

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, World day of Prayer for Vocations - Apr. 21, 2024

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

Please note: Mass times for St. Joseph's & St. Patrick's will change the weekend of May 5.

Weekday Masses:

Tues., Apr. 23 - St. Joseph's – 6:30 p.m. – Monica MacKenzie-Dunbar req. by Gerry Deveau

Wed., Apr. 24 - St. Patrick's – 6:30 p.m. – Blair McDaniel req. by Stella & family

Thurs., Apr. 25 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Betty Matheson req. by Marie Tompkins

Fri., Apr. 26 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Neil McDaniel req. by Billy Carroll

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

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, called Good Shepherd Sunday, we continue to reflect on the meaning of the Resurrection. This is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Today, we celebrate the risen Lord as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. The priest in charge of a parish is called pastor because “pastor” means shepherd. As shepherd, he leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects Christ's sheep, the people of the parish. The earliest Christians saw Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Jewish dream of a Good Shepherd. They also wished to include the Gentiles as part of God's flock. Scripture lessons: In today's first reading, Peter asserts unequivocally before the Jewish assembly that there is no salvation except through Christ, the Good Shepherd — the one whom the Jewish leaders have rejected and crucified and in whose name the apostles preach and heal. In the second reading, St. John tells us how Yahweh, the Good Shepherd of the Old Testament, expressed His love for us through His Son Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by making us His children. In today's Gospel, Jesus introduces himself as the “Good Shepherd”. Jesus claims that as Good Shepherd he knows his sheep and loves them so much he is ready to die for them. The Gospel text offers us both comfort — the Good Shepherd knows us, provides for us, and loves us – and a double challenge: to become good shepherds to those entrusted to our care and good sheep in our parish, the sheepfold of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Rev. Tony Campolo loves to tell the story of a particular census taker who went to the home of a rather poor family in the mountains of West Virginia to gather information. He asked the mother how many dependents she had. She began, “Well, there is Rosie, and Billy, and Lewella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey. There's Johnny, and Harvey, and our dog, Willie.” It was then that the census taker interrupted her and said: “No, ma'am, that's not necessary. I only need the humans.” “Ah,” she said. “Well, there is Rosie, and Billy, and Lewella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey, Johnny, and Harvey, and...” But there once again, the census taker interrupted her. Slightly exasperated, he said, “No, ma'am, you don't seem to understand. I don't need their names; I just need the numbers.” To which the old woman replied, “But I don't know them by numbers. I only know them by name.” — In today's Gospel Jesus, the Good Shepherd, says that he knows his sheep by name.

Just as the Palestinian shepherds knew each sheep of their flock by name, and each sheep knew its shepherd and his voice, so Jesus knows each one of us, our needs, our merits, and our faults. Of course, the knowledge talked of here is not mere intellectual knowing but the knowledge that comes from love and experience, and leads one to express care and concern for all others. Jesus loves us as we are, with all our limitations, and he expects us to receive and return his love by keeping his word. He speaks to us at every Mass, through the Bible, through our pastors, through our parents, family, and friends, and through the events of our lives. “God whispers to us in our pleasures; He speaks to us in our consciences, and He SHOUTS in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world!” (C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, Ch. 6 “Human Pain”).

MEETING

The Liturgy Committee will meet on Wed., Apr. 24 at 7 p.m. in St. Patrick's Hall.

List of parishioners for hospitality at St. Michael's: St. Michael's parishioners are urged to take note of the message in this bulletin re hospitality at Masses at St. Michael's. Please keep a copy for future reference.

Attention, Those in Ministry: If you were given forms for the Diocesan Responsible Ministry Protocol and have not filled them out and/or have not had your Police Check/Vulnerable Sector Check, please attend to this matter as soon as possible. For those who will be going to the Police Station in Strathlorne, the office will be open on Friday, April 19 and all the next week (April 22 – 26). To be sure phone, ahead of time 902-258-2213.

Attention, Parents: If you have a child who is eligible for First Reconciliation or First Communion (in grade two or higher), please contact a member of the Liturgy Committee from your parish to register for the program, as classes will be starting in the spring.

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.

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.

CWL/KofC News

St. Patrick's CWL – St. Patrick's CWL is collecting donations for Leaside Transition House in Port Hawkesbury. Toiletries, hand towels, face cloths, feminine products, soaps, shampoo, etc. will all be appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at any Church or with Anne LeBlanc (St. Michael's) or Cathy Miller (St. Joseph's) on or before May 8, 2024.

St. Patrick's CWL will meet on Wed., May 8 following the 6:30 p.m. Mass. National has chosen the sub theme "Mental Health" for 2024-2025. The topic of "Women and Mental Health" will be addressed by Charlene Cormier at the start of our meeting (7 – 7:30). All members are encouraged to attend.

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care – St. Patrick's will be hosting the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" this year with Adoration from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 3. A sign-up sheet is available in each parish. Volunteers are needed to spend an hour praying that palliative care will be available for all who need it. Prayers are needed this year more than ever because some countries/states where euthanasia is legal are cutting back on funding for palliative care. A donation box will be placed at St. Patrick's for donations which will be divided between Cheticamp and Inverness Palliative Care.

OTHER NEWS

PRAYERS

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April – For the role of women – We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

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.

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

Condolences are extended to the family of

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.

Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven) _ V. Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia. R. For He whom you merited to bear, alleluia, V. Has risen as He said, alleluia. R. Pray for us to God, alleluia. V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who by the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world; grant we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Members of St. Michael's Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council – Vice-Chair – John Gillis; Alphonse Cormier and Lorna Chiasson

Finance Committee – Hubert Chiasson, Paula Cormier and Aurea Gillis

Liturgy Committee - The members of our Liturgy Committee are: Chair - Lawrence Cameron, Mary Hilda MacIsaac, Dorothy MacKenzie and Denise Olson

Building & Maintenance Committee – Contact person: Cyril LeBlanc and other members: Dennis Doucet and B. Emile LeBlanc, Belle Cote If you see anything which needs to be done, let the contact person know.

Bereavement Committee – Helena Chiasson, Elaine LeBlanc, Odette LeBlanc and Dorothy MacKenzie

Cemetery Committee – Chair: Donald Fortune; secretary – Tommy LeBlanc; Contacts: Freddie Burns & Emile A. LeBlanc; Recorder: Anne LeBlanc; Member-at-large: Barry MacIsaac

Quote: “Each one of us has some kind of vocation. We are all called by God to share in His life and in His Kingdom. Each one of us is called to a special place in the Kingdom. If we find that place we will be happy. If we do not find it, we can never be completely happy. For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be.” - **Thomas Merton**

A Blessed Easter Season to all!