



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

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Dear priests and lay faithful of the Diocese of Saint John,

We have just been advised by the Province of New Brunswick that the entire province is moving to the orange level. In this level, a maximum of 50 persons can gather at Mass, and 25 persons for other physically distanced gatherings. Please note that masks/face coverings are mandatory for all activities. Be assured that the dispensation from the Holy Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still in effect.

For parish priests and staff, travel in and out of those zones in the orange level is not permitted, except for medical reasons. Please consult the latest mandatory order for further information on regulations during this time.

I would like to again express my deepest gratitude to our pastors, staff, pandemic protocol committees and volunteers for their continued dedication and hard work during these trying times. We are striving to do our best to keep everyone safe and healthy.

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Just as the God the Father confirms Jesus in His identity as the beloved Son of God, He affirms us in our identity and dignity as His own sons and daughters called to holiness and mission. As faithful, you continue to demonstrate great understanding and charity in this time of disruption. Your ability to maintain and foster the faith is a true testimony and witness to Christ's presence among us. As always, we entrust to Him all those who are ill and those on the front lines caring for them.

In His mercy,

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John