

+Margaree Family of Catholic Churches

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

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

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Feb. 7, 2021

Masses are being offered in our three churches on the weekend: St. Joseph's – Sat., 4 p.m.; St. Patrick's – Sun., 9:30 a.m.; St. Michael's – Sun., 11 a.m. Please note: Parishioners need to call from Wednesday to Friday each week to reserve a seat for Mass: St. Joseph's – 902-248-2612; St. Michael's – 902-235-2944 and St. Patrick's – 902-248-2305.

Condolences are extended to the families of: Helen (Carroll) Dumas, Alex Gallant, brother of Leo Paul; and Stella (Burns) Warner.

Prayer Corner: Phil Craig, Jackie Murphy, Marilyn & Joe Gledhill, Joan Burns, Very Rev. Michael MacEwen, Lynne Cameron, Elaine (Murphy) Gillis, Jim MacFarlane, Leroy LeFort, Bernice Munro and Donelda Gillis. If you are sick and would like your name in the Prayer Corner, please contact the Parish Office.

Weekday Masses: There will be no weekday Masses.

Mass on Sunday: Mass for Shut-ins airs on Sundays on CTV at 11:30 a.m.

Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth at 10:30 a.m.; Masses, Monday to Friday, 12:15 p.m. **Also on Sunday** – XFM broadcasts the Mass from St. Ninian Cathedral around 8:30 a.m. **Other Masses in the Inverness Deanery:** Check on the Antigonish Diocesan website (dioceseofantigonish.ca) for other live-streamed Masses on Sundays.

Daily TV Mass is broadcast on VISION TV at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday, the Daily TV Mass is broadcast at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. If you are not available at those times, you can find the Mass on You tube. Daily Mass live from St. Mary's Basilica weekdays (Monday to Friday) at 12:15 p.m. (Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth)

There are other Masses also available on Youtube. Here is a prayer to say for a Spiritual Communion when you are watching the Mass:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Vocations - LORD of the Harvest, BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving— for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in religious life, of a life consecrated to you. UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

A plea for your collection envelopes: Even though the Churches are opened, we realize that some people have not returned as yet. We ask that you continue to send your contribution. For St. Joseph's: You can send your envelopes by mail to St. Joseph's Parish, Box 1C, S.W. Margaree, NS B0E 3H0
For St. Michael's: You can send your contribution by mail to St. Michael's Parish, 1181 East Margaree Rd., Margaree, NS B0E 1Y0 Drop it in the slot, **OR** by E-transfer (which is the better way if you have access). Send your E-transfer to paula.cormier@credit.ca. Paula's phone number is 902-235-2095.

For St. Patrick's: You can send your contribution by mail to St. Patrick's Parish, N.E. Margaree, NS B0E 2H0 **OR** by E-transfer. Send your E-transfer to ccl.mllr@gmail.com. Cecile's phone number is 902-2482305. If you prefer, you can make one payment per month rather than weekly payments.

Thank you from the Pastor's desk: Thank you to all who continue to support the Church. We want to recognize you and let you know we appreciate your support. Please continue.

Bulletin –

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Helpline - 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.

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' Intention for January – **Evangelization:** *Human fraternity* – May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Pope Francis' Intention for February - Violence Against Women - We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

MINISTRY NEWS

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17, 2021

MASSES: St. Joseph's – 4 p.m.

St. Patrick's – 5:30 p.m.

St. Michael's – 7 p.m.

From Bishop Kirkpatrick: In accordance with a Note from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, this year the ashes are to be imposed by sprinkling them on the head of the faithful. The rite of sprinkling ashes on the head of the penitents is already a well-established and common practice in many countries across the world.

The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.

The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest or Deacon takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.

Year of St. Joseph - Pope Francis has declared a Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. Here is a prayer to say during the year.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Apostolic Letter for the Year of St. Joseph – Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*. It can be downloaded from the Vatican website: vatican.va

FORMED – We have purchased the online platform FORMED, and it is available to all parishioners, free of charge, simply by signing in. Here’s how to sign in: There are three easy steps: 1) Go to formed.org/signup. 2) Enter St. Michael’s Parish; then click on 1181 East Margaree Rd. 3) Enter your name and email. You are signed in!

FORMED – Every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. watch *The Augustine Institute Show* hosted by Dr. Tim Gray. It is a half hour show with a special guest each week. “It will engage and encourage you to a deeper level of trust and growth in your Catholic faith.”

New on FORMED - *The Sanctuary Course*, exploring the intersection of faith and mental health has been recently added. There are eight sessions with each one featuring someone with a lived experience and commentary by therapists, clergy, bishops and clinicians. The topics include: mental illness, stigma, self-care, recovery and support of the community. Its purpose is for education.

Also on FORMED - Check out information on the Year of St. Joseph. Click on SEARCH and type in the topic you would like to learn more about.

FORMED FOR LENT: “Prepare Your Heart for Lent” on Tues., Feb. 16 at 8 p.m., a one-hour program. Lenten meditations will be offered including: “Why 40 Days?”, “Into the Wilderness”, “Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving” and “What’s Distracting You?”

CWL & K of C NEWS

St. Patrick’s CWL - Sheila is now collecting dues (\$22.) for 2021.

St. Michael’s CWL - We hope and pray that all is well with you and your family. Did you remember to pay your 2021 membership dues (\$22)? If not, Anne (902-235-2064) and Marie Hilda (902-235-2944) will gladly accept your dues until Feb.28, 2021. Keep safe and healthy! May God abundantly bless you and yours!

OTHER NEWS

Thank you – St. Patrick’s is very grateful for the gift of \$2 000 from the estate of the late Catherine McDaniel. The money will go to St. Patrick’s Hall, as we remember all that Catherine and her sister Mary did to direct St. Patrick’s Workshop in raising thousands of dollars for St. Patrick’s Hall.

ABC’S of LENT

Avoid negative sources, people, places, things and habits. **B**elieve in yourself. **C**onsider things from every angle. **D**on’t give up and don’t give in. **E**njoy life today; yesterday is gone, and tomorrow may never come. **F**amily and friends are hidden treasures; seek them and enjoy their riches. **G**ive more than you planned to give. **H**ang on to your dreams. **I**gnore those who try to discourage you. **J**ust do it. **K**eep on trying; no matter how hard it seems, it will get easier. **L**ove yourself first and most. **M**ake it happen. **N**ever lie, cheat or steal; always strike a fair deal. **O**pen your eyes and see things as they really are. **P**ractice makes perfect. **Q**uitters never win, and winners never quit. **R**ead; study and learn about everything important in your life. **S**top procrastinating. **T**ake control of your own destiny. **U**nderstand yourself in order to better understand others. **V**isualize it. **W**ant it more than anything. **X**-celerate your efforts. **Y**ou are unique of all God’s creations; nothing can replace you. **Z**ero in on your target, and go for it!!

Share Lent – The Share Lent theme for this year is *Share Love, Share Lent*. Materials and resources will be made available for download at devp.org starting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17.

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

Office of the Bishop

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January 22, 2021

Season of Lent 2021

Trappist Monk Thomas Merton wrote the following prayer of Abandonment; it is a good prayer for this Season of Lent taken from his book, *Thoughts in Solitude* written in 1958.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always

though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

How do we know whether we are on the right path or not? How do we know whether we are spiritually and emotionally healthy or sick? How do we know whether we are focused or scattered and divided? The distractions of life can keep us from fully asking these types of questions yet asking them is essential if we are going to grow. Spiritual people from the earliest days of faith have found incredible wisdom and insight after spending time in the desert. Jesus and others have sought out the space of the desert to confront their fears, temptations and weaknesses.

This Season of Lent affords us the opportunity to detach, unplug, disconnect and find an experience of desert. In many ways, by being isolated from family and friends we have been undergoing our own desert experience this past year in dealing with this pandemic. It has helped us to focus on what is most important in our lives - our faith and our family.

Detaching a bit from the normal stuff of life and creating a little desert space to be alone teaches us that we cannot control everything that happens to us or fix everything that is broken. Our world teaches us that it is all about us – our goals, our happiness, our needs, our wants, our accomplishments, our successes, our failures. We live in a world of ‘me and I’ but it is not about you or me it is about God. Our lives are about finding the path to our God our creator. When we abandon ourselves in complete trust to God, we no longer have to worry whether we are on the right road, heading in the right direction for in addition to knowing that we are loved by God we will also know that we are being led by God and by God’s GPS - God’s plan for salvation.

The challenge placed before us during this holy Season of Lent is clearly and concisely expressed in the gospel. Repent and believe in the Good News. The call to repentance is a call for change, a change for the better. We are invited to recognize the need for change in our lives.

Traditionally we have been taught that the Season of Lent is a time set aside for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. The exercise of these virtues keeps us close to God and keeps us focused on service to others. Fasting is an act of self-denial and a way of directing our thoughts away from ourselves and towards our God. Almsgiving is the act by which we give of ourselves in order to assist someone in need. Prayer should be the centre of our Christian lives lifting up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our God who loves us.

In his Lenten Letter, Pope Francis said, “Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.”

Mindful of our God and our family, we are a people of faith who have travelled a difficult road this past year. Like Thomas Merton and very much like St. Joseph whom we honour during this special year dedicated to him, we often do not know where we are going, are unable to see the road ahead of us but we trust in God’s goodness and love. This Season of Lent helps us to realize that we are not alone on that journey – our God is with us always. May we recognize this Season of Lent as a spiritual journey reminding us of who we are and where we have come from and where we hope to be at journey’s end – resting with our God.

(Most Rev.) Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick
Bishop of Antigonish