Thanksgiving services. They will be offered without saying the name of the sender.

Would you please send us the names of members of your congregations who have died in the last year or so? We plan to offer a special prayer for them on November 1st (All Saints and All Souls).

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the clergy team.

Yours in Christ,

Josée, Nick and Tania