



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

The Anglican Church of Canada

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Dear Friends,

I write you at this time on behalf of the wardens, treasurer and vestry of St. John the Evangelist. It certainly has been a different month for all of us. We are all facing many challenges during this world wide pandemic and we are dealing with all sorts of emotions at this time. I want to remind you, that as a parish family we are in this together and we will come through all of this and be together in one place once again. When that day will come is unknown at this time but I do look forward to that day that we can worship and enjoy fellowship in person again.

Though we have not been able to be right now I want to ensure you that ministry at St. John the Evangelist has not stopped. We are still offering worship services through our Facebook page and YouTube channel and we are currently looking into ways we can put these services onto a DVD to bring to members of our parish family who do not have access to or choose to not use the internet. I, along with members of our parish leadership have been making phone calls to check in and offer a friendly voice over the phone in the midst of this. There will be a bible study offered on Wednesday evenings in the month of May, and we are working on offering Godly Play through the Zoom app for the children to connect with their peers and the stories they love to hear. Pastoral Care is available through the phone or FaceTime and zoom and our vestry meets this way when we need to.

Our office administrator Madonna Scott and I are both still working, from home and the office. Madonna spends her time between the office and home and we have her set up at home so she can access all files and messages. We are doing everything possible to maintain the day to day working environment. In fact, We both are working now far beyond the usual office hours, you can imagine the time and work that goes into running this parish when we cannot be together and do things in the usual ways.

Although we have made every possible financial cut, we are still operating and ministry is still ongoing and therefore we are still obligated to maintain our parish finances. We still have to maintain our payroll expenses, our heat and light bill, the cost of our telephone and internet, photocopier, mail outs, our synod assessment and this month we have received our insurance bill for both our current building and the historic church. Even with cuts, each month we are spending close to \$15,000.00 to operate. I know that all of us look forward to the day we can return to our normal activities and worship styles, but in order for us to do that we have to maintain a healthy financial status. We have already been hit hard this year with the January snowstorm and missed services, and now we are facing a different kind of challenge. We fundraisers canceled and our rental income lost, and now with the shut down we have lost nearly 75% of our income. We have minimal savings that we can

draw from, but that will not last us for much longer. Thankfully we have those on pre-authorized which will maintain a portion of our budgeted income but obviously we are not able to sustain the expenses associated with running our parish with this amount.

Our parish needs your continued financial support in order for us to move forward and one day, hopefully before too long, be back together again. We thank those who have take advantage of “e-transfers” This is Perhaps one of the simplest ways to send in offerings and we are blessed by the contributions we have received to date. There has been a small amount of you who have taken advantage of the locked drop box located at our parish office. I want to remind you that this is a locked box inside the door, when you place your envelopes in the slot outside they go directly in this locked box, this box is checked every day!! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we remind you that you are in our continued prayers as we go through this.

The parish of St. John the Evangelist continues to play a very important role in the lives of people within Topsail and beyond in Conception Bay South. We ask that you would prayerfully reflect on how you and your family has been blessed through the various ministries of our parish and that you would consider these alternative ways to continue your free will offerings:

1. Direct deposit by using eTransfer to sjtetopsail@nfld.net
2. Pre- Authorized debit program which is easy to set up. If this is an option you would like to avail of please call 834-2336 or email sjtetopsail@nfld.net. we can print a form for you to pick up or can email you one that you can print at home.
3. By the usual envelope system, but dropping your envelopes in the locked box slot at the parish office or by calling Reverend Jolene at 325-2366 or our Parish Treasurer Philip Gavell at 834-3445 and they will ensure your envelopes are picked up, if you are unable to get them to the office.
4. By sending a cheque to P.O.Box 13033, CBS, NL. A1W 2K1

Please know that we give thanks for you and your families and offer prayers for all of us to remain healthy and well in the midst of this pandemic.

Stay Safe!

Yours in Christ,
Reverend Jolene +

Rector