

Fr. Allan MacPhie, Pastor Rectory: 234-2387 / Church: 234-3505  
 Mary Williams, Religious Education Coordinator, Home 234-3118 or 870-2168/Church 234-3505  
 Email: mary\_florence47@hotmail.com Bulletin Notices: must be in no later than 10:00 a.m. every Friday

<b><u>Masses</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday,</u></b>	<b>December 12,</b>	<b>Hubert Brow</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
	<b><u>Wednesday,</u></b>	<b>December 13,</b>	<b>Joseph &amp; Anastasia DeCoste</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
	<b><u>Thursday,</u></b>	<b>December 14,</b>	<b>Tony DeCoste</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
	<b><u>Friday,</u></b>	<b>December 15,</b>	<b>Carl DeCoste</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
	<b><u>Saturday,</u></b>	<b>December 16,</b>	<b>Damien DeCoste</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
			<b>Sherman &amp; Larry Pettipas</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Francis</b>
			<b>pro populo</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Lawrence</b>
	<b><u>Sunday,</u></b>	<b>December 17,</b>	<b>Joseph &amp; Clara LeVangie</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>

<b>Weekly Collection</b>	<b>St. Francis</b>	<b>St. Lawrence</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
<b>December 03/04, 2017</b>			
<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$622.00</b>	<b>\$702.00</b>	<b>\$1417.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>
<b>Pastor's Dues</b>			<b>\$364.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Fund</b>		<b>\$400.00</b>	

<b>December 16/17, 2017</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<b>St. Francis</b>	Florence Chisholm	Beverly Grady / Ruby Ehler
<b>St. Lawrence</b>	Kevin / Gloria	Allison / Liz / Charlie
<b>St. Paul's</b>	Lucille & Dan Fougere	Cyril Campbell / Tammy Breen / Anne Marie Meagher

**Guidelines on Communion Reception Catholics,** fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion. A Catholic should not receive Communion if they are conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession.

**Our fellow Christians** (Anglicans, Protestants) are welcome to the celebration of Mass as brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and action in the Holy Spirit will one day heal our divisions. Because Catholics believe that Mass is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are not admitted to holy communion. If one day we achieve true unity, then we will all receive from the one Body and Blood of Christ. But until that day, Anglicans, Protestant and other churches cannot receive communion in a Catholic Mass, nor should Catholics receive communion in non-Catholic churches.

**Burial Plots at St. Lawrence Cemetery:** Our policy states that a new plot at St. Lawrence Cemetery costs \$200.00, regardless of whether that new plot is used for a full casket or the cremains of the deceased. If cremains are buried in an existing grave, the cost is \$100.00. We ask that you pay by cheque to St. Lawrence Cemetery Fund. Receipts will be issued. This is necessary for the upkeep of the cemeteries. **Please Note:** It is forbidden to bury cremains in our cemeteries without permission of the pastor. Such unauthorized burials are disrespectful to the Church and to the deceased.

**St. Lawrence Parish needs a Religious Education Coordinator:** to guide the religious education program in the parish. This position does come with a small stipend The Coordinator would be tasked with trying to get Catechists (with Fr. Allan and parish council's support) and meeting with parents to explain their responsibilities. If interested please speak to Fr. Allan.

**Bible Study:** Wednesday, December 13, **10:30** a.m. St. Paul's Church. We focus on the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **All** are welcome.

**Community Prayer Tree:** A group of individuals would love to pray for your intentions. They pray for parishioners in need of prayer daily and at the Cenacle following Friday Mass each week when possible. They are very confidential would encourage you to either leave your petitions in the sealed box located **in** the Church or please phone Lucille Fougere at 234-2320. We would love to know when prayers have been answered.

**2017-2018 Sunday Missals** Your old Missal expired, November 26. Cost \$5.00 each at Church entrance. (A friendly reminder to please pay for your Missal if you took one and did not pay for it at the time).

**Extra Confession Times:** Saturday, December 16, St. Francis, 3:30 p.m.  
 St. Lawrence 7:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, December 17, 1:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church, Fr. Charlie Cameron & Fr. Allan available.

**Christmas Mass Schedule: Fourth Sunday of Advent,** Saturday, December 23, 4:00 p.m. St. Francis  
 6:00 p.m. St. Lawrence  
 Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m. St. Paul's

**(Note:** These 3 Masses constitute the Sunday obligation for that Sunday, and are separate from any of the Christmas Masses. We are obligated to celebrate one of the regular Sunday Masses **and** one of the Christmas Masses)

**Christmas: Sunday,** December 24: St. Francis, 4:00 p.m.  
 St. Lawrence, 6:00 p.m.  
 St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m.  
**Monday,** December 25, St. Paul's, 10:00 a.m.

**Day of Reconciliation:** 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sat, Dec. 16 at St. Ninian's Cathedral. Different Confessors will be available.

**Donations for Christmas Flowers at St. Lawrence Parish** - you will find containers on the entrance tables for your donations. Thank you in advance for your sharing.

**Christmas Flowers at St. Paul's:** anyone who would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one(s) please write Christmas Flowers on an envelope and include a note of the person it is in memory of and the individual donating and names will be attached to bulletins sometime in January.

**Glebe House Pledges:** For parishioners who have made a pledge towards the new Glebe House project by way of pre-authorization payments through their financial institution, please be advised that your 1st payments will be process on or about December 27, 2017 and will continue on a monthly basis (once per month) at around the same time towards the end of each month on a go forward basis.

**St. Lawrence CWL** - Thank you to everyone who supported us during the past year. Our annual fundraiser was a success and we could not have done it without your help. We have recently purchased two new trees for the church, donated to Mass for Shut Ins and Our Lady of Grace Shrine in Monastery. Thank you also for donating, supporting and working at funeral receptions, with your help we can continue this service that is so much appreciated by grieving families. Thank you also to Father Allan MacPhie for his support and guidance. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas, peace, joy and good health for 2018.

**Christmas decorating at St. Lawrence Church** - in keeping with liturgical guidelines we will decorate our church on the following dates: Sunday, December, 10 and 17, 2017. It will commence at 2; 00 P. M. We encourage a large number of volunteers to assist with this timely effort as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah at Christmas here at St. Lawrence. Working together, let this be a time of joy and community as we praise God for his many gifts which he has bestowed on each one of us. Blessings.

**Strait Area Food Bank** - there are many in our area who struggle to make ends meet at this time of year with increased demands on what little income must go for fuel, food and clothing. At St. Lawrence we have a big box at the back of the church to receive your donations. Should you wish to give a financial donation just put it in an envelope labeled Food Bank and place it in the collection and it will be forwarded to the director of the Strait Area Food Bank. God always rewards the giving heart!

**St. Paul's** is asking for donations for needy families in our area, who are less fortunate then most of us. A box is located in the Foyer of the Church. Food donations and toys etc. are accepted. Please give generously to this Christmas Fundraiser and bring happiness to families in our own back yard. Thank you!

**Relic of St. Francis Xavier:** The relic of St. Francis Xavier (the right forearm and hand) is coming to St. Francis Xavier University on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, beginning with a service at 1 p.m. at the Chapel, followed by an afternoon of veneration and concluding with Mass at the Chapel at 6:30. This is an opportunity to rediscover Francis Xavier as one of the most exciting and adventurous figures of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The visit of the relic will be a wonderful opportunity for people of faith to seek the intercession of St. Francis Xavier.

**A Voice: Hear, Love, Follow An Advent Youth / Intergenerational Gathering** Sunday, December 10, 2017, 2pm St. Joseph, Port Hawkesbury Come together to embrace the Advent Season. Prayer and activities catered for all ages.

**Christmas Carol Sing & Concert** St. Joseph's Church, 2730 Ohio East Road, Antigonish Monday, December 18th, 7:00 pm Please join us for a delightful evening of carol singing with musical guests Sponsored by St. Joseph's CWL Free will offering at the door

**Try Alpha Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith.** Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge; it's just an open, informal, and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. We Hope You Can Join Us: WHERE: St. Joseph Parish Hall. 138 Granville, Port Hawkesbury, NS WHEN: January 4, 2018 Evening begins with supper at 6:00pm Registration Deadline: Friday, December 29, 2017 For More Information or To Register: Contact St. Joseph Parish Office Phone: 902-625-1045 Email: [st.joe.ph@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:st.joe.ph@ns.sympatico.ca) Check Out [www.tryalpha.ca](http://www.tryalpha.ca)

**The gift shop at the Shrine in Mabou** will open up for two days only for a Christmas Shopping Sale. All merchandise in stock will be 50% OFF on Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. For inquiries please call 902-945-2221

**"Hayre Boucher Community Christmas Social"** Come one come all!! Sunday December 10th from 11 until 1 there will be crafts for children, Selfie "Elfie" Booth, cookies, sweets, coffee, tea and refreshments for everyone to sit and enjoy and there will be vendors with craft and baked goods. "Christmas is a season of meaning and traditions, a special time spent in the warm circle of family and friends" Come be a part of our circle.

**Mulgrave Legion Card Plays:** twice weekly. **Crib** - Sundays at 1:00 p.m. **45's**-Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

#### **The Advent Wreath (A brief explanation)**

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin adventus for "coming" and is associated with 4 weeks of preparation for Christmas. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize eternal life. Four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) stand in the circle and each one represents one of the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre of the circle is a fifth candle (white), the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. The wreath symbolizes the crown-like character, to remind us of Jesus. **1st Sunday of Advent** – The first candle symbolizes "HOPE", Purple candle. We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep his promises to us. **2nd Sunday of Advent** – The second candle reminds us that Jesus, the Prince of "PEACE", came to bring us spiritual peace

