



**St. Jerome's Parish**  
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October 21, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We have all been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, whether through isolation, illness or financial challenges. I am writing to update you on how we are doing as a parish faith community.

During our parish closure (mid-March to late June), we reached out to you via uploading of the Sunday mass on YouTube, as well as emails to over 1200 Parishioners in our data base.

Since our re-opening in June, we have worked hard to ensure a safe environment for worship here at St. Jerome's Parish. This was made possible by the hard work of many volunteer cleaners, ministers of welcome, readers, extraordinary ministers of the eucharist and musicians.

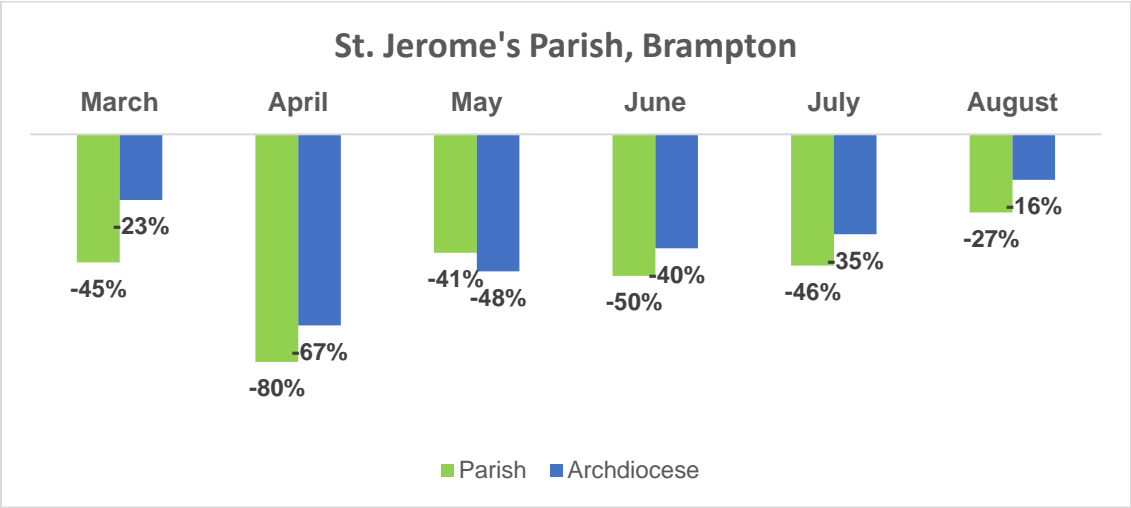
With the installation of our live streaming equipment and the training of operators to run it, we have increased the number of parishioners who watch our daily and Sunday masses from about 65 people to 225 people, and the number is growing. We have also been able to provide on-line masses for our Elementary and High schools.

Attendance at our Sunday masses has been greatly affected by social distancing. Attendance is smaller than before (currently about 25 per cent of normal - with 120 socially distanced seating in the church and 40 seats in the parish hall). We know that this may continue for some time and so we will continue to live streaming the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass, the 12:00 noon Sunday mass and our daily 9:10am weekday mass via our parish Facebook and our YouTube page. Those who cannot attend in person due to health or other issues at this time can find us by simple typing, "**St. Jerome Catholic Church Brampton Facebook page**" into your computer, smart phone or tablet. You do not need a Facebook page of your own. You can also go to our parish website, <https://stjerome.archtoronto.org> and click on the button "watch our mass" at the top of the page which will take you to our YouTube channel.

The pandemic has also had a negative impact on our financial health in 2020 as the charts on the following page indicate. I want to draw your attention to the following items:

- Offertory revenue in the March-August period declined by 52% as compared to 2019. We thank all those who have continued their contributions to the parish even though many of you cannot attend in person.

- In that same period, we noted a decline in operating expenses of 45% as we eliminated any non-essential costs and planned renovation projects. We have also benefitted from the 75 per cent government wage subsidy (CEWS) for all clergy and lay employees. That subsidy was currently \$4,000.00 per month. But starting in September it will be gradually reduced each month, with the last payment being in December.
- From September onwards, the projected costs will rise along with the decrease of CEWS and the need to purchase books and on-line material for our sacramental and parish programs (First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Bible Study and Youth Group), leaving us with a projected operating deficit of up to \$30,000 for the last four months of 2020.



**306 St. Jerome's Parish, Brampton**

*Parish figures exclude subsidies & government funds (HST rebate & CEWS) received*

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Var (\$)</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Archdiocese</u>
<b>March</b>	46,489	25,626	-20,862	-45%	-23%
<b>April</b>	92,742	18,751	-73,990	-80%	-67%
<b>May</b>	62,470	36,547	-25,923	-41%	-48%
<b>June</b>	62,365	31,434	-30,931	-50%	-40%
<b>July</b>	52,400	28,260	-24,140	-46%	-35%
<b>August</b>	41,377	30,039	-11,338	-27%	-16%
	357,842	170,657	187,185	-52%	

As we move into the fall season, we remain in a time of great uncertainty about the pandemic's direction and the possibility of another church closure. As a result, we ask your assistance with the following:

- Remember that whether the church itself remains open or closed, we are always ready to assist you or a family member via telephone message or email. When working remotely, we monitor our messages daily.
- Consider switching your support of the parish to Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG forms available through our parish website) or by credit card, or single or monthly donations through the “Donate now” button at [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)
- You can also use our touchless debit/credit card machine for processing one-time donations to the parish. To donate in this way please visit the parish office during weekday office hours (9:00am to 4:00pm).
- Please help us update your contact information, especially your email address by sending an email to the parish office [office@stjeromeparish.ca](mailto:office@stjeromeparish.ca) using your current email address and place in the subject line "Email address update." Be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in the email body.

Our new 2021 box of donation envelopes will soon be available for pick up. To comply with covid 19 directives concerning the handling of these boxes of envelopes you are asked to pick up any available box found on the tables in the gathering space. There is no need to remember your old envelope number, and we ask you not to try and find it amid the boxes. Just take any box, write your name, address and telephone number on the first five or so envelopes you use. This will ensure that number is assigned to you

Once again, I would like to thank each of you for your extraordinary support during these challenging times. I cannot express how much we appreciate your loyalty, ongoing support, and generosity. Should you have any questions, please be in touch with us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Msgr. Michael Busch  
Pastor

**\*Parish Finance Committee:**

Peter Mazzuchin (Vice Chair)  
Jorge Barbosa  
Peter Dalla Via  
Norma Ilic  
Kevin Sun  
Justus Villella