

Dear Family,

It's painful to have to write this letter to you. I'm sure by now many of you have already heard the news regarding the new provincial protocols announced this morning to be implemented for Thursday. These protocols will be quite strict and will make normal life quite difficult, no doubt. I know for many of you, faith is an integral part of your life, and the ability to practice that faith in a social context is truly a life giving and joyous gift, so I feel obligated to inform you of how our parish at St. Timothy will be affected by the new provincial limitations.

These new limits are asking that religious gatherings and events only take place virtually, if possible. This is quite a change from having been able to gather for sacraments, worship, prayer, or faith formation, even when those were limited in capacity. The new protocols will not allow such gatherings to take place in the same way. Even non-religious gatherings are to be limited to households. This will greatly impact how our parish lives out its faith: Masses will not be open to the public temporarily, certain sacraments with public gatherings must be put on hold, and any in-person gatherings won't be able to take place in our church.

This all sounds quite devastating, and it is. Our Catholic faith is expressed through concrete reality, sacramental signs and symbols, in community with other people, because we are made body and soul. It will be hard to refrain from these things that are so important to us. So I'll conclude by letting you know that our church will still remain open, despite these new limitations. You will be able to drop in for business, a little visit or chat, or to pray. I will be offering the Mass on my own for all the intentions you have arranged, but will be doing it virtually via our Facebook live stream so that you can still join in spiritually. Let me know if there is anything else I can do as well; I'll be thinking of other ways to connect. This is all new still, so we are waiting to hear from both the province and the Archdiocese for more directions and details.

Feel free to contact us. We would love to hear from you. Let us continue to pray for each other, and for an end to this pandemic.

God love you.

Fr. Brian Trueman  
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*"Receive, Lord, my entire freedom. Accept the whole of my memory, my intellect and my will. Whatever I have or possess, it was you who gave it to me; I restore it to you in full, and I surrender it completely to the guidance of your will. Give me only love of you together with our grace, and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more."- Prayer of Self-Offering after Mass*