

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 Time:

Saturday: 4:00 pm

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

Parish Council Chairperson:

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

Website

www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20th, 2020

Website

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

Recent additions: Seven Ears of Grain, December 14th; Information and registration forms for the Christmas Eve masses at St. Joseph's Church; Christmas Season Message for St. Joseph's Parishioners.

Go to: www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org

Bulletin Submissions

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

St. Joseph's Church

ADVENT COLLECTIONS

There is a growing need this year for the services of the FOOD BANK and the MASS FOR SHUT-INS. To help these two worthy initiatives meet their costs you may wish to make donation through our weekly collection during Advent. Special envelopes are provided at the back the Church for your convenience. Please record your name, envelope #, and the selected charity/charities on the envelope.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

As you know it has been the practice for many parishioners to contribute to the Flower Fund in memory of past loved ones during Christmas and Easter. The proceeds are used to purchase flowers and other decorations, and any extra goes into general revenue to support the upkeep of the church.

We have provided special envelopes at the back of the church. Please use these envelopes to enclose your donation, and record your name, envelope #, and the names of those you wish to have remembered during the Christmas season.

You may place your donations in the weekly Mass collection basket for the remainder of 2020. Thank you.

Collections for December 12th

Regular \$1,316 (39); Social Action \$250 (1); Food Bank \$80 (2); Mass for Shut-Ins \$40 (2); Flower/Decoration Fund \$60 (2); Missals \$10

Donation Envelopes for 2021

Are now available on a table at the back of the church.

Lector Schedule

December 19th Carl MacDonald

Our Deepest Condolences

To Collette Stewart of Ohio, on the recent death of her father Vincent MacGillivray

And to the family, friends and parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, Lochaber, on the recent death of Ralph MacDonald

A sad loss for both of their communities.

Please keep their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.



Christmas Masses

St. Paul's Church

December 24th 4:00 pm Fr. Lazarus Guria

St. Joseph's Church

December 24th 5:00 pm Fr. Bernie MacAdam

December 24th 11:00 pm Fr. Lazarus Guria

Due to Covid-19, there are only a limited number of places available for each mass, and pre-registration is required.

Details on how to register for the Christmas Eve masses at St. Joseph's, and the forms required, are available on Pages 5 and 6 of this bulletin, and on the website under **Christmas**.

Please register as soon as possible.

Radio and TV Masses on Christmas Day

Radio XFM 98.9 from St. Ninian's Cathedral at 8:30 am

CTV Cable 261 (Mass for Shut-Ins) at 12 noon

Recorded videos from the Mass for Shut-Ins are available on the Diocese of Antigonish YouTube channel

New Year's Day Mass

St. Paul's Church

Friday, January 1st at 11:00 am

This mass is for all parishioners of St. Paul's, St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's. Pre-registration is required. Those who are not able to attend the Mass on New Year's Day are given a dispensation for the January 1st Holy Day of Obligation.

Confirmation Classes

St. Ninian's Cathedral, Antigonish

Sunday evenings: 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

January 17th to March 28th, 2021

Registration for confirmation is now open to baptized candidates in Grade 9 and older. All are welcome, including candidates from St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's and St. Paul's.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is not being scheduled at this point. However, we are preparing our Candidates in anticipation of it's being scheduled close to those dates.

Contact Leonard MacNeil at stninianreld@ns.sympatico.ca for a registration form. Please register as soon as possible.

Covid-19 protocols (e.g. wearing masks, social distancing) will be in place.

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. 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.

St. Joseph's weekly Masses have been changed to one Mass at 4:00 pm on Saturday. We are asking all parishioners to arrive early (say shortly after 3:30 pm) to ensure Mass starts 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.

In summary we appreciate the procedures for attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion represent changes to our previous experience. 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.

New Each Tuesday

Weekly Advent Reflections with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

Video reflections will be posted each Tuesday during Advent on the Diocese of Antigonish [Facebook](#) page.

Available also on our [YouTube Channel](#) and the [Celebrating Advent](#) page on our website:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/celebrating-advent/>

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St Joseph's Parish thanks CACL(902 863 5024) for the printing and creation of our bulletin ads.

St. Joseph's
Lakeside Community
Center

It's a beautiful facility. Excellent for Banquets, Weddings, and Conferences. Phone (902) 867-2626 Check our Facebook page for upcoming events.

Christmas Eve Mass Registration

We plan to have two Christmas Masses on December 24th, 2020

5:00 PM and 11:00 PM

As you know we are required to strictly adhere to the Covid-19 Regulations to help prevent the spreading of the virus. Accordingly, our seating capacity is substantially less than in prior years

Based on the attendance at Christmas Eve Masses in past years there may not be sufficient space due the need for social distancing.

To ensure parishioners have seating available when they arrive for one of the Christmas Eve Masses it is necessary to require prior registration.

WE ASK THAT IF YOU CHANGE/CANCEL YOUR PLANS (after registration) TO ATTEND THE SELECTED MASS PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY. A CANCELLATION MAY ENABLE US TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER PARISHIONERS WAITING FOR RESERVED SEATING

Beginning DECEMBER 10th, we will be taking requests for the registration of seating.

A form is attached to serve as a Guide with respect to the registration information required. Please complete the Guide before contacting us to request registration.

You may Email your request for registration or telephone the information to:

Jerome Grant Email. Jerome.grant@ns.sympatico.ca or phone: 902-867-1160

If you are unable to reach Jerome Grant please contact:

Donnie Dewar. Email: d.dewar.5@gmail.com or phone: 902-863-1321

We will respond as quickly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

GUIDE

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION TO ATTEND CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

SELECT THE MASS:

DECEMBER 24th.....5:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24th.....11:00 P.M.

NAME: _____ **PHONE #** _____

EMAIL: _____

NAMES AND ADDRESSES (COMMUNITY/PROVINCE) OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND MASS WITH YOU:

NAME	COMMUNITY/PROVINCE
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND MASS CHANGE (AFTER YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR RESERVATION) PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.