

COMMUNIQUÉ no. 32 – March 4, 2021
INFORMATION
To pastors, teams and religious communities

Brothers and sisters, as we persevere in this challenging Lenten season, let our focus be on Christ, our only hope. The following are some reminders, instructions and suggestions to share via your various networks:

1. Reminders and instructions:

A. You can make your voice heard and invite your parishioners to do the same, proposing that the limit of participants at a celebration be set at **30% of the usual capacity** of the given place of worship.

1. By calling **your Member of Parliament**: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/deputes/index.html>
2. By contacting the regional **public health** authority: <http://bit.ly/DirectionSantéPublique>
3. By **signing the petition** "Chrétiens, sauvons Pâques!" at: <http://bit.ly/PetitionSauvonsPaques>

B. Baptisms of small children and weddings: in anticipation of a celebration in the coming months, requests and reservations can be accepted with qualifications. For the moment it is still not possible to celebrate baptisms and weddings in the red zone.

C. Like all pastoral workers, we can feel **Holy Week and the Easter Triduum** fast approaching. Subsequent to the latest announcements by the public authorities, we have good reason to believe that, by the end of March, government health guidelines will have changed for the better. At the present time, however, it is still difficult to determine what will or will not be possible in our parishes for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

- a. One thing is certain: by mid-March, I will convey the applicable liturgical instructions to you, even if that means presenting several scenarios, depending on the circumstances at that time.
- b. Now that the churches are open, it will be possible to carry out a form of blessing and distribution of the palm leaves, in compliance with health measures.
- c. We encourage you to share your ideas for celebrations during Holy Week : the Palm Sunday, the Chrism Mass and the Easter Triduum. Your proposals in this regard are most welcome: vg@diocesemontreal.org. We will be sharing them with everyone in the coming weeks.

D. Reminder to members of the **local "deconfinement" committees**: weekly meetings are to resume Tuesday, March 9, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

2. 24 hours for the Lord: March 12 and 13, 2021

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization has sent a [suggestion-guide](#) in preparation for the activities of *24 Hours for the Lord* to take place March 12 and 13, 2021. This year's theme is "Who forgives all your iniquity" (*Psalms 103 (102):3*).

Since its inauguration in 2014, *24 Hours for the Lord* has been an annual worldwide Lenten event, traditionally held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the fourth Sunday of Lent and calling on us to accept God's mercy through Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Given the preventive measures and precautions in place on account of the pandemic, each parish must decide how to observe this event, in person or online.

3. Ideas for observing Lent

The diocesan website offers a section devoted to the Lenten season, where you will find a variety of resources: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/lent-season>

4. Online Scripture-sharing Groups (only in French)

Would you like to offer your parishioners a user-friendly catechetical approach for adults to help them deepen their knowledge of the Scriptures? The *Catéchèse biblique de la liturgie dominicale de la Parole de Dieu* initiative is the answer!

This program is easy to set up, is suitable for remote meetings via videoconferencing platform and permits the creation of small, independent groups. The concept was developed by Yves Guérette - priest for the diocese of Quebec and professor at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences at Université Laval - with the support of Novalis.

Yves Guérette offers an initial **training session of 90 minutes on Thursday, March 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm**. The session is free of charge and will be accessible by videoconference. Participants must register with Sylvain Campeau (scampeau@diocesemontreal.org). For details about this program, please visit the web page : <http://bit.ly/catéchèsebiblique>

5. 2021 declared Year of Saint Joseph by Pope Francis: websites, novena, sermons, testimonies, resources and other events to come.

In response to the Holy Father's appeal, the Archdiocese of Montreal is mounting various activities and resources throughout the year 2021:

- the [prayer](#) chosen by Pope Francis for this year
- websites:
 - The Archdiocese of Montreal has set up a web page featuring a novena, sermons and testimonies. Other resources will be added in the course of the year: <https://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/saint-joseph>
 - In the coming weeks, the CCCB (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops) and Saint Joseph's Oratory will also set up a web page dedicated to the Year of Saint Joseph.
- The novena and the sermons of March 10 to 18, in preparation for the feast of Saint Joseph on March 19:
 - Parishes and all who wish to participate are invited to pray the novena to Saint Joseph in communion with the Oratory. Novena Prayer: <http://bit.ly/NovenaSaintJoseph>
 - The Cathedral will pray this novena during Masses. <https://www.youtube.com/seletlumieretv>
 - The Oratory will also offer sermons on the theme of *Joseph: a father's strength and gentleness*: <http://bit.ly/FeastSaintJoseph>
- Testimonies
 - The Archdiocese will be uploading monthly videos of witnesses living the evangelical values of Saint Joseph. The first videos are already available on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/diocesemtl>.

6. **Marking the transition from the WYD celebration of Palm Sunday to the feast of Christ the King,**

The diocesan Youth Ministry offers a mini-retreat entitled "**Our Living Hope**," this event is intended for teenagers (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-35) and will be held March 27 from 2:00-4:00 pm. The aim is to prepare young people to enter Holy Week and to mark the transition from the celebration of WYD on Palm Sunday to the feast of Christ the King. More details to follow soon!

ENG: <http://bit.ly/OurLivingHope>

FRA: <http://bit.ly/NotreEspéranceVivante>

Dear brothers and sisters, may your progress through this Lenten season be fruitful; and be assured that I stand beside you in the mission and that my prayers are likewise with you.

In our Saviour Jesus,



+ Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal