



St Cuthbert's Property and Finance Committee
April 1, 2020
Memo to our Parishioners

Dear Parishioners,

The St Cuthbert's Property and Finance Committee met last week to review a memo from Bishop Grecco addressing several financial points to consider during the Covid 19 crisis, none of which we have ever had to consider in the past.

The purpose of this memo is to share the decisions we have made with you. We want you to know that we did not take this responsibility lightly. Our priorities lie first with the well-being of Father Augustine and our parishioners, and secondly with the financial position of our parish. Keep in mind that these decisions may change as the pandemic unfolds.

Staff Lay-offs: Priests are eligible for Employment Insurance, but all three parishes agree that a lay-off is the least favourable option for us and for Father at this time. Father Augustine is more than a dedicated employee of the St Cuthbert, St Andrew and St Patrick's parishes. Knowing he is continuously praying for us is a comfort to us all. We are applying for federal programs that will help us to off-set the cost of Father's wages. We hope a lay-off can be avoided.

On-going Financial Support from our Parishioners: Most of you have been affected by the Covid 19 crisis in some way. You have faced lay-offs, closure of your small businesses, been required to stay home to care for your small children, and countless other circumstances that affect your regular income. Now is not the time to ask you to contribute to the weekly collection. However; as the Property and Finance Committee we would be remiss if we did not mention the ongoing expenses of maintaining our parish.

If, and only if you are in a position to make a contribution we would greatly appreciate it. The preferred option to contribute at the moment, is to mail a cheque to St Cuthbert's Parish, 2998 Route 22, RR#5 Mt Stewart, PE COA 1T0. We are not set up for direct deposit, however; we have been in contact with our bank to set up the ability to accept E-transfers. When this is in place we will let everyone know. We thank you in advance for any contribution, and remind you to include your envelope number with any payment you send us.

Permission to Access Reserve Fun: The Bishop's Memo stated that it is permissible for parishes to borrow money from their savings to cover any shortfalls during this crisis. While we are in the enviable position of having built up a significant sum in the cemetery account entirely from the generosity of parishioners, using this money is a last resort. Please be assured that accessing these funds is not something we are considering at this time.

We thank you for your efforts to protect each other and we encourage you to look out for each other during this difficult time. Together we will get through this!

Regards,

St Cuthbert's Property and Finance Committee