

The Catholic Communities of St. Joseph's St. Patrick's & St. Paul's

UNITED IN FAITH

Parish Priest

Fr. Lazarus Guria
Cell: (902) 776-0228
Glebe: (902) 783-2631
lazguria@gmail.com

St. Patrick's Church

590 Highway 7, Lochaber, NS B2G 2L3
Phone: (902) 783-2631

Mass Times:

No mass until further notice

Parish Council Chairperson:

John Gillis: (902) 783-2959
gillis637@seasidehighspeed.com

St. Joseph's Church

2730 Ohio East Rd., PO Box 1022,
Antigonish, NS B2G 2S3

Mass Times:

Sunday: 10:30 am

Parish Council Chairperson:

Jerome Grant: (902) 867-1160
jerome.grant@ns.sympatico.ca

Religious Education Coordinator:

Meagan Kennedy: (902) 714-7647
meagan.kennedy@srsb.ca

St. Paul's Church

8033 Hwy 7, Sherbrooke, NS B0J 3C0

Mass Time:

No mass until further notice

Parish Council Chairperson:

Rennie Beaver: (902) 833-2341
aubrey.carol@ns.sympatico.ca

The Parable of the Mustard Seed



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19th, 2020

WELCOME BACK!

TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
10:30 AM, SUNDAY JULY 19TH, 2020

WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS
TO KEEP YOU SAFE

St. Joseph's Church

My dear parishioners,

It is with joy that we announce the re-opening of our Church. At the core of who we are, as disciples of Christ is our love for God and love of our neighbor. Our hunger to return to our place of worship reveals our love for God. In the midst of this pandemic, we must absolutely be mindful of the safety of our neighbors.

We have so many questions at this time regarding the safe return to church and to the celebration of the Mass. We will learn along the way. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. The health and safety of all is our first concern.

Our celebration will be simplified. I hope that our worship experience be one that is life-giving, as we break open the Word of God and are fed by the Body of Christ.

Please remember, the dispensation from Sunday Mass continues, TV and Radio Mass will continue to bring the celebration of the Mass into your home.

May God bless each of you and those that you love.

Naturally, we will have questions with respect to our safe return to church and the celebration of Mass. Our parish council group have conducted a thorough review of the Antigonish Diocese's guidelines for the safe re-opening of our churches. We also reflected on the procedures now in place for other Churches in the Diocese that recently re-opened.

While implementing these guidelines and directives provide no guarantee the COVID-19 virus will not be contracted, they are the best and most practical measures to ensure the safety of our parishioners.

We outline below the procedures and practices for the celebration of Mass under current circumstances. Our Celebration will be somewhat simplified but we must understand that the health and safety of all is our first concern.

We urge all parishioners to wear a face mask which is recommended by the Health Specialists for the control of the virus. We must ensure a physical distance of six feet, is strictly maintained.

In order to adhere to this distance requirement, we have determined the reduced capacity of our Church shall be in the range of 50 attendees; however, families of 2 or more, who plan to sit in the same pew, need not maintain the 6ft. distance requirement. This situation would expand our capacity to 50 plus. We will use a first come, first served arrangement.

One entrance (the automatic door with the ramp) will be used. Registration of each Mass attendee (**Name and Phone #**) is required to ensure we are in a position to perform tracing in the event of a positive test of the virus.

A volunteer will record your name and phone number as you enter the church. We are asking all parishioners to arrive earlier (say shortly after 10:00 am) to ensure Mass is attended on time.

Sanitization stations for the required hand cleaning will be available in the church lobby. An usher will then lead you to a pew, which will be marked consistent with the 6ft. distance requirement. In the circumstances you may not be able to sit in your regular pew. We request your cooperation in that we shall be using the marked seating starting with the front and working to the back to ensure we have room for all.

To help prevent the spread of the virus all paper material including Hymn books have been removed. If you wish to bring your own Missal please do not share it and please bring it home with you when you leave the church.

- There will be no entrance procession. The Priest will enter from the vestry.
- There will be no singing.
- All Holy Water has been removed.
- Water fountain is not in operation.
- The washroom is for use on an exception basis.

RECEIPT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- When coming down the center aisle please keep 6 feet apart. Tape on the floor will guide you. An usher will assist and also provide sanitized hand cleaning.
- Communicants are instructed to remove their masks (if wearing one) while the person ahead of you is receiving holy Communion. Removal of the mask (with sanitized hands) by one ear loop is recommended.
- After the priest says "Body of Christ" and the communicant responds "Amen" (at a distance of 6 feet), the communicant then approaches the priest to receive Holy Communion.
- Please use the side aisles for returning (after receiving Holy Communion) to your seat. The floor will be marked for 6 feet distancing.

At the end of Mass, we request you to wipe carefully the pew seat and all touched parts of the pew. Ushers will provide you with Sanitization wipes. We ask your cooperation in this matter as we have a limited number of volunteers.

OFFERINGS

The collection will not be taken in the usual manner. Instead, ushers will have collection baskets in place at the exits (i.e. the door with the ramp and the centre doors) for your donations

Please keep six feet apart when leaving the church.

We have changed our St Joseph's weekly Masses to only one Mass, which will be held at 10:30 am. This new schedule is on a trial basis for 4 weeks at which time we will review the matter based on Mass attendance and parishioner feedback.

In summary we appreciate the above procedures for attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion represent changes to what we have previously experienced. The changes are necessary and designed to prevent the spread of a very serious virus, COVID-19.

Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe.

St. Joseph's Church (cont.)

Thank You!

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the church re-opening possible with a Mass on Sunday July 12th.

Thanks to all parishioners for their cooperation, all wearing face masks, washing hands often, complying with the physical distancing of 6 feet and embracing the pre-arranged seating.

Special thanks to Carmie, Barry and Scott MacInnis for cleaning the Church floor in preparation for our re-opening.

The sound system was a bit weak and we will be investigating this matter with the return of our sound system specialist, Bernie MacLean.

Jerome Grant, Parish Council Chair

Collections for July 12th

Regular \$2,255, Cemetery Fund \$240, Social Action \$300

Lectors Schedule

July 19th Carl MacDonald

July 26th Donnie Dewar

Parish Registration Renewal Form:

We encourage all parishioners who haven't already done so to take a few minutes and complete their Parish Registration Renewal Form. The information you provide helps us to keep in touch during the COVID-19 crisis, and is beneficial to the effective operation of the parish. Thank you.



Prayer Requests

Father God

**We lift up all those who are facing illness today.
We ask that you would bring healing, comfort,
and peace to their bodies, calm their fears, and let
them experience the healing power of your Love.
In Jesus' name. Amen**

Website

The bulletin, scripture readings, homily, and resources for prayer and reflection, are available each week on our website by **Friday** evening.

Recent additions: This Month in the Diocese, July 2020; Seven Ears of Grain, July 13th; Protocols for Re-Opening of Our Churches in July.

Go to: www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org

Diocese of Antigonish

A Message from Bishop Kirkpatrick

welcome-back-to-a-safe-worship-environment

As a Diocese, we must continue to work together and assume the responsibility for re-opening our churches for the public celebration of Mass and the sacraments. We continue to ask for your full co-operation and patience as we do our very best to welcome back the faithful. At the core of who we are, as disciples of Christ is our love for God and love of our neighbour. Our hunger to return to our place of worship reveals our love for God. In the midst of this pandemic, we must absolutely be mindful of the safety of our neighbours. The risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread is still with us. While celebrations will be adapted to minimize this risk, it is hoped that our worship experience remains life-giving as we break open the Word of God and are fed by the Body of Christ.

Those who may not be able to attend church for health reasons or due to capacity restrictions are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. I encourage parishes to continue to livestream, video or provide radio coverage of Masses.

May God bless each of you and those that you love.

Welcome home!

Some ways to worship and stay connected:

Churches Online:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/churches-online/>

Our website's COVID-19 page:

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/index.php/covid-19>
Includes Bishop Kirkpatrick's letters, government links for COVID-19 updates, links to Masses, and more.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Dearest Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot, at this moment, receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Bulletin Submissions

Please send to Jean Collins at jpcollins@eastlink.ca or call **902-863-2482** before Thursday.