

The Catholic Communities of

St. Margaret Parish

Rimbey, AB

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Sylvan Lake, AB

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SPRING 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

I begin with the most obvious statement possible at this time in history. Please accept my thoughts, my prayers and any support that I can give to you through this tragic time of the COVID-19 crisis. This has been a devastating time for us in so many ways and I am sorry for the pain that you are experiencing.

I would like to share with you some thoughts about our parish at this time. First of all, **CONNECTIONS ARE HUGE!** Please do what you can to stay connected to the people of our parish through phone or computer contact. Please stay at home as much as you can but if you do see someone, please respect the physical distancing that is called for by our health officials. Please say to people: "I will pray for you." **THAT'S A BIG DEAL!**

I also ask you to stay **CONNECTED TO THE LORD**. our parish is not going to be taking on the task of livestreaming our Masses but there is plenty of access to some of the super-stars of the Catholic faith celebrating the Eucharist through the media. Some of the names that I can suggest to you are Pope Francis, Cardinal Thomas Collins (from Toronto), Bishop Robert Barron (from the Word on Fire ministry) and Father Mike Schmitz (who is connected to Ascension Press). If you are interested in a more local scene, then you can look for Archbishop Richard Smith from the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton or for Father Paul Moret from Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove. From your home, I ask you to say the rosary and to take part in daily devotions. If you have a key or if you can find access to our church, you are welcome to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, although the church might be rather cool as we have turned down our thermostats in order to save some money. I am available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation but I will be available on an appointment basis. It is awkward to schedule these appointments since I live in Rimbey, we are not permitted to use confessionals and we must respect physical distancing during the confession but we will do what we can. Archbishop Richard Smith has directed the priests to be **ALONE** when they celebrate the Eucharist during the pandemic. A few more people are permitted to be in the church if the Mass is being livestreamed but physical distancing must always be respected and Communion cannot be distributed.

No greater act of love has ever been done than what Jesus did for us on the original Good Friday. On that day, Jesus was abandoned by almost all of His friends. How blessed we are in knowing that He will never abandon us. This has been a Good Friday that is absolutely devastating. We find ourselves in the midst of THE GREAT UNKNOWN! Let's put our hand into the hand of God and say: "Lord, I still love You and I still trust You." Let's try to honor God — even in our pain. Please remember that whatever it is that happens to us, we are better off if we face it together with love in our hearts. GOD BLESS YOU.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Drewicki".

Father Les Drewicki