

Margaree Family of Catholic Churches

St. Joseph's

St. Michael's/St-Michel

St. Patrick's

Pastor: Fr. Silvichan Dominic, CFIC

Contact: Tel: (Office) 902-235-2435; In emergencies (Fr. Silvan) 1-780-932-5163; silvichen@gmail.com

bulletin announcements: ccl.mllr@gmail.com

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

First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3, 2023

N.B. - Weekend Masses for Dec. 9, 10 ONLY: St. Joseph's – Sat., 4 p.m.; St. Michael's – Sun., 9:30 a.m. St. Patrick's – Sun., 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tues., Dec. 5 – St. Joseph's – 4 p.m. – Kaye MacLeod req. by Joan MacLellan

Wed., Dec. 6 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Christine Hannigan req. by Sheila Fortune

Thurs., Dec. 7 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Neil McDaniel req. by Olga Beaton Everson

Fri., Dec. 8 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Ross Wayland req. by Mr. & Mrs. A. Simon LeBlanc

Feast Days/Memorials: Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose, Dec. 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

From the Pastor's desk: My dear people in Christ,

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark.

Today's first reading from Isaiah gives us a glimpse of the difficulty people face when their waiting for God seems to be in vain. The exiled people had returned from their captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem, but they see Jerusalem in ruins. In their desperation all they can do is remember what God had actually done for them. When the people remember God as their Redeemer, they bring the past into the present and that sacred memory acts like a light in the midst of darkness. What the people of Israel remember is that God will live up to his ancient name - the faithful one, and will come as their redeemer. Because they hope they are ready to wait and their waiting is not a passive waiting in vain.

The gospel today has a short parable about the householder who has servants to whom he assigns particular tasks before he sets off on a journey. He singles out the doorkeeper with a special warning, "Be on your guard then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming." If we were to focus our gaze on the doorkeeper alone, we would realize that perhaps the greatest danger facing him is not so much that he may fall asleep on the job as that he may grow so accustomed to it that it will become just a job and nothing more. We know that gate-keeping can become boring and routine can set and take over in the best of circumstances.

We can get used to anything; we can get used to the Sacred as well; we can get used to God, and then smugness, skepticism creeps into our lives. We can become Christians by habit and routine, and we can keep up the external ritual and routine, but we don't encounter God anymore but only our own emptiness.

We know Jesus is constantly coming into our lives. Each of us is the doorkeeper, whom God has put in charge of our own lives as well as the lives of our community, our church, our society. Advent calls us to stand ready. We can only welcome Jesus into our life if we are alert and attentive to Him. Thomas Merton said, "The spiritual life is first of all a matter of being awake".

With prayers,

Fr. Silvichan Dominic, CFIC

MINISTRY

ADVENT/LENTEN SCHEDULE 2023

Reconciliation – St. Joseph’s – Dec. 19 – 7 p.m.; St. Michael’s – Dec. 22 – 7 p.m.
4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23 – St. Joseph’s – 4 p.m.; St. Patrick’s – 6 p.m.; Dec. 24 – St. Michael’s – 11 a.m.
Christmas (Vigil) – Dec. 24 – St. Joseph’s – 4 p.m.; St. Patrick’s – 6 p.m.; St. Michael’s – 9 p.m.
Christmas Day – St. Michael’s - 10 a.m.
Dec. 30/31 – regular schedule – Sat. – St. Joseph’s – 4 p.m.; Sun. – St. Patrick’s – 9:30 a.m.; St. Michael’s – 11 a.m.
Jan. 1 – Feast of Mary, Mother of God – St. Michael’s – 10 a.m.

We now have a Facebook Page - Margaree Family of Catholic Churches! – Check it out; like and follow it for announcements and information.

The Margaree Food Security Program offers assistance to all people in need of financial help for grocery items. If you, or someone you know, could use a little financial boost, please call 902-248-2888 on Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. A volunteer will assist you in obtaining a Co-op Gift Card that can be used to purchase whatever items you require with the exception of alcohol, tobacco products and lottery tickets. This service is confidential.

The Margaree Food Security Program is accepting monetary donations from individuals, businesses and organizations. If you would like to make a donation, please forward your donation to Cecile Miller c/o St. Patrick's Parish, N. E. Margaree, NS B0E 2H0 if you would like to be issued a tax receipt.

CWL/KofC News

CWL Dues – Sheila is now collecting dues (\$34) for 2024. Members are asked to drop them in the collection or give them to Sheila before Dec. 13.

CWL Important Dates: Sun., Dec. 10 – 40th Anniversary Celebration; Tues., Dec. 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, spiritual reflection for the Season of Advent followed by a gift exchange and drawing of names of secret pals for 2024.

40th Anniversary Celebration – Members of St. Patrick’s CWL will be celebrating their 40th anniversary as a Council on Dec. 10, 2023. All charter and current members are urged to join in the festivities. The celebration will begin with Mass at 11 a.m. followed by a reception, entertainment, dinner, a guest speaker and presentations.

Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held on Thurs., Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

Attention, Parishioners 5-14 Years of Age - The Knights of Columbus are again having their “Keep Christ in Christmas” contest. To enter, all that is necessary is: complete a drawing/painting that reflects the Knights’ theme of “Keep Christ In Christmas”; put your name, age, and phone number on the back, then drop it off at the entrance of any one of the three Churches, or scan / take a picture of your artwork, and email it to james_shaw23@hotmail.com. Deadline to get submissions in is December 22 with judging to take place in the new year.

OTHER NEWS

Shared Lessons and Carols Service - There will be a shared Lessons and Carols Service at Calvin United Church on Thurs., Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Offering will support the Food Bank, and a time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.

Wreath-making Workshop - There will be a wreath-making workshop at St Joseph's Parish hall on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. Create your own holiday wreath and enjoy soup/roll/dessert for \$25.00. You must preregister by phoning Mary MacNeil at 902-248-2317 by November 30. Space is limited, register early! Sponsored by the Hall Committee

"A Touch of Christmas" – On Fri., Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., the St Joseph's Hall committee is sponsoring a concert at St Joseph's Church; admission is \$20 per person. Headlining the concert are: Lynn Chisholm and friends, Cameron Chisholm, Mary Jessie Gillis, James MacLean, Connie Barlow, Lawrence Cameron and more...Come out and enjoy "A Touch of Christmas".

Christmas Tea - The Hall Committee is hosting a tea at St Michel Parish Hall on December 10 from 2 to 4. This is an appreciation to Father Silvan for all his good work in 2023 and to wish him a well- earned vacation to his home, Kerala, India. There will be a money tree.

Seniors' Christmas Party –The Margaree Kinettes would like to invite all seniors of the Margaree area to join us at St. Michael's Parish Hall on Sunday, December 17, starting at noon. Come have lunch with us, visit with Santa and enjoy some great local entertainment. Hope to see you there.

PRAYERS

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for November – For the Pope – We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December – For persons with disabilities – We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Prayer Corner – Please remember in your prayers those who are sick: Ann Gillis, Ann Mailette, Anna Matheson, Rita (Marriott) Aucoin, Karen Baer, Dana Montgomery, Johnny Coady, Jesse Kilfoil, Claire (Simon) LeBlanc, Vicki MacEachern, David Timmons and Rosita Gillis. If you are sick and would like your name in the Prayer Corner, please contact the Parish Office.

Our condolences are extended to the family of Martin Cameron.

Prayer for World Peace – Father, even when things seem hopeless, we know that through You we are never without hope. We beg your intervention for a world on the constant brink of war. Beat our swords into plowshares and cause the lion to lie down with the lamb. Intervene in this world that we might avoid the horrors of war and let peace rule in all lands. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph - 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.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel - St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God cast into Hell, Satan, and all the other evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

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.

Prayer of St. Patrick - May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us. May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the Hand of God protect us. May the Way of God direct us. May the Shield of God defend us. May the Host of God guard us against the snares of the evil ones; against temptations of the world. May Christ be with us! May Christ be before us! May Christ be in us; Christ be over all! May Thy Salvation, Lord, always be ours, this day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.

Members of the Margaree Family of Catholic Churches Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council – The members of our Council are Chair – Lawrence MacLellan; vice-Chair – John Gillis; secretary – Mary MacNeil; other members: Mary Louise Burns, Lorna Chiasson, Mose Fortune, Alfred Gallant, Donald Angus Gillis and Hilda Murphy-Phillips.

Finance Committee – The members of our Finance Committee are: Chair – Cathy Miller; other members are: Hubert Chiasson, Paula Cormier, Aurea Gillis, Michael Gillis, Marie MacNeil, Cindy McBride, Stella McDaniel and Cecile Miller.

Liturgy Committee - The members of our Liturgy Committee are: Chair - Lawrence Cameron, Secretary – Betty MacFarlane, vice-Chair – Wilfridine Crowdis; other members: Trina Colette, Sandra Gillis, Donna MacFarlane, Mary Hilda MacIsaac, Dorothy MacKenzie, Irene MacLellan, Steve MacLennan, Denise Olson and Barbara Wyrwas.

Building & Maintenance Committee – St. Joseph's – Contact person Joey MacKinnon and other members: Alex MacNeil and Jerald Miller; St. Michael's – Contact person: Cyril LeBlanc and other members: Dennis Doucet and Emile LeBlanc, Belle Cote; St. Patrick's – Contact person Jack Miller and other members: Tom Godreau and John McBride. If you see anything which needs to be done, let the contact person know.

Bereavement Committee – St. Joseph's – Helen Gillis, Rosita Gillis, Mary MacNeil and Marie MacNeil; St. Michael's – Helena Chiasson, Elaine LeBlanc, Odette LeBlanc and Dorothy MacKenzie; St. Patrick's – Sheila Fortune, Kay Hannigan, Cindy & John McBride and Cecile Miller.

Quote: “God invites us to know Him in mysterious ways. What matters isn't that we grasp why. What matters is whether or not we say 'yes'. There's no more powerful way to do that than to turn to Him in the Eucharist.” – Sr. Helena Burns, FSP