

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

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Aug. 25, 2024

Weekend Masses: St. Patrick's – Sat., 6 p.m.; St. Joseph's – Sun., 9:30 a.m.; St. Michael's – Sun., 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tues., Aug. 27 – St. Joseph's – 6:30 p.m. – Jim MacFarlane req. by Mr. & Mrs. Brian MacLean

Wed., Aug. 28 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Harvey Shaw req. by Robert Tompkins

Thurs., Aug. 29 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Yvonne & Roger Olson req. by Denise Olson

Fri., Aug. 30 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Eileen LeBlanc req. by Joe & Rose Anne Chiasson

***Tues., Sept. 3 – St. Joseph's – 6:30 p.m.** – Ann Gloria Maillet req. by Helen & Alison Gillis

***Wed., Sept. 4 – St. Patrick's – 6:30 p.m.** – Cletus MacNeil req. by Terry Collins & family

Thurs., Sept. 5 – St. Michael's – 10 a.m. – Nora Considine req. by Sarah Dozzi & Margaret LeBlanc

***Fri., Sept. 6 – St. Michael's – 6:30 p.m.** – Anna Matheson req. by Emile A. LeBlanc & boys

***Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday will be preceded by an Hour of Adoration and Confessions beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Memorials – Tues., Aug. 27 - St. Monica; Wed., Aug. 28 - St. Augustine; Thurs., Aug. 29 – the Passion of St. John the Baptist; Sat., Aug. 31 – Our Lady's Saturday

Sept. 3 – St. Gregory the Great; Sept. 7 – Our Lady's Saturday

Please note: The next bulletin will be printed for the weekend of Sept. 7 & 8.

From the Pastor's Desk: My Dear People,

I want to extend sincere thanks to all the Board Members, sponsors, volunteers, participants and all community members for the great success of the 11th Annual Margaree Highland Games.

I ask everyone to join with me in special prayers for all teachers, students and support staff returning to or beginning studies in our schools, community colleges and universities this fall.

Remember to support St. Patrick's Fall Fair on Sun., Sept. 1.

A climber fell off a cliff. As he tumbled down into a deep gorge he grabbed hold of a branch of a small tree. "Help" he shouted. "Is there anyone up there?" A deep majestic voice from the sky echoed through the gorge. "I will help you, my son. But first you must have Faith in me." "All right, all right. I trust you." answered the man. The voice replied, "Let go of the branch." There was a long pause and the man shouted again, "Is there anyone else up there?"

In the first reading, Joshua says something that should be the theme of every family living in this world, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." The disciples said, "This is hard to take, People are leaving you,". "The choice is yours," Jesus responds. "Will you leave too?" And then Peter, like Joshua, makes a great profession of faith. "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Peter and Joshua, the Hebrews who heard Jesus speak, and the ancients who followed Joshua into the Promised Land, were certainly not the only ones facing a choice. In the early days of the Church, Christians had to choose following Christ or losing their possessions and even their lives. This continues in various areas of the world in our own time. Now Christians throughout Asia are persecuted by ISIS or its affiliates. Christians living in areas and countries where the faith is persecuted are faced with choosing the Lord daily. The choice is there, and they accept the Lord regardless of the implications

of their choice. The choice is also presented to us, and presented to us daily. Are we to take the leap of faith and choose the Lord even when He asks us to believe in that which is impossible for the mind to come to, or do we leave for an easier, less challenging faith? Are you ready to accept the offence of the Cross? Are we to live a moral life, or join those who mock all who are committed to the Lord? The choice is there for us. Like Peter, we have to realize that no one else has the words of eternal life. Like Joshua, we have to decide to follow the way of Lord. That means that we are called to stand apart from those elements of society that make noises as though they are the enlightened majority. They are neither, neither enlightened nor a majority. The so-called intelligentsias who see good in every evil, in every perversity, are foolish. In their deification of political correctness, they have demanded a society where all morality is subjected to the glorification of the individual. Their only morality is relativism. They admit no rules regarding right or wrong; everything depends on the person's desires. "That which is right for one person can certainly be wrong for another," they would assert. For them there are no values such as fidelity, honesty, and basic respect. Everything is relative. As a result, they really cannot have a society, and they ask us to join them. Worse, they demand that we join them. It is there for us. Like Joshua, we have to hold on tight and declare, "As for me and my family, we will follow the Lord." Many people are still asking the Lord to tone it down some. "OK, Lord," they say, "I know abortion is wrong, I know infidelity is wrong, I know stealing is wrong, but maybe in this case, in that case, it is acceptable." We are convinced that Jesus is the Lord. And if we are really convinced, then we really have no choice. Eternal Life can only be found in Him. The conclusion of John 6 is far more than a call to believe in the Eucharist. It is this, but it is more. It is a call to trust in the Lord. It is a call to dare to be different from those who have left him and who give lip service to their Christianity. We are called to be different. We are called to be holy, for; after all, that is what holiness is, being separate for the Lord. We have a choice.....Or do we? No, we really don't have a choice.

In Christ we trust,
Fr. Silvichan Dominic CFIC

Season of Creation – September 1 is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, declared by Pope Francis in 2015. It also marks the beginning of the Season of Creation which runs from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4. Ecumenical celebrations will take place around the world. The theme for this year's celebrations is "to hope and act with creation". Watch for more information on activities including a prayer service on October 4 at Wilson United Church.

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.

Important Appeal – The following is a message from the Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA Canada): The College of Physicians and Surgeons has recently passed a policy requiring doctors to refer patients for euthanasia, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), and other procedures. 42 Doctors and thousands of Nova Scotians have signed on but we need to do more. We are particularly worried about vulnerable patients being offered MAiD. For instance, a doctor shared a story of a patient who, after recovering from a heart procedure, was offered MAiD instead of homecare assistance. Thankfully, the patient chose homecare, but stories like these highlight the urgency of our cause. **Here's how you can help:**

We have created a website for individuals to share their stories. Please visit this link (<https://e584193.capsule.video/record>) to record your story. If more time is needed, you can record it in parts. Collecting these stories is crucial to demonstrate to politicians that these are not isolated incidents.

CWL/KOC NEWS

St. Patrick's CWL Executive will meet in St. Joseph's Vestry following the 6:30 Mass on Tues., Aug. 27. The regular monthly meeting will be held on Wed., Sept. 11 after the 6:30 Mass.

Knights of Columbus Meeting – The Knights will meet on Thurs., Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Hall.

OTHER NEWS

Merci/Thank You to Father Silvan and Father Peter for the beautiful Mass in the Pioneer Cemetery and to all the parishioners and visitors who came. It was in honor of our blessed Mother, Mary, on the Feast of the Assumption. Mary is the Patron Saint to all Acadians. It was an amazing evening. - Annie

MARGAREE HIGHLAND GAMES: We are very pleased to announce that this year's Highland Games brought in a profit of \$18,400.44. Every year, we as Board members, are in awe of the success of the games and the support we get from our sponsors, our community, our volunteers, our donors, our athletes (who describe our games as one of their favourites to attend), along with all those who help support us in any way. Thank you all very much. We are truly blessed.

St. Patrick's Fall Fair will be held on Sun., Sept. 1. There will be home baking, craft and white elephant tables as well as basket raffles, canteen and ticket sales beginning at 1:30 p.m. The auction, with new and gently used items, gift certificates, cakes, 2L of ice cream and much more will begin at 3 p.m.

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine, Mabou is a place of prayer and devotion, of piety and faith, a Catholic Shrine which welcomes visitors of all faiths and interests. Become a "Friend of the Shrine"; enroll a friend as a gift or "In Memory" of a loved one. Our goal is \$50,000. "We need your help."

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August – *For political leaders* – We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September – *For the cry of the earth* – We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

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.

PRAYERS

Prayer Corner – Please remember in your prayers those who are sick: Ann Gillis, Karen Baer, Johnny Coady, Vicki MacEachern, David Timmons, Denise LeBlanc, Mary Stewart, Margaret Ross, Calum MacDonald, Donna McDaniel, Hugh Allan Chisholm, Delores Harris, Sandy Ross, Mildred MacDonald and Kim MacPhee. If you are sick and would like your name in the Prayer Corner, please contact the Parish Office.

Condolences are extended to the families of Cecile Chiasson, Anita LeBlanc, sister of Eugene LeBlanc; Ann Marie MacAdam, sister of Michael (Mary) Gillis; Hughie (Suey) MacDougall, brother-in-law of Stewart Gillis;

Lucy MacIntyre, sister of Art and Simon LeBlanc; Helen MacLellan, sister of the late Jim Coady, and Cletus MacNeil, brother-in-law of Allen & Alex Ross; John MacNeil, son of the late Martine; Cy Poirier, brother-in-law of Yvonne Ryan; Therese Poirier, sister of Gerry Deveau; Joseph Wassell, husband of Agnes.

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.

Prayer for the Season of Creation:

Triune God, Creator of all,

we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home.

Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection. We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.

We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collections for July 2024:

St. Joseph's – Reg. - \$2 405; Loose - \$246; Ins. - \$225; Cem. - \$10; Donation - \$500

St. Michael's – Reg. - \$3 480; Loose - \$1 017.50; Insurance - \$320; Donation - \$500

St. Patrick's – Reg. - \$2 920; Loose - \$232.25; Ins. - \$30; Cemetery - \$35

Margaree Food Security Program – St. Joseph's - \$30; St. Patrick's - \$40; Other - \$250