

Fr. Allan MacPhie, Pastor Rectory: 902-234-2387 / Church: 902-234-3505  
Mary Williams, Religious Education Coordinator, Home 902- 234-3118, cell 902-870-2168, or Church 902- 234-3505  
Email: [marvwilliams@bellaliant.net](mailto:marvwilliams@bellaliant.net) Bulletin Notices must be in no later than Thursday p.m.

This Sunday's Readings *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Those who respect the Lord honour their parents.*  
*Responsorial Psalm 128 R. Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.*  
*Colossians 3:12-21 Family life in the Lord.*  
*Luke 2:41-52 His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers.*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated every Saturday, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church (unless it is cancelled for a funeral, etc.) and before Mass on Saturdays at St. Francis and St. Lawrence Churches. If you would like to receive Reconciliation at a different time please phone Fr. Allan at 902 234-2387 to set up an appointment.

Masses: Tuesday, December 28 - Sunday, January 2, 2022

Tuesday,	December 28,	NO MASS	6:00 p.m.	St. Paul's	
Wednesday,	December 29,	Ruth Mattie	6:00 p.m.	St. Paul's	
Thursday,	December 30,	Rick Fougere	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul's	
Friday,	December 31,	(Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God)	Patsy Grady	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
			pro populo	6:00 p.m.	St. Lawrence
Saturday,	January 1,	(Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God)	pro populo	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul's
		(Epiphany of the Lord)	pro populo	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
			pro populo	6:00 p.m.	St. Lawrence
	January 2,	(Epiphany)	pro populo	8:30 a.m.	St. Paul's
			Marion Melong	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul's

Thank you to all who gave me cards, food, and other gifts. Your generosity is much appreciated. *Fr. Allan.*

Weekly Collection	December 18/19, 2021	St. Francis	St. Lawrence	St. Paul's
Sunday Offering		\$415.00	\$700.00	\$2375.00
Loose		\$100.00		\$10.00
Pastor's Dues				\$50.00
Cemetery Fund		\$230.00	\$50.00	\$200.00
Missals				\$16.00
Christmas Offering		\$70.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers			\$20.00	\$145.00
Roof Fund				\$850.00
Church Donation				\$100.00 IMO Dolly & Wilfred Fougere

St. Lawrence Parishioners: 1. Please consider nominating people for parish council. Nominees should be regular Church goers Forms at church entrance. Please give them to Fr. Allan.  
2. Please enter and exit by the side doors where you can hold the railings.  
3. We need able-bodied, healthy people to shovel the front steps before Saturday evening Mass, for funeral Masses and at other necessary times. Please speak to Fr. Allan or George Freer if you can help.

Funeral Receptions: St. Lawrence CWL had decided to postpone holding Funeral Receptions until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, due to Covid restrictions and the lack of volunteers. We will reassess on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. If anyone would like to go on a list of volunteers to assist us, please call Jessie Guthro at 902-625-1617.

Hospital Visitation: The present pandemic restrictions do not allow a pastor to visit any of his parishioners who are patients at St. Martha's Hospital without an appointment. Therefore, if you wish me to visit your relative, you must tell me they are in the hospital, that they want a visit, and then I can make an appointment to see them through the Pastoral Care Dept. ~ *Fr. Allan*

St. Paul's Church Roof Fund: The cost of our new roof was \$33,206.25, a significant hit to our operating fund. If you wish to contribute above and beyond your usual contribution, please put your donation in an envelope with your **name, envelope number,** and marked **Roof Fund.** Thank you

The New Sunday Missals 2021-2022 began selling on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the cost is \$5.00 per missal. Did you remember to pay for yours?

**Church Volunteers for Church Synod Needed:** Pope Francis has called for a Synod (meaning an assembly or gathering) of the Church. The purpose of this synod is to listen to one another and discern the will of the Holy Spirit for the Church. The name of the Synod is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” The diocesan phase of the Synod begins Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We need volunteers- “point persons” from each parish to oversee the volunteers who will be needed. If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Allan.

**Church collection envelopes** for the year **2022** are now available for pickup. **PLEASE** use these envelopes starting January 1, 2022. **DO NOT** use the 2022 envelopes in December 2021. If you do not see your name on a 2022 envelope collection package, please pick up a package that has no name on it. For receipting proposes, when using the 2022 church envelopes, please put your name on these envelopes for the first few weeks in January so that we can record your donations correctly on the financial records of the Parish. The COVID 19 pandemic has had a major financial impact on the collection of Sunday offerings, cemetery offerings, other offerings and donations throughout this year. These funds are needed to pay for the general operations of St. Paul’s Parish and with major expenditures made or committed during the year (furnace and roof repair), Parish funds are being depleted. In order to remain a viable Parish, St. Paul’s parish needs the support of all parishioners to remain financially viable and in good standing with the Diocese of Antigonish. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

**COVID – 19 Laws (simplified) Some items have changed 2, 5, 7, and 9.**

1. Masks are mandatory in our churches and Church halls. The mask must cover your mouth and nose. Readers are exempt
2. Singing is forbidden except for one soloist.
3. Proof of double vaccination for the COVID – 19 virus is not required for Sunday Masses and weekday Masses and weekday Masses. **Regular worship** is deemed **essential!**
4. Proof of double vaccination is required for funeral liturgies, weddings, baptisms, parish council and other meetings, bible study, Holy Hours, retreats or missions, community meals / potlucks and fundraisers. Rental of our parish halls, for events like wedding receptions, Christmas fairs and workshops, etc. require proof of vaccination.
5. **Funeral liturgies** without proof of double vaccination may take place under the following rules.
  - a. maximum of **10** persons plus officiant and funeral home staff.
  - b. all present must **wear a mask** indoors and outdoors, and must **social distance**.
  - c. **no one** who is unwell may attend.
  - d. a reception after the funeral or wedding requires proof of double vaccination.
6. There are no exemptions from proof of vaccination for people entering Nova Scotia to attend a funeral or wedding. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving must self – isolate for at least 7 days and get 2 negative tests in Nova Scotia in order to stop self-isolating.
7. For Holy Communion, everyone must receive the Host in the hand or in a pyx. There is no receiving on the tongue until further notice. .
8. We will not be sharing the Chalice or the Sign of Peace for the foreseeable future, until it is safe.
9. Social distancing of 6 feet is in effect. The new limits on the number of people allowed are 50 people for St. Paul’s and St. Lawrence churches; 25 for St. Francis of Assisi.

**Thank you** to all for the overwhelming support of our Religious Ed. Fund raiser through the purchase of Angels in memory of loved ones and others who play an important role in our lives. We’ve raised \$685.00 and are very grateful for your generosity. A Mass Intention will be requested in the New Year for all those whose names are on the tree.

**Pastor’s Christmas Message:** Covid-19 has once again disrupted our lives as we struggle against a world-wide pandemic that has taken 5.5 million lives, 30,000 of them in Canada. We all look forward to the return to normality in the near future. In the meantime, Christ and His Church call us to be patient with one another. There is nothing to be gained, and potentially much to be lost, if we allow our arguments about vaccinations and COVID rules to cause injured feelings and rancour. May the Christ-child born of Mary fill us with the peace of God and help us to love each other in Christian unity. Merry Christmas, Your Pastor, Fr. Allan.



Happy New Year!