

Margaree Family of Catholic Churches

St. Joseph's

St. Michael's/St-Michel

St. Patrick's

Pastor: Fr. Silvichan Dominic, CFIC

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bulletin announcements: ccl.mllr@gmail.com

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

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10 2023

Weekday Masses:

Tues., Dec. 12 – St. Joseph's – 4 p.m. – Jim MacFarlane req. by Ryan MacKinnon

Wed., Dec. 13 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Hughie Murphy req. by Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Murphy

Thurs., Dec. 14 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Wayne Cormier req. by Antje Cormier

Fri., Dec. 15 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Anthony LeBlanc req. by Mr. & Mrs. Emile LeBlanc

Feast Days/Memorials: Dec. 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas; Dec. 13 – St. Lucy; Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross

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

A school principal called the house of one of his teachers to find out why he was not in school. He was greeted by a small child who whispered: "Hello?"

"Is your Daddy home?" asked the principal. "Yes," answered the whispering child. "May I talk with him?" the man asked. "No," replied the small voice.

"Is your Mommy there?" he asked.

"Yes," came the answer.

"May I talk with her?"

Again the small voice whispered, "No."

"All right," said the man, "Is there any one there besides you?"

"Yes," whispered the child, "A policeman."

"A policeman? Now, may I speak with the policeman?" "No, he's busy," whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?" asked the principal.

"Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the fireman," came the child's answer.

"The fireman? Has there been a fire in the house or something?" asked the worried man.

"No," whispered the child.

"Then what are the police and fireman doing there?"

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a soft giggle, "They are looking for me."

It would be pretty hard for the "rescuers" to find this child as long as the child keeps hiding from them. In today's gospel we see John the Baptist in the desert calling out to the people of Judea to come out into the open desert and let God find them. You can liken it to the fireman calling out to the "lost" child. The child has to leave his hiding place and come out into the open for the firemen to find him.

To go into the desert is to leave behind the normal props of life on which we tend to depend. Such life props we often find in our job, in relationships and in routine religious practices. God cannot do much with us as long as we hope and trust in these things as the first things that give meaning to our lives. When the heart is full no one can come into it, not even God. You have first to let go of what your heart is holding on to before you can embrace God. This letting go is symbolized by a journey into the barren desert.

In the Bible the desert has come to mean a place of encounter with God. It was in the desert that the people of

Israel met God and learnt the ways of God. There they became God's own people and the Lord became their God. But first they had to give up all the things that make for the good life that they were enjoying in Egypt: "the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic" (Numbers 11:5).

Jesus, before beginning his public ministry, spent forty days and nights in the desert. It was a time of discovering and deepening his personal relationship with God. By calling the people into the desert John was calling them to let go of their false hopes and securities and learn to hope and trust in God alone.

John lived what he preached. By his lifestyle, his dressing and eating habits, he showed that the meaning of life is not to be found in the abundance of material possessions but in relationship with God. Simplicity of life and detachment from unnecessary cares and worries of social life free the heart for a personal relationship with God. To go into the desert is the first step in true repentance. It means abandoning our usual hiding places and putting ourselves in a situation where God can easily reach us. It is the levelling of those hills and the filling of those valleys that make it difficult for God to reach us and save us.

In the season of Advent the church extends to us the call of John the Baptist to repent and confess our sins in preparation for the One who is to come. It is an opportunity to rediscover our total dependence on God. God has made us for Himself, as St Augustine discovered, and our hearts are restless till they rest in God. When we realize this and make room for God in our lives, then we are on the way to true repentance after the example of John the Baptist.

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 Date: - 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.

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.

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 families of Rheal Cormier, brother of Denis Cormier; Catherine Gillis, Peggy MacDougall and Mary MacLaughlin, sister of Jim Pasher.

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: “To be possessed by Jesus and to possess Him – That is the perfect reign of Love.” – St. Peter Julian Eymard