

## Fr. Tom Stephan



Fr. Tom Stephan was born in Kerala, India, on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1980. He entered the seminary after graduating from high school, and was ordained as a priest on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007.

**He served as a priest** in India for 15 years, working primarily in the field of education. He spent 2½ years as a school principal, while also coordinating education for the diocese, overseeing 42 schools, training teachers and school principals, and helping with Religious Education and curriculum development. During these 15 years he also served as parish priest in 4 different parishes. Always a dual charge. He has also published 4 books in Malayalam, his mother tongue.

**He arrived in Canada** on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2022, at the request of the Diocese of Antigonish which has been actively recruiting international priests to help relieve the current shortage of parish priests here. He has spent the last 6 months getting used to our weather and local culture, while assisting Fr. Tom MacNeil at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Glasgow. He was appointed as our parish priest in February 2023.

**His passion is evangelization**; bringing people into the Church and into a closer relationship with God. He was led by the Holy Spirit to convert two villages in India to the Catholic faith.

**Please make him welcome.** He wants to meet as many parishioners and former parishioners as possible, to get to know you, and to serve you as a parish priest in whatever way he can. In addition to serving at Mass and on our Parish Councils, he is actively planning on developing Religious Education programs for the children. He is also available for baptisms, weddings, and funerals, to bless your home, to pray for yourself and your loved ones, to hear confessions, to anoint the sick and dying, to visit with those who are isolated and lonely, and to bring communion to those who are unable to attend Mass.

**Fr. Tom can be reached at:**

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