

Notice for December 18, 2020

COVID 19 rules update

As you are most likely aware, there was a press conference yesterday about new health and safety measures for December 17th to January 11th.

Here is a summary of how the new measures may affect church life.

The government has asked office workers of both public and private sectors to work from home unless their presence is absolutely required at their place of employment between December 17th and January 11th. Consequently, Donna will be working from home most of the time but will pass by the office to pick up the mail, take phone messages and write checks as needed. I will also be working from home during the week and will be reachable on my cell phone (514) 432-9368. You can reach Donna on her cell phone (514) xxx-xxxx* also.

Both Donna and I will be on vacation from December 25th to January 4th and will take turns verifying phone messages** from home for that time to be made aware of any arising emergency. I will still be on vacation until January 10th.

In terms of worship, the government has not imposed any new measures. Places of worship are still allowed gatherings of 25 people or less for worship and funerals only. However, we (the COVID response team, Worship and Sacrament and I) have decided to hold services online only for December 24th, December 27th (pre-recorded combined worship with the West Island cluster), and January 3rd. This decision is motivated by the desire to be acting in accordance with the spirit of recent COVID measures and limit gatherings as much as possible for the holiday period. The Worship and Sacrament team is currently evaluating what will happen after January 3rd in terms of in person worship.

In terms of family gatherings for Christmas, they are still forbidden in the red zone, but the government is making an exception for people living alone who can join one family bubble for the holidays. This means someone living alone can visit one family unit several times over the holidays if it is always the same family unit. For example, my mother-in-law, who lives alone, will be visiting her son for Christmas, but could not come to my house for New Years, because the one family bubble she is joining is my brother in law's.

Hopefully, this new measure for people living alone will alleviate some of the feeling of isolation and loneliness that can creep in.

There is hope on the horizon with the ongoing vaccination. Meanwhile, let us keep each other safe by lovingly staying physically apart and spiritually connected.

Rev. Joëlle

**Donna's actual cell phone number is shown in the email sent out to the congregation*

***The Office phone number is (514) 626-4795*