



# ST. BERNADETTE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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01 November 2020

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was elected to the papacy and emerged on the balcony for the world to see, he offered these first words in his new role: *"I am comforted by the fact that the Lord knows how to work and act even with insufficient instruments. And above all, I entrust myself to your prayers. With the joy of the risen Lord and confidence in his constant help, we will go forward."*

At the time he was elected I was preparing to enter seminary and his prayerful words conveyed how I felt then, as they do now in being appointed and now installed as your Pastor. These words do not however, convey the heartfelt gratitude and joy that I truly feel being here with you and for you, a Christian on a journey with other beautiful Christians such that you are. I look forward to our growing as Christian Disciples together. I ask for your prayers as you can be assured of my prayers every day for you and our whole community.

There are obvious challenges we face together in the midst of a pandemic. As your new pastor, not having met many of you yet is a disappointment. I live in hope that I soon will. I hope that in these months ahead, where and when we are healthy and feel safe, Fr. Raymond and I will be able to make "pastoral visits" as you feel safe to invite us.

I look forward to continuing the good work of my predecessors. Many of you have shared with me, your appreciation for your priests and your pastors. I too appreciate their work. It is a blessing to have been assigned by the Archbishop here. The Parish of St. Bernadette is a vibrant and active parish, and it has been a great joy to meet most of our Ministry Coordinators and hear of the great work being done already. I invite others to continue to give generously of yourselves in these and many ministry opportunities. You will hear the word "stewardship" from me again and again as I see already the generosity of gifts and talents within our community and great Christian communities are active and alive with everyone doing their part.

Please offer me any suggestions you might have. We have a team including Fr. Raymond, Cathy and Tim Haynes and myself working on our parish website. In the months ahead, we are hoping that information and opportunities can be easily accessed through the website, so

that our pastoral team will be able to serve you even better. I will, for the time being (*the next time around Christmas*) share with you some of my own thoughts by letter, since with our protocols we may not see as much of each other as we otherwise would.

### As the Church Gets Ready to Welcome in the New Year

As of the First Sunday of Advent, marking the beginning of our New Year in the Church, we will introduce some slightly different practices at St. Bernadette's. I have attached a page to my letter with a few of these changes. In consultation with Fr. Raymond and some parishioners, I would like Fr. Raymond and I to dedicate more time to the celebration of the sacraments, pastoral care and outreach for all our people and so a slight change *and request I am making* is for members of our parish community to share in the important work of leading parish devotions. It is deeply edifying to experience the devout lives of our people; it truly is an important part of why our parish is vibrant and alive. As we returned to church from pandemic, out of necessity, we priests are running PowerPoints and leading parish devotions, but as we celebrate more Masses, offer more confessions, we ask for your help to sustain the devotions we treasure here at St. Bernadette's. We will also look to begin after the First Sunday in Advent, Fridays dedicated to the Sacred Heart of our Lord with Adoration each week. I am also going to ask that as a community in unity with our Archbishop, Cardinal Collins, who has asked that we pray the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, patron and protector of the Archdiocese of Toronto, we pray as a community the Prayer to St. Michael at the end of each Mass. Finally, we will begin to have single Mass intentions offered at each of the weekend Masses except for one, for which I offer for all of you in the *Missa Pro Populo* (Mass for the People) at the 10:15am or 12:00pm Mass. More information will be shared with you in upcoming bulletins and announcements on this.

Friends, please always know that my door and heart is open to you, as I continue to serve you and the needs of our parish community.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Chris Lemieux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Father Chris Lemieux

SOME NEW LITURGICAL PRACTICES – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (Sunday November 29, 2020)  
*These practices will begin as of the First Sunday of Advent (Sunday November 29, 2020) and will continue until further notice.*

1. The Prayer to St. Michael will be said by the whole congregation at the end of all Parish Masses after the celebrant reverences the altar and before the Recessional Hymn begins. The version of the prayer will be on PowerPoint, and eventually found on a pew card after pandemic restrictions are lifted.

*St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the  
wickedness and snares  
of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him,  
we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen."*

2. First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration will continue after the morning mass ending at 12:30pm with Benediction. The priest will lead the Litany of the Sacred Heart after the Exposition liturgy has taken place in the morning. Evening Mass will continue to be celebrated on First Fridays as well. Confessions will take place after morning Mass (9:00am to 9:30am) and before the evening Mass (6:15pm to 6:45pm).
3. Each Friday will be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of our Lord. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration will take place after the morning Mass ending at 12:30pm with Benediction. The priest will lead the Litany of the Sacred Heart after the Exposition liturgy has taken place in the morning.

4. The Litany of the Sacred Heart will no longer take place before the weekday morning Masses. Instead, silence and prayerful reflection in preparation of the Holy Sacrifice is encouraged. The Litany of the Sacred Heart will be included after Exposition each Friday.
  
5. Fr. Raymond and Fr. Chris will re-introduce Wednesday evening confessions from 6:30pm until 7:30pm, in addition to the Saturday afternoon confessions and First Friday morning and evening confessions. Many parishioners have asked for more parish confessions and we are doing our best to accommodate these requests. Confessions will be in the parish hall.
  
6. Fr. Raymond and Fr. Chris are happy to work with generous lay leaders who help to lead our parish devotions (*which remain an important part of our parish life*) and set up PowerPoints for this purpose as well, when asked but the parish priests will be dedicated to providing us with the sacraments (Holy Mass, confessions).