

Ascension of the Lord – May 23/24, 2020

THE FINAL COMMISSION

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10:1-15). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

~Loyola Press

MASS INTENTIONS

MON. 25 at 7:30am:	Spec. Intention St. Edmund Parishioners
9:00am:	Spec. Intention Christina & Laurence Estrada & family by Barbara Stuart
TUES. 26 at 7:30am:	+Repose Adrian van Essen by Emma
9:00am:	No Intention
WED. 27 at 7:30am:	+Repose Anna Tuer by Jean Gomez
9:00am:	+Repose Anna Hrvatin by Liz Snadez
THURS. 28 at 7:30am:	+Repose Christino Maglieri by Rose Zepedeo
9:00am:	+Repose Anne Williams by Roz Kerr
FRI. 29 at 7:30am:	+Repose Liz Jackson by Elizabeth Wong
9:00am:	+Repose Anna Tuer by Curtis & Marie Dayton
SAT. 30 at 9:00am:	+Repose Vince Abbinante by Emma
4:30pm:	+Repose Frances Berry by Stella Berry
SUN. 31 at 8:00am:	+Repose Alberto Cusano by wife Assunta
at 9:30am:	+Repose Manuel Canhoto by Ludovina Santos
at 11:00am:	+Repose Gladys Mary Smith by Maria Morrisseau

PARISH OFFICE SERVICES ONLY AVAILABLE BY EMAIL OR PHONE

Contact the office if you need any kind of help. We are here to assist you.

ALL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

ST. EDMUND RE-OPENS

We are delighted to tell you that Masses can again be celebrated with Parishioners in attendance. Sadly, we have a limited of 50 people (total) in the Church at one time. Of course, everyone must use the 2-metre physical distancing rule. Would you like to join us?

Please phone or email the office to register for attendance.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY – (ANTICIPATED MASS) 4:30PM

SUNDAY – 8:00AM/9:30AM/11:00AM

FOR INFORMATION - PHONE 604-988-3211 DURING OFFICE HOURS

(Mon-Fri 9-12:30 & 1:30-5)

OR

EMAIL: st.edmunds@shaw.ca

WEEKDAY MASSES – 7:30AM & 9:00AM

ALL ARE WELCOME BUT ALL MUST FOLLOW

THE 2-METRE PHYSICAL DISTANCING RULE

PLEASE PHONE OR EMAIL THE OFFICE TO

REGISTER FOR ATTENDANCE

PROJECT ADVANCE

The Project Advance Campaign has some key changes this year due to the pandemic. Funding priorities have shifted to a newly established Crisis Response alongside other ministries of outreach and evangelization. The Archdiocesan goal has been reduced from \$3.25M to \$1.625M. St. Edmund's target has changed from \$36K to \$18K. Early in June, past supporters can expect to receive a letter from the Archbishop.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO MEDITATORS

I will be online about 20/25 minutes before 7:00 PM to receive participants. If you have problems please call to my cell, but not beyond 6:55 PM – 604 789 7625. If you are in iPhone or MAC computer, please discuss with JoAnn Primeau 607 987 8556. If you are on a PC or Android phone or a land line, please contact me during the day at my cell 604 789 7625.

CONVALIDATION OF MARRIAGE

If you have been civilly married (not in Church) & would like to convalidate your marriage, please contact either Father Steny or the Parish Office by phone or email.

STA NEWS

- The STA Grade 12 Band students came to the school on Tuesday, May 19 for a recording session in the school gym. The happy, smiling faces and the clean and neatly pressed uniforms were a site we have missed. The melodies echoed in the hallways as the musicians recorded music for their Graduation Event in June.
- Next week our teachers will be back in the school teaching their virtual classes from their classrooms, students will remain at home. It is the beginning of a transition back to school for a few weeks before the teaching year comes to an end.

Guidelines for the Reopening of Masses with a Congregation

Preamble

The COVID-19 pandemic still presents a serious threat to physical health. Our provincial authorities, therefore, continue to discourage unnecessary activities outside the home; to call for physical distancing, frequent handwashing and appropriate use of masks; and to limit all public gatherings to no more than 50. At the same time, for us Catholics access to the Eucharist and the Church's full sacramental life is of the utmost importance to our spiritual well-being. For this reason, we are preparing to reopen our churches, in a limited way, for celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

In order to prepare for the initial reopening of Masses with a congregation, these Guidelines have been prepared for the parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. They are intended to assist pastors and parishioners in preparing for the public celebration of the Eucharist, giving lead-up time for consultation and planning with the Parish Pastoral Council (via Zoom), the recruitment of volunteers, the purchase of necessary products, etc. The Guidelines will remain in force until further notice or changes by the Province allow for or require revision. They are not intended to be permanent, but are a temporary response to the current coronavirus pandemic. In the meantime, we must accept that resumption of public Mass does not mean a return to how we previously celebrated the Eucharist in our churches.

Liturgical Guidelines for the celebration of the Eucharist in the initial phase of reopening of Masses to the public will be published in a second document.

I. General Principles

1. The decision when to reopen for Masses with a congregation, no sooner than Saturday/Sunday, May 23/24, is left to the pastor's prudential judgment, due to the different circumstances of each parish. One parish may be unable to offer the same opportunities for Mass as a neighboring parish due to size, space limitations, underlying health condition of the pastor, etc.

2. After consultation with his Parish Pastoral Council and others concerned regarding Mass scheduling, cleaning, etc., the pastor will be responsible for the final decisions regarding the implementation of these Guidelines in his parish.
3. If a parish is unable for practical or other reasons to maintain strict physical distancing and perform the cleaning requirements as indicated in these Guidelines, the pastor must not resume Masses with a congregation or must limit them only to those for which he can follow these Guidelines.
4. Even though other parish activities are not governed by these Guidelines, they must always observe the directives of the provincial health authority, especially regarding physical distancing and sanitizing.
5. Social gatherings before or after Mass (including coffee and donuts) should not take place at this phase of reopening.
6. All the faithful in the Archdiocese of Vancouver remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this initial reopening phase. Furthermore, they are *not* required to attend a weekday Mass in place of the Sunday Liturgy.
7. All those attending Mass do so at their own risk. It is important for individuals and families to take responsibility for protecting themselves and others.
 - a. The following *must* stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - i. People with COVID-19 or who live with someone with COVID-19.
 - ii. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
 - iii. The sick, including those with even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness, especially if with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
 - iv. Those who have recently travelled outside of Canada.
 - b. The following are encouraged to stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - i. People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
 - ii. People, especially the elderly, with underlying or comprised medical conditions.
 - iii. Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk
8. A priest with a respiratory infection of any kind must *not* celebrate Mass publicly or administer the Sacraments. The same holds for other ministers who might serve at Mass (deacon, servers, lectors, choir, etc).
9. Masses may be scheduled with greater frequency, to allow for a greater variety of times available. Before increasing the number of Masses, it is advisable first to determine the number of parishioners who desire to attend Mass in person. In keeping with canon 905§2, all priests have permission to celebrate the Eucharist twice on weekdays and three times on Sundays. A “day” consists of 24 continuous hours beginning at midnight (cf. canon 202). The Saturday Vigil Mass does not therefore “count” as one of the three Masses permitted on Sunday. Celebrating any additional Masses requires the permission of the Archbishop.
10. If Mass is celebrated outside the church or is livestreamed on the parish campus, it should be in another suitable building (e.g., church, parish hall, school gym) that can be appropriately sanitized and other safety precautions can be observed.
11. If possible, livestreaming of Masses from parishes should continue as long as the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in force.
12. Resuming public Masses should take place in strict accord with all the health directives promulgated by the Province’s health authorities regarding the number of people allowed at a gathering. The maximum number of 50 currently permitted includes the priest, liturgical ministers, musicians, livestream videographers and anyone else present during Mass.

II. Preparing Parishioners for Reopening

Communication

1. Pastors, in consultation with their Parish Pastoral Councils, parish staff and others concerned, must communicate clearly and effectively with their parishioners about their plans for when and how they will be resuming public Masses. Specifically, the communication must cover these areas:
 - a. How the parish will determine the 50-person maximum to attend a given Mass.
 - b. How the parish will ensure physical distancing.
 - c. The measures the parish will take to ensure proper sanitation.
2. The Mass schedule, if altered to allow more time between Masses for cleaning or to provide for additional Masses, should be published and the revised schedule sent to the Vicar General.

Determining the 50-Person Maximum

3. Parishioners will sign up to attend a specific Mass at a specific time on a regular basis. At the outset, priority should be given to the Elect, candidates for full communion, and those who assisted these groups. Aside from people with special needs, preferential treatment should be avoided. Among the possibilities for assigning parishioners are a rotation based on the first letter of last names; an online ticketing system; or the formation of fixed “community Mass groups.”
4. Whatever method is used, a database record of the contact information of those who attend each Mass should be retained so that, in the case of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, the parish will be able to assist public health officials with tracing by contacting everyone who may have been exposed.
5. A sign-up system is the simplest and recommended method for parishes to solicit the names of parishioners who wish to attend a regular Sunday Mass or Mass during the week. Depending on the method of sign-up chosen, the parishioners should be able to choose the Mass they prefer to attend insofar as this is possible.
6. Each “community Mass group” is assigned a regular Mass time on Sunday or a weekday. They may not attend at another time; nor should they sign up for more than one time until the cycle is ready to be repeated (which might be every one, two or three weeks depending on the number of parishioners). Multiple and easily accessible ways of sign-up should be employed. For example, through a combination of methods including online sign-ups, written sign-ups, email, and phone calls.
7. A “first-come, first-served” system, as well as exclusively online or email sign-up systems, should be avoided since restriction to these methods might exclude many who otherwise would wish to attend.

Volunteers

8. Many of a parish’s most committed volunteers are particularly susceptible to the COVID-19 virus because of their age and other pre-existing health conditions. We have a “duty of care” to protect them from all undue harm.
9. Some parishes may be able to establish an early morning weekday Mass for older parishioners who insist on attending.
10. It is advisable to contact the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and others to let them know that it is understandable if they would like temporarily to withdraw from their ministry during the time of the pandemic.
11. The responsibilities of ushers and greeters will actually increase at this time. Such volunteers are the first point of contact for arriving parishioners. They need to be masked, identified by badges or other means, and able to interact with the faithful while still maintaining physical distancing. They should have to have a copy of a “check list” or other way of confirming that those arriving have signed up and that their contact information is available. Usher/greeters should offer hand-sanitizer (Spraying or squirting the disinfectant into people’s hands). In some parishes, they may have to watch over an offering basket. They are also be responsible for pointing out available pews.

Physical Distancing

12. Except for members of the same household, physical distancing is to be observed everywhere on the church property (in the church, on the steps, in the parking lot, etc.); that is, close contact with those outside one's household must not be within two metres of another person.
13. People are not to gather in the vestibule or near the doors of the church before or after Mass. *If* the priest wishes to greet parishioners after Mass, physical distancing must be maintained and wearing a face mask should be considered.

Use of Masks

14. Use of face masks/coverings by parishioners at Mass and around the church is left to individual discretion, following the recommendations of provincial health authorities.
15. Consider having masks available for parishioners to be able to offer one to those who would like one.

III. Preparing the Church Building for Reopening

Signage

16. Signs should be placed on church doors to indicate the Mass schedule and provide a telephone number and email address for people wanting to attend Mass following the method determined by the pastor.
17. Physical distancing guidelines should be posted on the church doors and, if appropriate, elsewhere inside the church.

Entrances and Exits

18. At least one entrance should be open and accessible to the handicapped. If more than one entrance is open, care must be taken to control the overall number of people entering and to provide for their proper sanitation.
19. When possible, entrance and exit doors should be propped open as people enter/exit, so that the faithful need not touch the handles or doors to enter or exit.
20. When possible, multiple exits should be used at the end of Mass to expedite departure and minimize chances of people encountering one another.
21. Ushers stationed at the church entrance can monitor those who enter, reminding them of the requirement for physical distancing of two metres and for sanitizing their hands. Members of a single household may enter and exit together, since they do not need to practice physical distancing with each other.
22. Once the maximum of 50 persons in the church is reached, no one else may enter. People who simply show up for Mass must be turned away at the entrance. When capacity is reached, they may be directed to an overflow space, if one is available. Parishioners should also be provided with a way to contact the parish, so that they can make the necessary arrangements to be included at a future Mass.

Seating

23. Restrict seating to every second or third pew (or row of seats) to maintain physical distancing. Seats which can be used should be clearly marked. Rows may be conveniently closed off with painter's tape, which will not mar the pews. In a large church some sections might be cordoned off to reduce the need for sanitizing everywhere.
24. The pews not used at the previous Mass could be the ones available for the following Mass, if possible.

Use of Restrooms and Cry Rooms

25. Because of the need for sanitizing, it is recommended that restrooms be closed; one may be made available for an emergency.
26. Parish cry rooms may be closed or restricted to one family. They may be used only if proper circulation can be assured, and they will need to be carefully cleaned after use.

Cleaning and Sanitizing/Disinfecting

27. An adequate stock of hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies, including disposable gloves for cleaners, should be readily available at the time of reopening.
28. Hand sanitizing should take place near the entrance to the church for those coming to Mass. A bottle of sanitizer, touched by many, should not be used. Instead, use an automatic dispenser or have an usher/greeter wearing a mask spray the hands of those entering.
29. Volunteers or others who are not vulnerable because of age or health conditions must clean and sanitize the pews and other commonly touched surfaces, as well as restrooms, immediately after every Mass.

Materials

30. Individual bulletins should not be distributed at Mass, unless they are handed out individually by a glove-wearing usher/greeter, who is masked and remains at arm's length.
31. All paper and other loose printed items should be removed from the foyer.
32. All hymnals, missals, pew cards, and other loose items in the pews must be removed, in order to facilitate cleaning.
33. Collection baskets must not be passed from person to person in the pews. Long-handled collection baskets may be used, if the usher can maintain the required physical distancing. Other "collection points" such as boxes under the supervision of an usher/greeter may be provided for the faithful where they can deposit their offerings.

Other Considerations

34. Holy Water and Baptismal fonts remain empty.
35. In areas where the faithful might stand in line (for example, waiting to receive Holy Communion), it is helpful place tape on the floor to indicate proper two-metre spacing between persons.

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan

St. Edmund's Parish, 545 Mahon Avenue, North Vancouver, BC – V7M 2R7

Phone: 604-988-3211/Email: st.edmunds@shaw.ca/Website: stedmundsparish.ca/

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN For Monthly Offertory Contributions

If you wish to make your Sunday offertory contribution through automatic monthly bank withdrawals, please complete the form below and note:

- the amount you authorize will be deducted from your bank account **on the 30th of each month**. This regular monthly amount covers Sunday Offertory donation only.
- To make changes at any time, please call the Parish Office at 604-988-3211

Follow the steps below to calculate and authorize your monthly donation:

CALCULATING YOUR MONTHLY PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

To help determine the amount of one's monthly contribution, multiply your weekly offering by the 52 weeks in a year, then divide this annual contribution by 12. Examples are provided below:

<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Monthly Offering</u>	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Monthly Offering</u>
\$10/week (\$520/year)	\$43 per month	\$40/week (\$2,080/year)	\$173 per month
\$20/week (\$1,040/year)	\$86 per month	\$50/week (\$2,600/year)	\$216 per month

Note that the amounts above are provided only as examples. Our hope is that Parishioners will contribute an offering that is meaningful, sacrificial, and that honours the abundance with which the Lord has blessed each of us.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

I/we hereby authorize St. Edmund's Parish to debit my/our account **each month on the 30th** as allocated below.

I/we hereby change my/our monthly donation as allocated below:

Offering \$ _____

➔ **Please note** that based on the fees associated with offering pre-authorized giving, a \$25 monthly offering is the minimum that can be processed through this method of giving

ACCOUNT HOLDER/S INFORMATION:

Name/s: _____ (please print)

ADDRESS: _____

Phone/s: _____

Envelope #: _____ Payment Start Date: _____

OFFERTORY DONATION FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE PARISH:

I wish to donate \$ _____ on a **monthly basis on the 30th** for normal operations of the Parish

AUTHORIZATION:

I/We acknowledge that the Authorization is provided for the benefit of the Parish and the "Processing Institution" and is provided in Consideration of Processing Institution agreeing to process debits ("PADs") against the Account with Processing Institution in accordance with the Rules of the Canadian Payments Association.

By signing this Authorization, the family acknowledges having received and having read a copy of this Agreement, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

I/We warrant and guarantee that the person/s whose signature/s are required to sign on the Account have signed the Authorization.

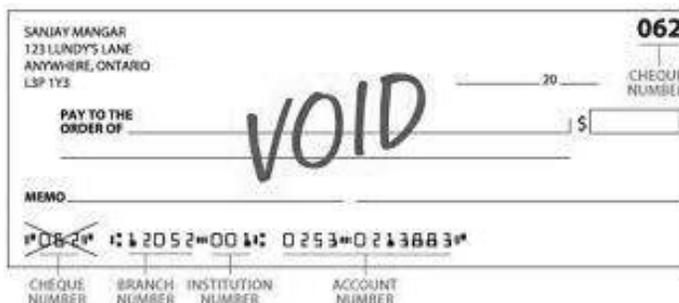
Payor SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Payor SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Return this form to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket in a sealed envelope address to the "Parish Secretary – Confidential", plus attach a **blank VOID cheque and/or provide the following information:**

TRANSIT # _____ INSTITUTION # _____ ACCOUNT # _____

Sample of blank Void cheque ➔
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Our Parish Community is asked to pray for the Repose of the Souls of

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Our Parish Community is asked to pray for the Repose of the Soul of

Liz Jackson & Jady Li

Our Parish Community is asked to pray for the Special Intention of

Father Jerry



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