



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 23, 2024

RE: Assistance for Jasper and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish

Dear Friends,

We have seen and read the news reports regarding the devastating fire in Jasper. Thank you for your prayers and support. On Friday of this past week, we received an update from Fr. Anthony Narisetty, Jasper's parish priest, on the initial needs of the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and the Town of Jasper.

The Town of Jasper has seen approximately 30% of the town damaged, with 358 structures destroyed. The church and rectory are intact, though there is extensive smoke damage throughout the building. Other local churches, such as the Anglican and United Church buildings, have been destroyed.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish keeps in contact with their parishioners. There are as many as 90 Catholic families who have lost everything in the fire, with many families being displaced around the province. Our prayers and support are needed, especially for these, but also for all who have been affected in any way by the tragedy of the fire. The parish is coordinating with the other faith communities in Jasper to continue meeting the community's essential needs, such as toiletries and household items.

As cleanup and rebuilding begins, the Archdiocese of Edmonton has received inquiries about how best to assist. The Archdiocese has set up a special fund to which people can donate. Monies received will be used to help parishioners as they take the first steps of returning home and rebuilding their lives.

Donations can be made by cheque to the "The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton – Jasper Fund" or via the donation button marked Jasper Fund on the Archdiocesan website, <https://caedm.ca/donate-to-the-jasper-fire/>.

As we continue to keep the residents of Jasper in our prayers, we pray also for the first responders and those assisting the residents in the cleanup and rebuilding efforts.

We sincerely thank you for your care and support for the people of Jasper. Once again, we witness firsthand the Catholic community supporting those in need. May God bless you for your great generosity.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton