

+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.

First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

This is a special bulletin for Advent.

MINISTRY NEWS

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

St. Joseph's – Thurs., Dec. 24 – 4 p.m.

St. Patrick's – Thurs., Dec. 24 – 6 p.m.

St. Michael's – Thurs., Dec. 24 – 9 p.m.

St. Michael's – Fri., Dec. 25 – 10 a.m.

Parishioners NEED to register for a seat at these Masses. Phone the call person in your parish to reserve your seat. It will be first come, first served.

In this bulletin, you will find the following:

- news about FORMED,
- an invitation to participate in a Youth Ministry initiative for Advent,
- information about Advent reflections from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and
- Advent Reflection 2020 from Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick.

FORMED – The Margaree Family of Catholic Churches is pleased to inform you that we have purchased a year's subscription to FORMED. Those of you who subscribed to FORMED during the two-week trial DO NOT have to subscribe again. Those of you who did not subscribe can do so at any time with three easy steps: 1) Go to gormed.org/signup. 2) Enter St. Michael's Parish, then click on 1181 East Margaree Rd. 3) Enter your name and email address. You will be signed up!

FORMED has a wonderful program *The Road to Bethlehem* planned for Advent to which you can subscribe.

The Road to Bethlehem includes the following: daily Advent reflections by Dr. Tim Gray; Brother Francis Advent reflections for kids; weekly videos, audio talks, and book excerpts related to the theme of the week and action items designed to help you take the Advent message and apply it to your daily life

Reverse Advent Calendar – Our Diocesan Youth Ministry has been working to support youth and families in maintaining and deepening their faith connections during this pandemic. At the Youth Ministry Advisory Committee in November, a proposal was made for an Advent activity that can engage our youth and families in service to parish and community. This activity is supported by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick for use in our parishes. Our prayers and participation are invited.

The activity is called Reverse Advent Calendar. How does it work? Families and individuals at home are asked to set up a box or basket. Starting December 1, a non-perishable food item is placed inside each day. By Christmas Eve, 24 food items will have been collected for your local food bank. You can complete the filling of the box/basket earlier by "paying ahead" your donations. Lorette Yip, at the food bank in Inverness, has agreed to accept your donations on Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. If you cannot go to Inverness at that time, call Therese Doucet at 902-248-2575 and try to make other arrangements.

Journey through Advent – On Monday, November 23 2020, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) announced a new online weekly video series created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Entitled *Journey through Advent*, the series is a joint project involving the CCCB's *Office nationale de liturgie*, the National Liturgy Office, and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. The initiative was developed as a way, through the modern method of video messaging, to offer a resource that enriches faith formation during a time of joyful anticipation for the coming of the Lord and Saviour into the world.

The videos serve as an introduction to the liturgical Season and present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Advent. The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Saint-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, provide spiritual and pastoral guidance on the readings that illustrate the true meaning of Christmas.

This video series is especially relevant given the COVID-19 pandemic that places limitations on in-person gatherings for faith communities. It is hoped that *Journey through Advent* will be a source of deep spiritual solace and insightful preparation for all. The videos will be available on the CCCB website each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration (23 November, 30 November 7 December and 14 December).

To follow the series in English, go to: <https://www.cccb.ca/liturgy-sacraments/resources-in-english/liturgical-calendar/video-reflections/>

To follow the series in French, go to: <https://www.cccb.ca/liturgie-et-sacrements/ressources-en-francais/reflexions-sur-les-temps-liturgiques/>

Other suggestions for Advent

1. Read the reflection for the week in your Sunday Missal. Make sure you pick up your Missal.
2. Read a passage in the Bible, as Fr. Macdonald is always telling us to do, and reflect on it. How does this relate to you? Where you are on your journey?
3. Create your own reflection on what is important to you and your family at this particular time in your life.
4. Prepare an Advent wreath and pray with your family daily.
5. Spend time with someone who might be lonely, shut-in or in poor health. The gift of your presence (even if only by a phone call) can be a very special occasion for both of you.