

Margaree Family of Catholic Churches

St. Joseph's St. Michael's/St-Michel St. Patrick's

Fr. Macdonald Ibeh Contact: pastor@mfocc.ca Tel: 902-235-2435 © 1-902-565-9994

Mission Statement: Open to God. Open to Others. Open to Transformation.

Third Sunday of Easter – April 30, 2017

Masses for next weekend: St. Joseph's – 6 p.m. Saturday; St. Patrick's – 9:30 a.m. and St. Michael's – 11 a.m. on Sunday

Weekday Masses:

Mon., May 1 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Harold Gillis req. by Eileen Coady & Wayne Robicheau

Tues., May 2 - St. Joseph's – 6:30 p.m. – Jessie Walker req. by Mary MacLellan

Wed., May 3 – St. Patrick's – 6:30 p.m. – David Ingraham req. by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Godreau

Thurs., May 4 – St. Michael's – 6:30 p.m. – Palliative Care for All (**Please note change in time for this Thursday only.**)

Fri., May 5 – St. Patrick's – 6:30 p.m. – Mary Jane MacEachern req. by Mr. & Mrs. Isidore Doucet

Sat., May 6 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – John L. MacKinnon req. by Marie Bushor

Communion calls: Friday, May 5

Confessions: available before Mass

Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 7, 2017

Church	Greeters/gift bearers	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
St. Joseph's	Vincent & Mary	Joyce	Bill, Marie, Lawrence
St. Michael's	Rebecca	Mary H., Lawrence	Hubert, Claudia, Eugene
St. Patrick's	Tom & Helen G.	Wilfridine, Lowell	Shaun, Jackie, Mose

Meetings

Parish Annual Meeting: St. Patrick's – May 2 – 7:15 p.m.

Prayer Corner: Please pray for healing for Dora Carignan, Joe & Marilyn Gledhill, Barry Guihan, Hazel Rhindress (great granddaughter of Tommy & Helen Timmons), Rose Anne Chiasson, Jeanette Crane, Geraldine MacLellan, Mary Sutter, Harriett Aucoin, Annie Roach, Eva Murphy, Marie Helen LeBlanc, Hughie MacKenzie and Ernie LeBlanc.

If there is someone who is sick and would like his/her name in the prayer corner, please contact the parish office either by phone: 902-235-2435 or email: office@mfocc.ca.

Condolences are extended to the family of Jeanie Poirier (sister of Viola leBlanc).

Bulletin announcements may be emailed to bulletins@mfocc.ca no later than 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Please note: The parish office will be closed from 12 – 1 p.m. and 3 – 4 p.m. next Thursday only because of the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.

Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things pass away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He/She who has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the Easter Season: Risen Lord, during this Easter season, we lift to you our Christian brothers and sisters in Africa. In imitation of the merciful Jesus, may they be able to give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace.

Ministry News

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Helpline - The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition also has set up a Compassionate Community Care Helpline for anyone seeking advice, help and support regarding euthanasia, assisted suicide and all end-of-life treatment issues. The number is 1-855-675-8749, and the service is confidential and free and available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Videoconference: Eucharist and Mission - On May 13 our Liturgy Office of the Diocese of Antigonish will present our 4th Annual Liturgy videoconference with presenter Marilyn J. Sweet who will explore this theme and its implications for the living out of our faith. It will take place at the NSCC Campus, Port Hawkesbury from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$20. per participant; pre-registration required; phone 902-539-6188, ext. 237. Tea & coffee will be provided. Bring your own brown bag lunch.

Steubenville Atlantic - July seems a long way away, but we're hard at work preparing for the Steubenville Atlantic conference on July 7-9, 2017. Steubenville Atlantic is the annual high school youth conference at Dalhousie University. This year's conference theme is "Elevate." Steubenville is a conference for high school students aged 14- 18. If you are interested in attending or sending someone to join us, or for more info, please email nolan@dioceseofantigonish.ca or call at [1-902-539-6188](tel:1-902-539-6188) Ext. 241. Steubenville is an unforgettable experience; we hope that you'll join us!

Atlantic Marian Gathering will take place in Halifax on June 2-4, 2017 at Mount St. Vincent University. The theme this year is `My Immaculate Heart will be Your Refuge`. It is promising to be a wonderful spirit-filled weekend with many graces and blessings. For more information, visit mariangatheringhalifax.com

2017 Atlantic Catechetical Association Conference hosted by the Diocese of Antigonish will be held at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, Sydney, NS on Oct. 20-22, 2017. The theme is: The Spirituality of the Catechist – Growing in Faith. Registration Fees: Early (before May 15) - \$225; Late (after May 15) - \$275. Brochures with a registration form are available at the entrance of the three churches.

Are you interested in becoming a deacon? There will be a meeting of men aged 35-65 who are interested in the diaconate. This meeting will be held at St. Joseph Parish Hall, Port Hawkesbury on Saturday, May 20, starting at 11 a.m., having lunch together and then continuing till no later than 3 p.m. Some deacons, candidates and the director will be present to make presentations and to take inquiries about the Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program. If interested, you are asked to register (for meal purposes) with Fr. Bedford Doucette, [902-539-6188](tel:902-539-6188) ext. 235 or by email at bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca

Antigonish Diocesan Society Annual Collection – The annual collection for the Antigonish Diocesan Society will take place on Sun., May 7. An envelope is provided in your box of envelopes. Since 1942, the Antigonish Diocesan Society has provided financial assistance to over 200 seminarians from the Diocese of Antigonish. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Cemetery Clean-ups will take place at **St. Patrick's on Sat., May 6** and at **St. Michael's on May 20 with a rain date of May 27**. All help will be greatly appreciated.

CWL & K of C

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care - All parishioners, family and friends of MFOCC are invited to join us in prayer and solidarity on May 4th from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Church for 12 hours of prayer for Palliative Care. Following the 6:30 mass everyone is invited to St. Michael's hall for coffee, tea and sweets and an information session on palliative care. There will be a free will offering in support of Inverness and Cheticamp palliative care programs. Please join us in person or in prayer. - St. Michael's CWL

Ham & Scalloped Potatoes Dinner – Sunday, May 7 at St Michael's Hall from 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Robert F. Wicks Memorial Council, # 9936 Margaree; ham & scalloped potatoes; fruit cup for dessert; tea or coffee; adults - \$10; children under 12 -\$6; under 6, free

St. Michael's CWL is encouraging parishioners to donate non-perishables for the Food Bank and place them in the box at the entrance of the Church.

St. Michael's CWL The May meeting of St. Michael's CWL will be held on Wed., May 3 at 1:30pm at St. Michael's Hall. The executive will meet at 12:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Open House – You are invited to an open house at Cecile's home (6493 Cabot Trail) on Monday, May 7 from 2 – 4 p.m. to view our 100 "Little Dresses for Africa", most of which were made with donated material! Everyone welcome! Refreshments will be served.

St. Michael's CWL are still collecting used stamps. Please leave a 1/8" border around each stamp.

Scholarship Forms – The Knights of Columbus Fr. Robert Wicks' Scholarship forms are now available at the school for grade twelve graduates of MFOCC.

Other & Community News

Ultreya: Cursillistas and Challengers are reminded of the Ultreya which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3 at St. Joseph Renewal Center in Mabou. The evening will begin with Liturgy of the Word at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Day Program at Foyer Père Fiset - The Day Program will be offered at Foyer Père Fiset to seniors from the the Cheticamp, St. Joseph du Moine and Margaree area for another season. Program will start May 16. Transportation will be provided by the Foyer mini-bus. Last year's participants must reapply. For more information or to make application, please call Denise Bourgeois or Christine Belliveau at 224-2087 before Monday, May 1, 2017.

South West Margaree Seniors - Card plays will continue on Mondays at 7 p.m.

Driving Course for Seniors - East Margaree New Horizon' Seniors Club is hosting a Driving Course for Seniors at their club on May 6 (**Please note corrected date.**) from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free of charge, 65 years & over. Instructor- Bernie Larusic & RCMP officer. Deadline to register is April 30. Contact person Art Hall 902 235-2656, Bring bag lunch (coffee/ tea & sweets will be provided)

Inverness County Singers Spring Concerts - Please join us for "A tribute to The Beatles" a spring concert by the Inverness County Singers and the Young County Singers, directed by Laurel Browne with piano accompaniment by Lawrence Cameron. Performances will be on Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Mabou Parish Hall, Mabou; Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m., St. Mark's United Church, Port Hawkesbury and Monday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Inverness County Centre for the Arts. Freewill donations go to local charities after expenses.

Palliative Care for All

Are you aware of what services could be available to you should you face a life-threatening illness? Statistics show that many people are unaware that they can access a wide variety of services IF they are offered in an area. The problem facing Canadians is that only 16 - 30% have access to or receive these services (report of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association).

The services to which I am referring are known as Palliative Care. The World Health Organization defines Palliative Care as “an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.”

The National Hospice Palliative Care Week will be celebrated from May 7-13, 2017. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Hospice Palliative Care is about living well. Right to the end.” As a lead-in to this week, The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is sponsoring the second annual “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” and has invited all the councils across Canada and its 83 000 plus members to participate. The general public is invited to join in the activities.

In September 2016, the National President of The Catholic Women’s League wrote to the Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, with a copy to Prime Minister Trudeau urging “the federal government to identify palliative care as an insured health service covered under the Canada Health Act and to develop a national strategy for uniform standards and delivery of palliative care as defined by the World Health Organization.”

What can each of us do to help make palliative care available for all who require it? We can check out the program planned by CWL councils for the 12 Hours of Prayer; make copies of the petition on the CWL website (cwl.ca) (WE, the undersigned, residents of Canada, request the House of Commons in Parliament assembled: TO specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the Canada Health Act so that provincial and territorial governments will be entitled to funds under the Canada Health Transfer system to be used to provide accessible and available hospice palliative care for all residents in their respective provinces and territories.” and gather signatures; contact your MP (Encourage him/her to support Bill C-277 *Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act* which calls on the government to amend the Canada Health Act to identify palliative care as an insured health service.) and MLA and urge them to advocate for palliative care for all who need it; discern if you might be called to be a palliative care volunteer; volunteer to fund raise for your local palliative care group; spread the word that much work needs to be done so that palliative care is available to everyone; check out the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care website (chpca.ca) for more information.

Everyone is entitled to the care and comfort provided by palliative care whether is at home, in a nursing home or in special hospice facilities. Let us commit ourselves to doing whatever we can to make palliative care available for all.

(This article by Cecile Miller first appeared in Diocesan Voices in *The Cape Breton Post*.)