

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

You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23rd, 2020

WELCOME!

TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
10:30 AM, SUNDAY AUGUST 23RD, 2020
WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS
TO KEEP YOU SAFE

St. Joseph's Church

A Special Thank You

Special thanks to Mary Janet Grant for taking care of the church vestments and altar cloths for the past 6 years.

... and a Request

We need someone to take over Mary Janet's duties. Now we only have one mass, the alb, finger towels and purificators only need to be laundered every two months, and the altar cloths only 2-3 times per year. It does require someone who has good water, and there is a some ironing involved.

Please pray for a generous person to come forward to assist in this very important, and necessary, church ministry. One which helps keep our church operating efficiently and, as always, looking beautiful.

Collections for August 16th

Regular \$775 (23); Donation to the SJ Hillside Cemetery Association IMO Betty MacLean \$300.

Lectors Schedule

August 23rd Carl MacDonald

August 30th Janet Dewar

Parish Registration Renewal Form:

We encourage all parishioners who haven't already done so to complete their Parish Registration Renewal Form. Since the paper copies are no longer available, you can do this over the phone by calling Jerome Grant **902-867-1160**.

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**

Bulletin Submissions

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

Diocese of Antigonish

A Message from Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

"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."

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 online 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.

Mabou Shrine

Mass and Continuous Rosary

Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine, Mabou

The Annual Feast Day Celebrations may be a bit different this year, however Mass will be offered and a Continuous Rosary will be said for the intentions of all friends of the Shrine on **September 13th**. Save the date. Details to follow. For Inquiries please call 902-945-2221

The shrine is open for visitation following Public Health protocol, four visitors at a time, wearing masks and practising physical distancing.

The gift shop is open everyday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

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, August 2020; Seven Ears of Grain, August 17th

Go to: www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org

St. Joseph's Church

To our 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.

Premier Stephen McNeil and Dr. Robert Strang, chief medical officer of health for Nova Scotia, have announced that masks are now mandatory in most indoor public places, including places of worship and faith gatherings.

Children under two are exempt, as well as children aged two to four when their caregiver cannot get them to wear a mask. People with a valid medical reason for not wearing a mask are also exempt.

We must also ensure that a physical distance of 6 feet between people is strictly maintained. Families of 2 or more, who plan to sit in the same pew, need not maintain the 6 feet distance requirement.

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 changed our St. Joseph's weekly Masses to only one Mass, to be held at 10:30 am on Sunday. This new schedule was instituted on a trial basis for 4 weeks. Based on Mass attendance and parishioner feedback we have since decided to maintain this schedule, subject to further review in future.

In summary we appreciate the above procedures for attending Mass and receiving Holy Communication 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 Parish Council

Fr. Lazarus Guria