

St Paul’s Parish, Havre Boucher
 St. Lawrence Parish, Mulgrave
 Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis Harbour
 Fr. Allan MacPhie, Pastor Rectory: 902- 234-2387 / Church: 902-234-3505
 Mary Williams, Religious Ed. Coordinator, Home: 902-234-3118, cell 902-870-2168, or Church 902-234-3505
 Email: marywilliams@bellaliant.net Bulletin notices must be in no later than Thursday evening.

The Sunday Readings Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11 [The Lord] has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted...

Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1) R. My soul shall exult in my God.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1: 6-8, 19-28 I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.

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 19, to Sunday, December 24, 2023

Tuesday,	December 19,	Ethel DeCoste	6:00 p.m.	St. Paul’s
Wednesday,	December 20,	Edward & Colleen DeGruchy	6:00 p.m.	St. Paul’s
Thursday,	December 21,	Leo Mackie	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
Friday,	December 22,	Raymond Brow	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
Saturday,	December 23,	Wilfred Landry	11:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
		Rose Turvey	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
		Joe Wood	6:00 p.m.	St. Lawrence
Sunday,	December 24,	pro populo	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s

<u>Collection, December 9/10, 2023</u>	<u>St. Francis</u>	<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>St. Paul</u>
Sunday Collection	\$270.00	\$350.00	\$2015.00
Loose		\$58.00	\$35.45
Pastors Dues			\$55.00
Christmas			\$20.00
IMO Allan LeVangie			\$540.00Parish \$90.00 Luncheon \$130.00 Cemetery
IMO Wayne DeCoste			\$60.00 Cemetery
Christmas Flowers			\$400.00

Changes for Pastor’s Visits at St. Martha’s Hospital: New privacy regulations at St. Martha’s Hospital do not permit clergy to see a list of their parishioners who are patients in the hospital. Therefore, I will need to be informed by the family or patient themselves if the patient wishes me to visit them in hospital. My usual day for visiting is Tuesday, so please inform me by phone before Sunday Mass (234-2387, Glebe house) if someone wants me to visit them. ~ **Fr. Allan**

Sanitary Policies for St. Paul, St. Lawrence, and St. Francis of Assisi Parishes: We strongly recommend the wearing of masks during cold, flu and COVID outbreaks; hand sanitizing and masks for Eucharistic Ministers at all times; bowing, not hand shaking, for the sign of peace; and being the last to receive Communion for those receiving on the tongue.

St. Lawrence CWL will be selling angels again this year to remember loved ones or people that want our prayers. They will be remembered in the prayers of the faithful during all Masses from Christmas until Epiphany. Angels are \$5 each and will be available before Mass until Christmas. Proceeds will go to St Lawrence building fund.

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) is looking for volunteers in Port Hawkesbury. If interested call/text 902-456-5982 or email jeff.deville@cnib.ca (And for more information visit www.cnib.ca)

Bible Study: Wednesday, Dec. 20, 10:30 am, St. Paul’s Church (wake room). The coming Sunday readings are examined and discussed, focusing on their meaning and application to our faith today. All are welcome.

St. Paul’s Angel Tree Angels will be available for purchase for the “**Forever in Our Hearts**” tree, next Sunday Dec. 3. for \$5.00. Proceeds go towards the Religious Ed. Program. A Mass for all those on the tree will be offered in January 2024.

St. Lawrence Parish: there will be carols ½ hour before mass on Christmas Eve.

St. Paul's Religious Ed: A fundraiser was set up by Ashley Allain to raise money for Religious Ed. it was a 50/50 draw and \$1230.00 was raised. \$615 for us and \$615 for the winner. Congratulations to Monica White the winner of the draw. I would like to thank Ashley for setting up the fundraiser and seeing it through the very end. Thank you also to the children and parents who sold tickets, it is much appreciated.

Christmas Flowers for St. Paul Church: Anyone wishing to donate money in memory of someone either deceased or living relative or friend may do so by placing donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with the person name it is in memory of, and who it is from. A list of donations will be available in January.

Notice to St. Francis Parish: the owners of envelopes numbered #26, and # 29, could you please put your name and address on the next couple envelopes, so you are able to receive credit for income tax purposes. Thank you.

Cemetery Fees: Parishioners are reminded of the following policies passed by parish councils, and approved by the pastor regarding cemetery fees

St. Paul's: For Parishioners No cost. (A parishioner is a Catholic who lives within the boundaries of the parish, **or** who lives close and attends Mass here faithfully and supports the parish using church envelopes). **For Non-parishioners** \$400.00 payable to St. Paul's Cemetery Fund for a new plot; \$100.00 for burial of cremains in an existing plot.

St. Lawrence: For parishioners and non-parishioners: \$200.00 payable to St. Lawrence Cemetery Fund, for burial in a new plot. There is no fee for burial of ashes in an existing plot.

St. Francis of Assisi: For Parishioners: \$200.00 payable to St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery Fund for burial in a new plot; \$100.00 for burial of cremains in an existing plot. **For Non-Parishioners** \$300.00 for burial in a new plot; \$100.00 for burial of cremains in an existing plot.

Thank you! The family of the late Allan LeVangie, would like to say how grateful we are to everyone who thought of us during this difficult time. A special thanks to Father Allan MacPhie, for his kind words and all the visits he made to the hospital. Thank you for all the food, visits, calls, donation, prayer cards, those who attended the wake and the funeral from both far and near we are truly grateful. We appreciate all who played a part in the funeral mass in anyway. Thanks to Ursula Ryan who travelled from Guysborough to bless us with her gift of music which with no power meant no organ but her direction with the choir was such a gift in itself. We would like to thank Natalie DeCoste, for her beautiful performance on the fiddle, even with the loss of power; the funeral mass was such a comfort to us at this difficult time. We are grateful to all for whatever part you played as we journeyed together during the last few months of Allan's life, we will forever remember your kindness.
Elizabeth and family

Christmas Mass Schedule: **Sunday, December 24,** St. Francis 4:00 p.m.
St. Lawrence 5:30 p.m.
St. Paul's 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 25, St. Paul's 10:00 p.m.

(Note: The regular Sunday Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent take place at the usual times on Saturday December 23 at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m. We are obligated to celebrate one of the regular Sunday Masses **and** one of the Christmas Masses. **two Masses, two separate obligations).**

Lectors: I was uncertain about two questions, (1) if only a deacon is allowed to carry the Book of the Gospels in the opening procession and (2) if the book of the Gospels should remain in the Church or be carried out in the closing procession. The rubrics in the Book of the Gospels tells us that (1) the Book may be carried by a layperson in the absence of a deacon, and (2) The Book remains in the church and is not carried out during the closing procession.

TAX RECEIPT DEADLINE FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR 2023: To receive a charitable donation receipt for the year 2023 from St. Paul's Parish, St. Lawrence Parish and St. Francis of Assisi Mission, for all donations including your Sunday offerings, special collections, donations IMO, etc., funds **must** be received by the Parish on or before December 31, 2023. Tax receipts for Income Tax purposes for the year 2023 will be issued on or before February 29, 2024. This is a requirement from the Revenue Canada Agency. Any funds received in the month of January 2024 will be recorded as a 2024 donation.

CHURCH ENVELOPES: St. Paul's Church Envelopes for 2024 will be made available December 17th, 2023. For those parishioners who have contributed to your respective Parish using 2023 church envelopes provided, your name will be shown on the 2024 box of envelopes. If your name does not appear on an envelope box, **please** take a box of envelopes that does not have a name on it (30 extra boxes) and for the first couple of weeks make sure your name and address are shown on your Sunday Offering envelopes. PLEASE do not use your 2024 envelopes during the month of December 2023 or use your 2023 envelopes in the year 2024.

Every parishioner has both a duty and obligation to support their Parish. Sunday Offering envelopes are made specifically for the collection of monetary donations to your Parish for the purpose of collecting funds necessary for the operations of the Parish. The use of remittance envelopes is **crucial** to the financial success of the operations of the church. With the exception of "Special Collections" and the "Diocesan Levy", the majority of funds collected stay in your Parish to pay for operating expenses (heat / electricity / insurance / mtce. / repairs) of the church, glebe house, office expenses including wages and benefits, snow removal, religious education/administration, grounds and cemetery upkeep, just to name a few of the expenditures.