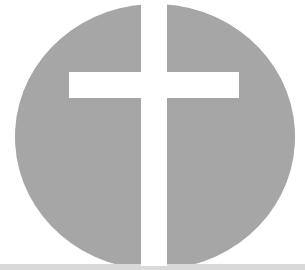


ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH, Verdun



Message from the Pastor:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

That's St. Paul's opening greeting in each of his 13 letters in the bible. Some are written to churches under his care that he hasn't visited in many years in some cases – such as in Corinth(ians), Philippi(ans), Galatia(ns).

Parish re- opening news

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, 2020

And so I greet you, the flock in my charge, after these months of being apart. Not least those without internet and email, who have only heard from our wonderful volunteer callers on my behalf.

Nonetheless, know that you have been in my prayers. Each and every Sunday the sacrifice of the mass has been and will continue to be offered for you. Weekday masses continue

to be offered for your specific intentions requested to the parish office. I also offer to the Lord by individual name your over 100 prayer requests, which the callers brought me.

I know this pandemic has been for many of you an extremely difficult time – a time of perhaps isolation and loneliness, or of loss, perhaps of contact, a friend or loved one, of job, security, confidence, or health.

Where is God in all of this? I bid you, if nothing else, find out by praying the only prayer that our loving Lord Jesus taught us. When you pray “lead us not into temptation,” which can also be translated “save us from the time of trial”, ponder how good God is Who has indeed saved us during this pandemic trial.

St. Thomas Aquinas in the 12th century, the most sublime theologian of the Church, wrote: “Christ teaches us to pray that we may not be led into temptation

Give me Your
grace, good Lord,
to set the world
at nought, to set
my mind fast
upon You,

To think my
worst enemies
my best friends,

To have
continually in
mind the passion
that Christ
suffered for me;
for His benefits
incessantly to
give Him thanks.

St. Thomas More,
Martyr



STAY CONNECTED!!! Please send us your email address or that of a friend so that we can stay in touch by email. This will facilitate communication and keep you updated with the latest news! Email us at sttmpastor@gmail.com.

by our own consent to it...to be tempted is human, but to consent to it is of the devil.” Thus the Good Shepherd doesn’t prevent us from entering into times of trial such as these, rather “delivers us from <such> evil”, and comforts us so as to “fear no evil” in even “the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23).

I pray that you have tangibly experienced the grace and comfort of God the Holy Spirit, by receiving spiritual full communion on t.v. masses, or online including both our parish masses: the Pentecost mass and our patronal Feast of St. Thomas More, Martyr, both of which are still on our website.



And for the majority of you who can come, I look forward to seeing you this weekend at mass.

Father Robert Assaly+
Pastor

We’re reopening the parish doors this weekend!...



...And there will be some changes to be noted including mass times, and for other sacraments, in addition to a full slate of safety measures (see the last two pages).

As we strive to re-open safely, let’s do this together, out of our Christian love of our neighbor with regard for their safety, inspired by God Who first loved us. Your cooperation in adhering to each health and

safety rule is perhaps the most significant contribution that can be made to the life of our community. Then even our most vulnerable parishioners can be confident in returning safely. These rules follow the Archdiocese’s extensive requirements based on the provincial health authorities’ directives.

I would like first to thank the parish re-opening team for their tremendous and ongoing work, particularly dealing with setting mass times and so many other details while accounting for the pastoral needs of parishioners combined with detailed attention to an intricate array of safety measures, amidst ever-shifting sands. And let us thank especially Patricia, our parish secretary, who hasn’t missed a meeting despite major surgery last week, which has her on sick leave. She is recuperating well. Keep her in your prayers.

We are also grateful to over two dozen trained volunteers who will contribute to masses every week – we still need more for subsequent weekend masses, so please call the parish to offer yourself (514-768-4741). Speaking of volunteers, we also need help from those who can simply operate a laptop at mass to play the music. This will contribute to keeping summer masses to 45 minutes.

Check out our website for all the latest information, homilies and our parish bulletin.
www.stthomasmoremtl.ca

With changes in the provincial rules hours before our team met, which now allow us to safely seat over 100 persons, and accounting for the results of the questionnaire which most of you filled out -- thanks to our great team of volunteer callers – and considering the safety rules restricting the use of fans in a hot summer, 9 a.m. Sunday seemed best choice and amenable to most of you.

It also allows for the family mass and catechism at a reasonable hour, 10:30am, their first choice based on additional surveys of these families. The new rules based on building size in our case meant a capacity of over 100 people, maintaining 2m physical distancing. This spared us from both adding more masses at awkward times, and requiring registration to attend mass.

The only caveat is that those who indicated preference for Saturday mass not attend the Sunday mass to ensure that we do not exceed the capacity limit. Sunday mass attenders will need to show the enclosed “mass pass” as their entrance ticket for at least the first two Sundays, for the same reason. To understand what this “mass pass” is, read carefully the separate rule sheet enclosed.

MASS TIMES FOR THE SUMMER PERIOD (JULY AND AUGUST, ALL BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND):

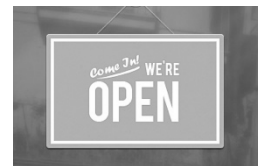
SATURDAY MASS WILL REMAIN AT 5 P.M.

SUNDAY MASS WILL CHANGE TO 9 A.M.

EVERY 2ND WEEK: 10:30 MASS WITH CATECHISM GATHERING ONLY FOR THESE YOUNG FAMILIES

We have already started to plan funerals. And I began hearing confessions a few days ago. This will continue by appointment only. In carefully considering our limitations, we have decided not to re-open weekday masses for at least one month. Once we see how our plans unfold, we will re-visit that and other decisions including weekend mass times.

It's easier now as we can poll you during the announcements if need be, and let you know of changes then to. I encourage those who don't have internet to please ask a friend to sign up for our weekly emails to pass on to you, or they can visit our website stthomasmoremtl.ca where they're posted. Please Help Us by dropping a piece of paper with your name on it into the collection basket, IF you have not given us an email, nor will offer at collection at mass the first two weekends a numbered envelope. This way we can identify those remaining with whom we need to communicate in alternate ways.



Also drop into the basket your pre-written prayer requests; only first name and, if deceased, a cross beside it, even if you've already submitted names. Mid-month this will replace my current list. Until the weekend...

In Christ, On behalf of our parish Re-opening Team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (CALL THE OFFICE): To be trained to greet each person and ensuring safety during mass; and at the laptop to start the music.