



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

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To the Church

Dear Disciples,

I write to you knowing the hope and anticipation you have poured into your Christmas ceremony plans. I write to you knowing the fatigue and disappointment that has sculpted a significant part of our lives since the onset of this global pandemic. It is also necessary that I write to you knowing our common hope for the safety and well-being of Creation.

The Omicron variant is a present danger to the people and medical systems of our two provinces; Kenora, ON, has already declared a state of emergency. Provincial forecasting for both Ontario and Manitoba show dramatic increases of COVID 19 cases in the coming days and weeks. With a test positivity rate of 10.9 and 556 new cases just today in Manitoba, the Province has asked everyone to avoid large gatherings. We are duty-bound to honour the province's request.

I encourage parishes to suspend in-person worship for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and The Feast of St Stephen, and where possible move ceremony to on-line platforms. Beginning December 27, 2021, all in-person worship will be suspended until we can meet again safely.

Let us continue to pray for one another, the human family, and indeed, all of Creation. These are very difficult times for all folk, may acts of kindness and generosity accompany us with God's help.

In Christ,

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