

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

Third Sunday of Lent, Mar. 3, 2024

Weekend Masses: St. Joseph's – Sat., 4 p.m.; St. Patrick's (in the Hall) – Sun., 9:30 a.m.; St. Michael's – Sun., 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Confessions will be heard during the Stations of the Cross.

Tues., Mar. 5 - St. Joseph's – 6 p.m. – Stations of the Cross; 6:30 p.m. – Mass – Catherine Gillis req. by Alison Gillis

Wed., Mar. 6 - St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Mass – Beverly Timmons req. by Marlene Fortune

Thurs., Mar. 7 - St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Mass – Sally MacKinnon req. by Mr. & Mrs. Angus L. MacKinnon & family

Fri., Mar. 8 – St. Michael's – after the Mission talk – Mass – Eugene Chiasson req. by Mr. & Mrs. Peter MacFarlane

From the Pastor's Desk: My dear people,

Greetings of peace and love in the name of Jesus Christ

I am highly indebted to you for your support and prayer on my holidays. I thank Fr. Peter for his spiritual assistance to our parishes. He said he really enjoyed being here with you.

I would like to invite you all for the Lenten Mission by Fr John Yake. The Lenten Mission begins on March 6 at St. Joseph Church at 7 p.m. Second day March 7, it will be at St. Patrick at 7 p.m. and we will conclude the Mission on March 8 at St. Michael's at 7 p.m. followed by the holy Mass. Fr. John Yake will be available for individual confession and personal talks from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the seventh at St. Patrick and eighth at St. Micheal's. Fr. John and I will be available for confessions after each mission talk. Let us prepare ourselves for Easter through a fruitful Lenten Mission.

I extend special thanks to Simon (Claire) who has retired from ministry at St. Michael's. Thank you, Simon, for your many hours of service in hospitality and cemetery ministry, plus, plus! We are very grateful to you and wish you all the best in the years ahead!

The story is told of a priest who was coming back to his parish house one evening in the dark only to be accosted by a robber who pulled a gun at him and demanded, "Your money or your life!" As the priest reached his hand into his coat pocket the robber saw his Roman collar and said, "So you are a priest? Then you can go." The priest was rather surprised at this unexpected show of piety and so tried to reciprocate by offering the robber his packet of cigarettes, to which the robber replied, "No, Father, I don't smoke during Lent." You can see how this robber is trying to keep the pious observance of not smoking during Lent while forgetting the more fundamental commandment of God, "Thou shalt not steal."

This story is about a very fierce love. It is a jealous love. It is all about Jesus' love for you. He is consumed with love for you. Exodus 34:14 says, "Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, is a jealous God." Jesus was being a visible expression of God, simply demonstrating his fierce love for his house.

"Zeal for your house consumes me." King David inked those words nearly 600 years earlier in a prophecy about the Messiah. "Zeal" does not mean passion alone. It means jealousy. One of the marks of the Messiah would be jealousy for the house of God. The disciples remembered that when they saw Jesus clearing the temple.

Clearing the temple was the act of one who is very passionate, but in complete control. He drove out the sheep and cattle with a whip. He used a whip (now get this, it is very profound) because whips make sheep move! He wants to move us from our complacency to a better place to the house of the Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 3:16, Paul asks, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” You are now the temple of God. He has chosen to reside in those who put their faith in him. Your body is meant to be a place of worship—a place of reverence and purity in which the Holy Spirit of God resides. With the same jealous love that Jesus cleared that temple of the self-seeking, God-neglecting salesmen and moneychangers, Jesus wants to clear the things out of your life that keep God from being revered within you. He is passionate about residing in you. When he cleared the temple, it was a radical act of godly jealousy meant to restore the temple. When he died on the cross, it was the most radical of all acts, and it was meant to restore you. Jesus went to the cross to demonstrate his love for you. He went to the cross to drive out those other loves—the love of money, the love of self—that keep you separated from God. He went to the cross to drive out the disobedience in your heart that keeps your body from being a temple of worship. He knows about the wickedness that’s in you. But Jesus is more concerned with expressing his love for you than worrying about what he knows about you. He let the people follow him long before they understood him. You may not understand all the doctrines of the faith, but zeal for you consumes him. You may not know what he is yet to do, but zeal for you consumes him. You may not always be the model kingdom citizen in whom he can entrust himself and his reputation, but zeal for you consumes him. You don’t have to arrive for his love to fall on you. His love has arrived and he desperately desires for it to fall on you.

My question to you is this...Are you sold out or are you selling out? Are you sold out with belief, ready to say “All for Jesus,” even if you don’t fully understand what Jesus has done for you? If we can learn anything from these disciples of Jesus, it would be that you don’t have to know it all to drop your nets and follow him. The alternative is selling out, defiling your body in ways that are contrary to the worship and reverence and purity of God. Either way, his love for you remains. Would you let him—in that passionate, jealous love—drive out all the other loves and other self-serving agendas that keep your body from being a temple in which he can dwell? His love endures forever. It is a jealous love—a fierce love. Zeal for you consumes him. Will you respond by selling out or by being sold out?

"With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts."

Fr Silvichan Dominic

MINISTRY

MEETING

Finance Committee Meeting – Tues., Mar. 5 at 7 p.m. in St. Joseph’s vestry

Lenten Mission – Confessions will be heard after the Mission talk each evening.

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.

Children’s Liturgy - The Margaree Highland Games Board is delighted to offer children’s liturgy during Mass on the first Sunday of the month. If families show interest, we will make it a more permanent fixture in our Masses. Starting the first Sunday in March, we will provide a safe, nurturing space, sharing songs, colouring pictures and listening to God’s word.

Jubilee Year 2025 – Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as the year of prayer in preparation for *Jubilee 2025* under the theme, *Pilgrims of Hope*. Parishioners are encouraged to consult the Vatican website, vatican.va, about the tradition and significance of a jubilee year and to join in prayerful preparation for *Jubilee 2025*, which

the Pope will inaugurate with the rite of opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Advent 2024. To prepare, the Pope has invited the faithful to study and reflect on the four constitutions of Vatican II and the meaning of these documents for the life of the Church today. You will find the Jubilee Prayer below for sharing and praying in preparation for the Jubilee Pilgrimage.

Development & Peace – Share Lent Campaign – Week 3: March 3

Denouncing oil pollution in Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and biggest oil producer. Despite oil exports worth billions of dollars, millions of Nigerians remain in poverty and face food insecurity. In the south, pollution and contamination by the oil industry are causing great hardship. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) defends farmers' rights and helps protect their lands. To learn more about the work of HOMEF, read our [Mini-magazine](#) and watch the video at devp.org/lent.

Entre Deux Rivières with Fr. Peter will air at a different time on March 3 – 2 – 4 p.m.

CWL/KofC News

Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held at St. Michael's Hall on Thurs., Mar. 7 at 7 p.m.

OTHER NEWS

Financial Literacy Workshop: Tea & Taxes – Free Seminar – Mon., Mar. 4 from 1 – 4 p.m., hosted by the N.E. Margaree Seniors' Club. Refreshments will be served. The workshop will be facilitated by the Mill Rd. Enterprises Money Path Team covering topics such as: tax filing, frauds, scams and online banking. Learn how to prepare for the community Volunteer Income Tax Program; how to open/access a CRA account; tips to avoid frauds and scams/how to report them; benefits of online banking and 2-step security access. Plus, you can register for free tax filing clinics scheduled for Mar. 8 & 9.

PRAYERS

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March – For the new martyrs – We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Pilgrims of Hope – The Jubilee Prayer - Father in Heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of Your Kingdom. May Your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, Your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To You our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Our condolences are extended to the family of Len Burt, brother-in-law of Dorothy MacKenzie, Cazilda Delaney, mother of Paulette Delaney and Fr. Ora McManus.

Prayer Corner – Please remember in your prayers those who are sick: Ann Gillis, Anna Matheson, Karen Baer, Dana Montgomery, Johnny Coady, Jesse Kilfoil, Claire (Simon) LeBlanc, Vicki MacEachern, David Timmons, Rosita Gillis, Lucy MacIntyre, Denise LeBlanc, Mary Stewart, Margaret Ross, Isidore Doucet, Calum MacDonald and Donna McDaniel. If you are sick and would like your name in the Prayer Corner, please contact the Parish Office.

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 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 B. 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: "I don't pray because I am holy, but because I want to become holy, and I need Jesus to teach me." – Briega McKenna, osc

Collections – February 2024

St. Joseph's – Reg. - \$2 660; Loose - \$36.40; Fuel - \$535; Ins. - \$80; Initial - \$30; New Year's - \$50; Cemetery - \$200

St. Michael's – Reg. - \$3 177; Loose - \$244; Fuel - \$680; Ins. - \$70; Missals - \$10

St. Patrick's – Reg. - \$2 247.25; Loose - \$1.45; Fuel - \$185; Ins. - \$90; Initial - \$30; New Year's - \$15;

Donation - \$15 Margaree Food Security Program – St. Michael's - \$50; St. Patrick's - \$50