

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON MESSAGE TO ST JOSEPH'S PARISHIONERS**

I guess it is safe to say that this time last year as we were preparing joyfully for the Christmas season, we did not think we would be headed for a pandemic with the Covid-19 virus. This has certainly created many challenges for us personally and spiritually with being on lockdown in our homes and having to close the church.

Closing of the Church from March to July had a significant and negative impact on Church attendance. With the re-opening of the church in July the need to adhere to Covid-19 regulations reduced our church capacity for attending Mass. However, during our lockdown we, as a parish, were able to have a very successful campaign to collect a significant amount in donations for our Social Action Committee to help those in need in our parish. Thank you very much.

There were only a few funerals held and disappointingly it was not feasible to have funeral receptions in the Community Center. This was very unfortunate as there were several parishioners who passed away in 2020. We do express our sincere condolences to the families for the loss of their loved ones.

We are now holding a weekly Mass with attendance very close to the reduced capacity limit as per Covid-19. We are also scheduling two Christmas Eve Masses for our St Joseph's parishioners and their families, subject of course to the space limitations dictated by Covid-19. We have reached out via the weekly Bulletin, the Website, and to those not receiving Email Bulletins advising them about the times of the two Masses and the registration process.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the many volunteers who made Mass attendance possible under difficult and strict conditions.

Naturally the low Mass attendance in 2020 had a negative impact on our revenue which is down about 30% from 2019. Unfortunately, our expenses did not reduce by the same amount.

We certainly thank you for your generous financial support through these difficult times.

To make it easier for those parishioners who are unable to attend Mass, we are now able to accept E-TRANSFERS that are deposited directly into our East Coast Credit Union parish account. Our Email address for e-transfers is: [sjos1927@gmail.com](mailto:sjos1927@gmail.com)

Donations can also be made through our parish website: [www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org](http://www.saintjosephscatholicchurch.org)

Or, if you wish, you may send a cheque by regular mail to:

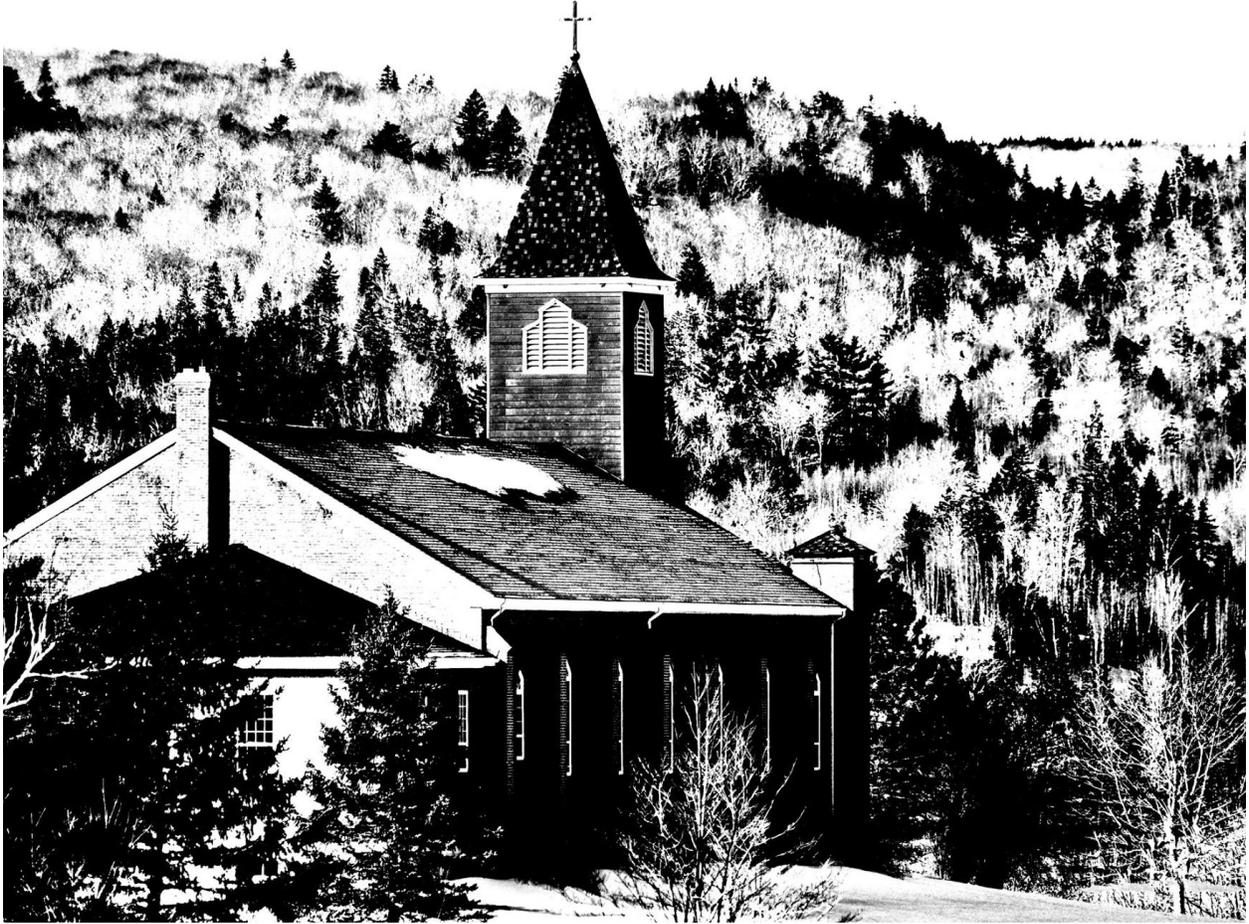
**St. Joseph's Church, 2730 Ohio East Rd., P.O. Box 1022, Antigonish, NS B2G 2S3**

St. Joseph's Parish Council takes this opportunity to extend best wishes to all parishioners for a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021.

Jerome Grant Parish Council Chair: [902-867-1160](tel:902-867-1160)

P.S. Please share the above message with those in the parish not receiving Email.

Thank you



St. Joseph's Church - James Smeaton, Photography