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 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

Thank You to all who gave me Christmas cards, monetary gifts, gift cards, food and baked goods, as well as other gifts. I truly appreciate your kindness and support. ~ Fr. Allan

Masses, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(Note: This is a Holy Day of Obligation - Catholics are **required** to celebrate one of the Masses offered for this solemnity)

<u>Sunday,</u>	December 31,	St. Francis,	4:00 p.m.,	Nathaniel Haywood
		St. Lawrence	6:00 p.m.,	Philip O'Neill
<u>Monday,</u>	January 1,	St. Paul's	10:00 a.m.,	pro populo
<u>Tuesday,</u>	January 2,	NO MASS	6:00 p.m.	St. Paul's
<u>Wednesday,</u>	January 3,	Bonnie Jean Tracey	6:00 p.m.	St. Paul's
<u>Thursday,</u>	January 4,	Mary DeYoung	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul's
<u>Friday,</u>	January 5,	Cyril Brow	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul's
<u>Saturday,</u>	January 6,	Billy Boucher	11:00 a.m.	St. Paul's
		Nathaniel Haywood	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
		Kenneth Wood	6:00 p.m.	St. Lawrence
<u>Sunday,</u>	January 7,	pro populo	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul's

Holy Hour: Friday, January 5, 11 a.m., 11:00 a.m., St. Paul's Church.

Weekly Collection	St. Francis	St. Lawrence	St. Paul's
December 23/24, 2017			
Sunday Collection	\$354.95	\$1322.90	\$1854.00
Loose	\$45.05	\$39.60	\$109.70
Pastor's Dues			\$195.00
Christmas Offering Dec 24/25	\$505.00	\$1329.00	\$2251.00
Loose Dec. 24/25	\$122.70	\$380.70	\$305.55
IMO Carl Fougere			\$250.00 Lunch Fund
IMO Marie Jean Boucher			\$25.00 Lunch Fund
IMO Colin Purcell		\$100.00	

January 6/7, 2018	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
St. Francis	Anne Carter	Ada Ehler / Patsy Grady
St. Lawrence	Basil / George	Beryl / Ruth / Charlie
St. Paul's	Gwen & Hugh O'Neill	Lynn Whalen / Debbie White / Estrella Melong

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.

An update on renovations at St. Lawrence Church: Between Dec. 15, 2016 and Dec. 14, 2017, we renovated the entrance area of the church, replacing wood paneling with gypsum board as well as doing other repairs. In June we replaced much of the carpet throughout the church. The total cost of these renovations \$25,447.50, leaving us with a balance of \$144.68 in the Building Fund. If you are considering making donations to the church, or looking for a worthy charity to recommend when a loved one dies, please remember St. Lawrence Parish Building Fund. We appreciate your generosity.

NO Bible Study this week, Wednesday, **January 3.**

Thank You: to Green's Funeral Home for their generous donation of \$100.00 to St. Lawrence Carpet Fund and \$100.00 to St. Paul's Christmas Flower Fund. We are grateful for your generosity and continued support.

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.

2018 Sunday Offering Envelopes If there is not a 2018 church envelope with your name on it please pickup a blank set of envelopes at the back of the church and put your name and full address on each envelope for the first month. Every parishioner has a duty and obligation to financially support your Parish. All contributions with the exception of "Special Collection Envelopes" and the "Diocesan Levy" stay in this parish and funds are used to pay for heat, electricity, insurance, building maintenance, sewer/ property taxes, ground/cemetery maintenance, snow removal, Glebe House household expenses, general office expense, wages/ benefits for the Priest and religious coordinator and other parish related expenses. All contributions no matter how small are important to the financial viability of St. Paul's Parish. All monies received by means of church envelopes are recorded in the financial records of the Parish and charitable tax receipts will be issued which can be used when filing your income tax return.

Family Life Ministry of Diocese of Antigonish Parenting tip. The New Year is a time for all of us to reflect on the past and see if positive changes are needed in our lives. Are there changes you would like to see in your family - more time spent together, a greater number of meals shared as a family, increased sharing of events in each others lives, or an increase in peaceful family time? Discuss what changes each family member would like to see and then write out an action plan - a how to, so you will accomplish one or two of your goals. Your children will learn how to set goals and action plans, while all of you will benefit from positive changes that will strengthen your relationship as a family **Used with permission re Family Ministry Office of Diocese of Hamilton**

Healing Mass at Saint Joseph, North Sydney: On Monday January 8th, starting at 7pm Father Patrick O'Neill will be celebrating a Healing Mass there will be prayer teams set up for individual prayer. Alan Gale (formerly from the group Four for the Lord) will be providing music that is praise and worship and very prayerful. Come out and join us!

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 Check Out www.tryalpha.ca

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!

Chase the ace will take place every Friday night from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Havre Boucher Community Centre.

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

There will be Chase The Ace at the Mulgrave Fire Hall on Sat. Dec. 23rd & Dec. 30th, from 7:00 - 9:00. On Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve mass, St. Lawrence Parish choir will be singing carols with the junior Christmas choir, starting at 5:30. Please come early to join in, and listen to some beautiful songs.

Happy New Year!

