

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 (October)

Saturday: 4:00 pm (November)

Parish Council Chairperson:

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

St. Paul's Church

8033 Hwy 7, Sherbrooke, NS B0J 3C0

Mass Time:

Sunday: 12:30 pm (starting Oct 11)

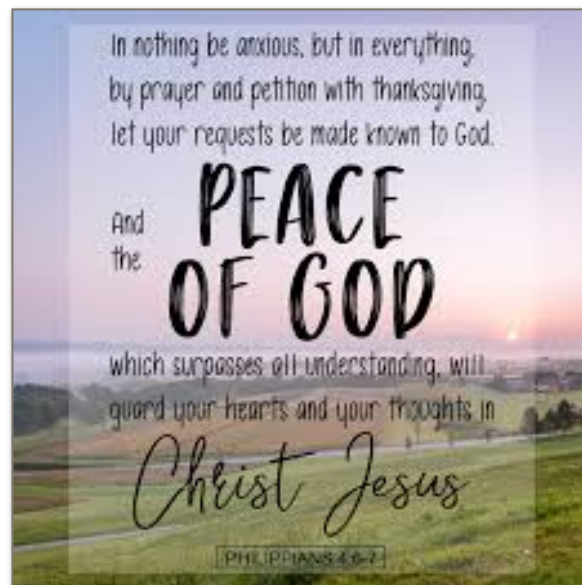
Parish Council Chairperson:

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

Website

www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org

Let your requests be known to God...
Philippians 4.6



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 4th, 2020

WELCOME!

TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
10:30 AM, SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH, 2020
WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS
TO KEEP YOU SAFE

St. Joseph's Church

Important and Urgent Message for All Parishioners

Religious Education

New Diocesan On Line Learning Platform

We refer you to information from Debbie Aker, Catechetical Consultant for the Diocese, on page 4 of this bulletin.

Debbie answers five questions, and provides complete details of this new Learning Platform. Please review.

What is required from all Parishioners?

#1 Please identify the names of Children in our area who may be candidates for the Learning Platform. In this regard the Parish does not have the names of many parents who do not attend St. Joseph's Church but may want their children to receive Religious Education. Please help us with this important matter and forward the names to Father Lazarus or Jerome Grant or any other member of Parish Council.

2 An Administrator is required to enrol the children in the On Line Learning and simply monitor their progress. Please consider volunteering for this Role. Meagan Kennedy is no longer available to teach/coordinate religious education in this parish. We wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Meagan for all her work and dedication to our Religious Education Program.

#3 There is no cost for enrolling in the On Line learning. However each child will require a textbook. The cost is estimated at \$25-\$30 for each book. To help with this cost particularly for families of more than one student, the Parish will reimburse the costs in excess of \$25 for each family.

#4 The participation of children in a Religious Education Program is essential to the ultimate growth of the Parish. Therefore it is the responsibility of all parishioners to support the new On Line Learning Platform. Thank you.

Debbie Aker's contact information:

catecheticalconsultant@dioceseofantigonish.ca
 902-539-6188 ext 226 or 1-800-656-5311 ext 226

Collections for September 27th

Regular \$677.58 (26), Needs of the Canadian Church \$20 (1), Church Renovation Fund \$20 (1)

Lector Schedule

October 4th Graham MacDonald

The Ace has Gone!

The Ace of Spades was picked last Friday. Congratulations to the winner, and many thanks to all of the volunteers and participants who made the event such a success.

St. Joseph's Church (cont.)

Change in Weekly Mass Time

Effective November 7th our weekly mass will be held at 4:00 pm each Saturday

There will be no Sunday Mass after November 1st

This change in the weekly Mass is consistent with our past practice of having Mass at 4:00 pm on Saturday during Atlantic Standard Time. However, due to Covid-19 regulations, we are not in a position to additionally hold a Sunday morning Mass. To do so we would need to do a complete cleaning of the Church interior each week after the 4:00 pm Mass and before Mass on Sunday. This is a significant task, and it appears we do not have enough volunteers to accept this substantive responsibility.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank all parishioners who are complying with the Covid-19 regulations while attending our weekly 10:30 am Mass. A very special thanks also to the team of volunteers who regularly administered the Covid-19 regulations at each Mass since the Church reopened on July 12th. It appears parishioners are confident attending Mass with the strict implementation of the regulations. Our 10:30 am Mass attendance more than doubled since we first started on July 12th.

We are hopeful that church attendance at current levels will be maintained at the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass. We appreciate it represents another change. However, the Covid-19 virus has resulted in many changes in our lifestyle and we trust our Mass time change will be acceptable.

Going forward with the 4:00 pm Mass from November 7th, it is only reasonable to expect a new team of volunteers to come forward to help implement the Covid-19 regulations for safe Mass attendance. In this regard, if you are able to help out, please contact Jerome Grant as soon as possible at

902-867-1160 or jerome.grant@ns.sympatico.ca.

Thank you. Jerome Grant, Parish Council Chair

Prayer Requests

Please Pray for Theresa MacMullin

Currently a patient at St. Martha's Regional Hospital, Theresa is a long time parishioner of St. Joseph's. She served on the CWL Council and St. Joseph's Parish Council until her recent illness.

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

COVID-19 Precautions

St. Joseph's Parish Council has conducted a thorough review of the Antigonish Diocese's guidelines for the safe re-opening of churches. While implementing these guidelines 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. Our Celebration will be somewhat simplified but we must understand that the health and safety of all is our first concern.

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 (automatic door with the ramp) will be used. A volunteer will record your name and phone number as you enter the church. Registration of each Mass attendee is required to ensure we are in a position to perform tracing in the event of a positive test of the virus.

We are asking all parishioners to arrive early (say shortly after 10:00 am) to ensure Mass is attended on time.

Sanitization stations for cleaning are available in the church lobby. An usher will lead you to a pew, which is marked with the 6ft. distance requirement, starting at 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 take 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.

St. Joseph's weekly Masses have been changed to one Mass at 10:30 am on Sunday. Depending on attendance and parishioner feedback this schedule will be 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

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.

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."

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.

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**



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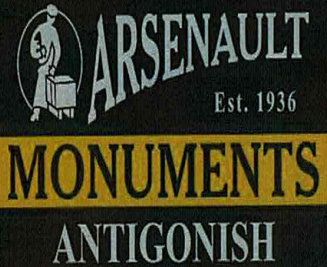
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and creation of
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