

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

UNITED IN FAITH

Parish Priest

Fr. Lazarus Guria

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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@srce.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



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13th, 2020

WELCOME!

TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

10:30 AM, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH,
2020

WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

TO KEEP YOU SAFE

St. Joseph's Church

Thank You!

To all the volunteers who helped with the funeral for Doug Cameron this week. Your help was very much appreciated.

Our very deepest condolences to his friends and family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Parish Council Meeting

The next regular meeting of St. Joseph's Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday, September 23rd, at 7:30pm**. It will be preceded by a short regular meeting of the SJ Hillside Cemetery Association at **7:00 pm**.

Both meetings will be held in the church, as the church pews provide adequate space for social distancing.

Collections for September 6th

Regular \$665 (29); Renovation Fund \$340 (9)

Lector Schedule

September 13th Donnie Dewar

Prayer Request

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, September 2020; Seven Ears of Grain, September 7th

Go to: www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org

Bulletin Submissions

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

Diocese of Antigonish

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.

Mass For Shut-Ins

Mass for Shut-Ins will return on **October 18th** with a new look. Episodes will be recorded in Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sydney River, on Saturdays at 11:00 am, for **broadcast on Sundays at 11:30 am on CTV**.

Episodes will also be available after the broadcast on the Diocese of Antigonish YouTube Channel.

Religious Education

New Option For Home Study

As pandemic protocols continue keeping us safely distanced and/or at home, the Diocese has invested in a new Online Learning Platform for virtual courses.

This new system will launch in October and be available for use by any Diocesan Office or Ministry. Its first use will be for our Finding God catechetical program to support self-directed and family study at home.

See answers to five questions about the new format from Catechetical Consultant Debbie Aker on Page 4 of this bulletin.

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/>

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.

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 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 Parish Council

Fr. Lazarus Guria

Debbie Aker, Catechetical Consultant for our Diocese, on the new Diocesan Online Learning Platform and options for catechism

1. What is online learning, how does it work and what ages can use it?

Our Diocesan Online Learning Platform will provide two options for parishes to provide off-site catechetical sessions this year as the pandemic protocols continue:

1. At home self-directed study
2. Virtual classrooms

The online learning environment is very different from the conventional classroom: the duration of sessions are much shorter -15 to 30 minutes, depending on the age of the child- and there are many more mediums of learning, spoken text, videos, graphics and interactive quizzes to name a few.

The virtual classroom provides the opportunity for catechists and children to gather online for their catechetical sessions. Several components of the at home self-directed study can be incorporated into the virtual classroom using screen sharing. There are a series of Protocols which must be followed to ensure a safe online environment for our children: please contact catecheticalconsultant@dioceseofantigonish.ca Each parish will require an Administrator to enroll the children in the online sessions and monitor their progress. The Administrator can be a faith formation coordinator, pastor, catechist or whomever the pastor assigns.

2. Can we use this if we haven't used the Finding God program before?

Any parish will be able to use the Finding God online at home self-study sessions, all that is required is a textbook for each child. No prior experience using Finding God is needed.

Loyola Press has graciously given us copyright permission to use their Finding God content, CDs and online resources. A group of six experienced catechists are now using the Finding God content and resources to create our online at home self-study sessions. They are preparing sessions for Grade 1 through Grade 6. Each grade has 25 sessions.

3. Will there be in-person catechism, or a catechist to work with?

Even though parishes may be taking advantage of our off-site online learning platform, we would recommend and encourage catechists and coordinators to continue to support the children and young people enrolled in the sessions by carrying out check-in calls with the parents. The check-in calls will let parishes know how the sessions are being received by the children and allow for questions from parents.

4. I don't have good internet access. Is there another option for home study?

If children and young people do not have access to a computer or the internet, Finding God offers Family Study Guides for each Grade which can be printed by the parish and provided to parents. The child will require a Finding God student textbook.

5. How much does the online program cost to use and how do I sign up?

There is no cost to the parish or the children enrolled to use our Diocesan Online Learning Platform. However, each child will require the Finding God student textbook. Parishes wishing to use our online learning options can contact Debbie at catecheticalconsultant@dioceseofantigonish.ca or **902-539-6188 ext. 226** or **1-800-656-5311 ext. 226**