St. Mary Immaculate Church

Established in 1857 10295 YONGE STREET, RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO L4C 3B9 TEL. (905) 884-1784 FAX (905) 884-1883 Email: office@smirh.com www.smirh.com

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I want to thank all the parishioners of St. Mary Immaculate Parish for your ongoing support during this period of great uncertainty. It has been wonderful to see so many of you at Mass since we reopened in June. I am especially grateful to the volunteers who have helped ensure our Church is a safe place to gather – they have done incredible work!

As you know, the number of new COVID-19 cases in the Greater Toronto Area have increased significantly in recent days and, at present, Toronto and Peel Regions are in the "Lockdown Stage" as identified by the Province of Ontario. In addition, Premier Ford announced on December 11, 2020 special emergency measures that need to be taken in York region.

For this reason, as of Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, we must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people, including priests and members/volunteers to monitor capacity restrictions. Sadly, due to these measures, public Masses must be temporarily cancelled. Priests will continue to celebrate private Mass daily for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from Covid-19.

Our Church will remain open for private prayer from 8 am – 9 am Monday to Friday. We will livestream Mass on YouTube, SMI Parish, on Sunday at 9:30 am in Italian and 11 am. Daily Masses are livestreamed at 7:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica and are also available on Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation, VisionTV (Daily TV Mass) and EWTN.

Weddings, funerals and baptisms will now be restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry. First Holy Communions and Confirmations will need to be postponed at this time.

Even though there seems to be so many regulations to follow, keep in mind that they are for your protection and safety and we will do our best to follow the protocols.

Praying for you and your families.

Blessings, be healthy and safe! God Bless!

Rev. Pawel Zborowski Pastor