

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 29 – February 11, 2021
INFORMATION

To pastors, parish pastoral teams and religious communities

Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the Lenten season in all its significance, we carry on with our lives in the Church relying more than ever on our capacity for resilience. Following are some guidelines and recommendations for the coming period.

1. Ash Wednesday

A) Ashes ritual in time of pandemic

I would remind you of the instructions issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments:

- Prayer of blessing of the ashes, followed by silently sprinkling holy water;
- The priest addresses the congregation, saying only once the formula as found in the Roman Missal;
- The priest then puts on his mask covering nose and mouth and washes his hands. He then takes up ashes and, without speaking, lets some fall on the head of each of the faithful, rather than marking their foreheads with ashes.

B) Distribution of Ashes

Even in a time of pandemic, as in any other year, many of the faithful wish to welcome the beginning of Lent with the imposition of Ashes. Priests are therefore invited to keep churches open at times that will allow those who are working to receive the Ashes and return home before curfew.

C) Suggestions

- Masses broadcast online with churches opening at the end of the day
- Distribution of ashes outside celebration times accompanied with a moment of prayer, while observing the rule of a maximum of ten persons present at the same time inside the church, excluding those leading the liturgical service.

2. Sacrament of Confirmation and Catechumenate

A general decree will be issued for the coming months giving extraordinary faculties to parish priests, parish administrators and mission leaders who are currently under mandate in their respective offices by appointment of the Archbishop. These faculties will apply to:

- Administration of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation for adults, or Confirmation of children;
- Admission of catechumens for the Rite of Election and the sacraments of Christian initiation, including the celebration of the Rite of Election and the inscription of names of the catechumens deemed suitable (usually performed by the Bishop on the first day of Lent).

The decree will be distributed next week along with explanatory notes and resources to guide you through the liturgy, including a simplified procedure for the Rite of Election and the inscription of names, taken from the Catechumenate service.

3. Reminder regarding health rules in effect until further notice

The Government and Public Health authorities are expected to make further announcements at or about February 22. Until then, the measures currently in place will remain in effect:

- Authorization to accommodate in a place of worship a maximum of 10 people (excluding those leading the liturgy) applies to each independent room having separate access to the street, thus ensuring that, neither at the entrance nor at the exit nor at any time throughout the liturgy shall anyone from one group occupying a separate room come in contact with anyone from a different group;
- One person only may sing. This person must use a microphone and be at least two metres distant from the congregation and any of the speakers. The congregation must not sing. The same rule applies to funerals.
- Requests with respect to preparation for the sacraments (baptisms, confirmations, weddings) in anticipation of celebrations in coming months may be dealt with, but caution must be exercised.
- All meetings of teams, committees (pastoral team, liturgical groups) and the Fabrique council must be carried on virtually;
- Presently, rental of church or parish halls for social activities is not permitted.

4. Introduction to hybrid ministry : February 24, March 3, 10 & 17, 2021 (6PM – 8PM)

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Service offers training courses for those involved in evangelization. Introduction to a Hybrid Pastoral Approach. Learn how to better integrate the face-to-face and digital in your mission. This course is also offered with the possibility for accreditation from the Institut de Formation Théologique de Montréal. For further information, please contact: <https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/missionjeunesse-mtl/en/hybrid-pastoral-approach/>

5. Miscellaneous

A) February 11, 2021 – World Day of the Sick

- o We invite you to read Archbishop Lépine's pastoral letter *So that no one will feel alone*, dated February 11, 2021, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: <https://bit.ly/PastoralLetter13>
- o SASMAD has various activities slated in recognition of World Day of the Sick 2021 <http://bit.ly/WorldDaySick2021>. During the month of February, for instance, you are invited to communicate your prayer intentions and register them directly with the SASMAD Friends of Mercy email address: misericorde.mercysasmad@gmail.com.

B) February 14, 2021 – World Marriage Day

Upon this occasion, you are invited to an online Mass Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., presided by Archbishop Christian Lépine at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral (Archdiocese of

Montreal YouTube account). For further information on how you can celebrate this day in your parish, please visit: <http://bit.ly/WorldMarriageDay2021>

C) February 9, 16, 23, March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 - Conference “Comment habiter chrétiennement la ville ?” (How to live the Christian life in the city)

This conference (in French only) is sponsored by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences of the Université Laval : <https://bit.ly/CommentHabiterChrétiennementLaVille>. Through an interdisciplinary approach that addresses the anthropological, sociological, political, ethical and geographic challenges facing the religious person in the urban environment, this international conference questions and compares various urban Christian practices from different confessional, cultural, linguistic and geographic standpoints.

D) Transformational leadership

Many of you have been following online the conferences on transformational leadership given by Brett Powell and Archbishop Paul-André Durocher. Video recordings and documents from the conferences are now available:

- **Brett Powell** : <http://bit.ly/BrettPowellLeadership>
- **Archbishop Paul-André Durocher**: <http://bit.ly/PaulAndréDurocher-February3>

E) Press releases

I would remind you that the communiqués from General Coordination are published regularly on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/pastoral-personnel>

If some of your fellow workers wish to receive these communiqués directly by email, please forward their email addresses in writing to: vg@diocesemontreal.org

In Jesus, our hope,



+ Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal