

# THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

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The Diocese of London:  
*Being a mission-oriented  
Church that forms  
disciples of Jesus*

Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
8:30 am—12 noon /  
1 pm—4:30 pm  
Website [www.stjtd.ca](http://www.stjtd.ca)

Questions have been raised by parishioners who wish to attend Mass at a church under the direction of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX). Is it legitimate to go to Mass there? May we receive Holy Communion at their Mass? In short, the answer to these two questions is 'no'.

SSPX is a group which broke away from the Catholic Church in 1988 when Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre illicitly ordained four men as bishops without approval of the Holy Father at the time, St. John Paul II. The schism, essentially doctrinal in nature, was over questions mostly about the legitimacy of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and its directives. In 2009, Pope Emeritus Benedict stated that the Society has “no canonical status in the Church and its ministers cannot legitimately exercise any ministry.”

While SSPX has much in common with Catholic teaching, SSPX itself is not in communion with the Holy Father or the local Catholic bishops. A conscientious Catholic should not knowingly attend a Mass celebrated by a priest of SSPX since the priest is not in good standing with the Church. If no other celebrations of the Eucharist are available (including those of the Eastern Catholic Church), Roman Catholics might visit a Mass of the SSPX but not take part in any of the sacraments celebrated there.

**Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dpumputis@dol.ca](mailto:dpumputis@dol.ca) or in the Parish Office 519-471-7022.**

*Fr. Don*

***Should you ever receive a questionable e-mail from Fr. Don, please DO NOT OPEN IT, but instead forward it to Fr. Don at [dpumputis@dol.ca](mailto:dpumputis@dol.ca). It is most likely a spam e-mail. He will forward it to the Diocese's I.T. department.***

**By the Bishop's Directive and the Ministry of Health, masks are now mandatory at Mass (except for medical reasons).**

**August Weekend Masses Volunteer Schedule** – We are in the process of preparing and looking for volunteers to help us screen the people attending all the masses for the month of August. Thank you to those who have given of their time and talents so far. There is a sign-up sheet. It is placed at the south area of the Narthex that leads to the Cry Room. Anything highlighted needs a volunteer. Please know that this process will be ongoing until we are cleared to fully open. *This request comes from the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Health* and therefore, we have to adhere to the directives in order to *remain open*. Any help you can give us is greatly appreciated. We pray for the day when we will be free to enter our worship space without screening or limits in numbers and especially social distancing. Everyone is missed. Thank you and God bless you. Stay safe and stay healthy.

**Should you wish to have a mass said for a friend or loved one, please contact the Parish Office. Pam will make arrangements with you to pick up a card, if needed.**

**The Parish Office will be able to open to Parishioners on Monday, July 27th! Masks are mandatory, social distancing rules will be in effect.**