



St Paul's Church

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Wednesday, November 25th, 2020
TO: St. Paul's Parish

On Tuesday, November 24th, Dr. Robert Strang announced some changes to the Public Health Guidelines to help deal with the rising number of COVID-19 infections in Nova Scotia. "New restrictions will come into force at 12:01 am on Thursday, November 26 and continue for two weeks until midnight Dec 9, with a possibility of extension" Among other things he said, "organized sports, recreational, athletic, arts and cultural activities, faith-based activities are paused." He added "these measures are targeted to reduce the situations in which COVID-19 thrives."

We had a previously scheduled SafeR Church committee meeting on this Tuesday so we were able to react quickly to the new directives. We expect that the two week period will be a minimum so SafeR Church is working on the assumption that these new regulations will be in place for at least 4 weeks (i.e. until Dec 23) & depending on how COVID-19 case numbers go, it could be longer. We simply do not know.

What we do know is how to cope with the situation. We have been there before - from March until August. We have learned many lessons. Essentially, we are going back to the way we worked in the spring and summer. Wednesday, November 25 will continue as planned. The church building will be locked, as it has been since mid-March, but will open for the 11am Eucharist and the Outreach Lunch. The lunch will be take-out and the grocery trip will take place under current protocols.

Beginning Thursday morning, November 26 until December 23:

- Office Hours: Hours as usual, outer doors locked. Open for staff and parish volunteers on parish business. Masks on/off per Public Health protocols on site. All parish committee and group meetings and events by Zoom or electronic means, under the direction of the staff and volunteers already leading them.
- Wednesday Eucharists are cancelled.
- Wednesday take-out lunches and grocery trip as usual. Indoor cold weather spacing organized by Samuel. Guests immediately leave with lunches and/or for Sobeys if on the list for the week.
- Friday Matins by Zoom only.
- Sunday Eucharists in St. Paul's, which we have enjoyed since late August, will be replaced by weekly worship videos on YouTube again. The Rector and helpers will present the Sunday Liturgy. It will be pre-recorded and released on Sunday. We thank Ashley for his willingness to return to production mode and Gail for organizing the release of the videos for Sunday viewing. The Rector will once again host Zoom Coffee on Sundays at 11am.
- Sunday School will meet virtually. Cathy will advise the parents of how this will happen. The Youth Group will also go back into virtual mode.
- Christmas on the Grand Parade - scheduled for Dec 14 - is, sadly, cancelled.
- Greening of the Church which usually precedes Christmas on the Grand Parade is on hold for now. There may be more on this activity depending on how the situation unfolds.

We hope to be able to loosen these constraints as soon as possible and return to a more usual approach, especially as Christmas arrives. The SafeR Church Committee will monitor the situation carefully and try to keep all parishioners informed. With thanksgiving for all of God's goodness, at all times, and in all places--and with thanks to you, our Lord's servants ... and in prayer for those in frail health, physical and mental,

Rev. Paul Friesen
Rector

Patrick Hartling
Senior Warden

Chris Bryant
Junior Warden