



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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sept. 7, 2025

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: **There will be no weekday Masses while Fr. Silvan is away.**

Feast: Sept. 8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Memorial:** Sept. 13 - St. John Chrysostom

From the Pastor's Desk - Dear Friends,

I hope you're all doing well. As I noted in an earlier bulletin, I will be away from Sept. 8-24. The Fall Fair at Saint Patrick's was a huge success! A heartfelt thank you to the coordinators, volunteers, and everyone whose support made it possible. Let's continue to strengthen our parish family with our prayers, presence, and generosity.

The CWL is meeting at St. Patrick's on Wed., Sept. 10. I want to encourage women from the three parishes to attend as there will be discussion re the future direction of CWL in our Margaree family.

This week, the steps in front of St. Michael's Church will be repaired. Thanks to the generous donation of a parishioner from St. Michael's, the expense will be fully covered.

Let us also remember in our prayers the children who have returned to school and are beginning a new year. Please consider registering your children for First Communion and Confirmation. Grandparents, with prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit, make every effort to encourage baptism for your grandchildren. *Let the children come to the Lord.* A heart filled with faith is far better than an empty one. May the Lord bless our children and fill them with His love and mercy.

The Gospel today is one of the most challenging sayings of Jesus. He tells the crowd: "*Whoever does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*" These words remind us that discipleship is not simply about belonging to a group or saying we believe in Jesus, it is about a radical choice.

In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we are reminded how limited human reasoning can be. "*Who can know God's counsel? Or who can conceive what the Lord intends?*" Left to ourselves, we struggle to see clearly. But God, through His Spirit, guides us in the way of truth. Following Christ requires trust, because on our own we cannot fully grasp the mystery of God's plan.

The second reading, from St. Paul's letter to Philemon, gives us a living example of discipleship. Paul asks Philemon to receive back Onesimus, a runaway slave, not as property but as a brother in Christ. This is a radical request—one that would have shocked the social order of the time. Yet Paul shows that discipleship means letting go of pride, power, and control, and allowing Christ to transform relationships.

And then, in the Gospel, Jesus asks us to "calculate the cost" of discipleship. He gives the image of someone building a tower or a king going into battle, you do not start unless you are willing to finish. To follow Christ is to place Him above every other attachment, even family, possessions, and personal comfort.

But let's be clear: Jesus is not telling us to despise our families or to abandon responsibility. He is telling us that love for Him must come first, and that when He is at the center, we actually love our families more deeply and more faithfully. Without Christ, our loves are fragile; with Him, our loves become life-giving.

So what does this mean for us?

- It means asking ourselves: *What cross do I carry for Christ?* Is it forgiving someone who hurt me? Is it giving time for prayer when life is busy? Is it guiding my children and grandchildren in faith when the world offers distractions?
- It means realizing that discipleship is not just Sunday worship it is a daily choice, a daily “yes” to Christ.
- It means we don’t walk alone. Just as Paul encouraged Philemon, we encourage one another in faith, building a community where love and mercy are stronger than fear and division.

Let us pray today for the courage to take up our cross with trust. The path of discipleship is demanding, but it leads to freedom, peace, and eternal life. May we not settle for half-built towers, but, with the grace of God, become true disciples of Jesus.

Fr. Silvichan, Dominic CFIC

MINISTRY

Two Canonizations on Sept. 7 – On Sept. 7, two young people will be canonized by Pope Leo. They are Blessed Carlo Acutis who died in 2006 at the age of 15 and will become the first Catholic saint of the millennial generation, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati who died in 1925 after contracting polio from his charitable work at the age of 24.

Margaree Food Security Society – 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 Society is accepting monetary donations from individuals, businesses and organizations. If you would like to make a donation, please forward your cheque, made out to St. Patrick’s Parish, to Cecile Miller, % St. Patrick’s Parish, N.E. Margaree, NS B0E 2H0. You can also drop your donation in the church collection in an envelope marked “Margaree Food Security Society”.

Confirmation preparation will begin in the fall. Parents are encouraged to submit names of candidates for this final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church.

CWL/KOC NEWS

What’s Your CWL? – FAITH - Catholic Women’s League members know faith is important to women. Members are called to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. We are Catholic and Living It! Come grow with us!

St. Patrick’s CWL – The September meeting of St. Patrick’s CWL will take place at St. Patrick’s Hall on Wed., Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. All members as well as new and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

OTHER NEWS

St. Joseph’s Take-Out – There will be a take-out only Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, September 21 at St Joseph’s Parish Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. Dinner includes spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad, roll and dessert. \$18 per serving, \$10 for children under 12. Please call Mary 902-248-2317, Lawrence 902-248-2180 or Diane 902-248-2594 to reserve your meal(s). Thank you

Thank You - We would like to thank Pauline Berry for her many years of service and dedication to St Michael’s Hall. Pauline was a valued member of the hall committee for over a decade. We appreciate her years of service and would like to say THANK YOU!

Alzheimer Society Event - For the past 2 years, the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia (ASNS) hosted a Community Week which is a series of events across the province - the goal being to create an event that provides education on dementia-related topics, ASNS programs and services and other community resources to help individuals with dementia and those who care for them on their dementia journey. Most attendees are family or friend care partners, professionals who work with people who have dementia, interested community members and those living with dementia. Our theme this year is Fostering Community: An Event to Learn More about Dementia and the Importance of Community Connections. This year, we are hosting an event at the Belle Cote & Area Community Centre on Thurs., Sept. 25 from 2-4 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. with presentations at 2 p.m. There will be Community Exhibits, plus presentations with Q&A, and light refreshments.

PRAYERS

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for September 2025 – *For our relationship with all of creation* – Let us pray that, inspired by St. Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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: Karen Baer, Jessie Murphy, Hector LeBlanc, Ann Gillis, Kathleen Deveau, Avelyn Lown, Bob Fortune, Reggie Chiasson, Mary Murphy, Cathy Aucoin and Odette (Emile) LeBlanc. 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

Quote: "If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home." - Pope Francis

Contributions for August 2025:

St. Joseph's – Reg. - \$3 494; Loose - \$238.50; Ins. - \$345; Donations - \$600

St. Michael's – Reg. - \$4 685; Loose - \$1 314; Ins. – \$367; Donations - \$1 140; Cem. \$450; Initial - \$10

St. Patrick's – Reg. - \$2 837; Loose - \$260; Ins. - \$100; Donations IMO John Dunn - \$120; MFSS – St.

Joseph's - \$200; St. Michael's - \$250; St. Patrick's - \$40

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