

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

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6

Christmas

December 25th, 2020



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 19th

Regular \$785 (32); Social Action \$100 (1); Mass for Shut-Ins \$50 (1); Cemetery Fund \$180 (3); Missals \$10

Donation Envelopes for 2021

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

Lector Schedule

December 24th 5:00 pm Janet Dewar
December 24th 11:00 pm Volunteer
December 26th 4:00 pm Kim Timmons

Website

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

Recent additions: Christmas Season Message for St. Joseph's Parishioners; Seven Ears of Grain, December 21st.

Go to: www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org

Bulletin Submissions

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

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.

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

St. Joseph's Church

December 26th 4:00 pm Fr. Lazarus Guria

St. Paul's Church

December 27th 12:30 pm Fr. Lazarus Guria

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 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.

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

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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.