

**COMMUNIQUÉ No. 121 – MARCH 6, 2025  
CALL TO PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS AND  
MEDIA INQUIRIES**

**To Members of Parish Teams,  
To our Clergy, PCLs, and LPAs,  
To the faithful active in their communities,  
To Members of Religious Communities,  
To Archdiocesan Staff,**

**A MESSAGE TO PARISHES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONTREAL**

Dear Pastors and Parish Community Members,

As the Church enters a time of concern and prayer for Pope Francis, some of our churches—particularly the Cathedral and Basilicas—may become gathering places not only for the faithful but also for journalists seeking reflections on Pope Francis’ health and possible resignation. It is important that we are prepared to respond with openness, faith, and pastoral sensitivity, bearing witness to the significance of this moment for the universal Church.

**1. A Call to Prayer for Pope Francis**

In a spirit of solidarity and pastoral care, Archbishop Christian Lépine invites us to intensify our prayers for Pope Francis during this time. He encourages personal and communal prayer, along with acts of fasting and abstinence, particularly during Lent, entrusting our Holy Father to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Ville-Marie, and Saint Joseph.

**Read and share the Archbishop’s full message here:** <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/news-and-info/latest-news/archbishop-lepine-calls-prayers-pope-francis-amid-health-concerns>

**2. Welcoming Media Inquiries with Care and Professionalism**

Should members of the media visit your parish, we encourage you to receive them with kindness and professionalism:

- Welcome journalists with kindness and courtesy. They are seeking to understand the impact of these events on our communities.
- Refer interview requests with the Archbishop to the Communications Department. Our team will coordinate media inquiries and provide guidance as needed. Please direct all requests to [communications@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:communications@diocesemontreal.org)
- If you are uncertain, refer journalists to the Communications Department. We are available to support you and provide appropriate follow-ups.

### **3. Fostering an Atmosphere of Prayer and Reflection**

- We encourage all parishes to cultivate a space of prayerful encounter during this period. Faithful are invited to gather in community prayer for Pope Francis and to participate in moments of reflection.
- We will keep you informed of any diocesan initiatives planned for this time.

Thank you for your leadership in guiding your communities through prayer and witness, while ensuring a gracious and respectful reception for all who seek to understand the Church's response. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Communications Office with any questions.

With gratitude and prayer

*Charles Langlois PSS*

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VG - Moderator of the curia