

Dear Parishioners:

We have all been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, whether through isolation, illness or financial challenges.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (905-723-5259) or by email (holycrossparish@rogers.com or stphilipsis@gmail.com) if you need assistance of any sort during these challenging times. Close to 50 people a week are receiving Holy Communion at home so what are a few more? Remember, “if you don’t ask, you don’t get”.

In addition, thanks to the generosity of individual parishioners, the Knights of Columbus, and our own parish resources we have distributed approximately \$4,000 in gift cards to those in need at both parishes.

During our parish closures (mid March to late June) we have tried to reach you through the Saturday 4:30pm Mass via our website. Since our re-opening we have ensured a safe environment for worship through the hard work and generosity of volunteer cleaners.

Social distancing has impacted attendance at Sunday Masses – down about 35% but slowly climbing back up. We know this will continue for a while and will continue the Saturday 4:30pm Mass on our Website (holycrossoshawa.ca).

The pandemic has also had a negative impact somewhat on our financial health these past few months. Thanks to your continual generosity it has not been anywhere near what some parishes are experiencing but still it has been down about 20% over the past few months.

As we move into the fall season, we remain in a time of great uncertainty about the pandemic’s direction and the possibility of yet another church closure. As a result, might I ask your assistance in regards to the following:

Remember whether we remain open or closed we are only a phone call or email away. Both are monitored on a daily basis and I have finally learned which buttons to push on both contraptions so if you called or emailed and did not get a response it was my fault for deleting by mistake – I hate these things!

Times are tough and money can be tight! Look after your family and yourselves first and if you are able to donate to your parish but are not able to come to Mass you might want to consider supporting the parish through Pre-Authorized Giving (P.A.G.). Forms are available from the Office upon request or through the

parish website or you might want to consider monthly donations through the “Donate Now” button at www.archtoronto.org.

Also, I would ask that you help us out by providing us with your email address either by writing on your Sunday envelopes or by emailing us at the parish office. This will help with up-dating our data bases for future communications.

Lastly, in so far as possible, the Sunday envelopes for 2021 will be hand-delivered to avoid possible cross contamination of the COVID-19 virus.

I thank you for reading this note and ask that you remember us at both parishes in your prayers that we may continue in our various ministries.

GOD BLESS,

Fr. Keith