

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 2 Samuel 7; 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 “...the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.”

Responsorial Psalm 89 R. Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

Romans 16: 25-27 “...to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith...”

Luke 1: 26-38 “The Angel said to [Mary] ... And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus”

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: Sunday, December 24 to Monday, January 1

Sunday,	December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Ronnie Chisholm	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
		Catherine Chisholm	5:30 p.m.	St. Lawrence
		pro populo	7:00 p.m.	St. Paul’s
Monday,	December 25, (Christmas Day)	Lorraine Henry	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
Tuesday,	December 26,	No Mass		
Wednesday,	December 27,	No Mass		
Thursday,	December 28,	Elaine Burns	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
Friday,	December 29,	Marc Amirault	9:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
Saturday,	December 30,	Dorothy Melong	11:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s
		Cathy Leet	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
		Robert Fraser	6:00 p.m.	St. Lawrence
Sunday,	December 31,	pro populo	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s

Note: The Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on the evening of Sunday, December 31 and morning of Monday, January 1 are separate from the regular Sunday Masses. Catholics are obligated to celebrate one of the Sunday Masses **and** one of the “New Years” Masses.

Sunday,	December 31, (<u>Mary, Mother of God</u>)	Walter Jellow	4:00 p.m.	St. Francis
		Dr. Lennie O’Neil	6:00 p.m.	St. Lawrence
	January 1	pro populo	10:00 a.m.	St. Paul’s

<u>Collection, December 16/17, 2023</u>	<u>St. Francis</u>	<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>St. Paul</u>
Sunday Collection	\$305.00	\$650.00	\$3085.00
Loose		\$58.00	\$18.00
Pastors Dues			\$155.00
Christmas			\$120.00
Christmas Flowers			\$225.00
Parish Donation		\$500.00	\$200.00
Fuel		\$300.00	
50/50 Draw			\$615.00
Roof Fund			\$500.00
Cemetery			\$150.00

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.

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

No Bible Study: this Wednesday, December 27

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

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.

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 are now available 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.

Pastor's Christmas Message: Sadly, war rages the Middle East, Ukraine and other parts of the world, causing thousands of deaths, horrific injuries, grief, destruction of vital services and environmental harm. We are safe here in Canada, but as Christians we are morally obligated to do all we can to bring peace to all the nations. May the Prince of Peace, whose glorious birth we celebrate at Christmas, pour out his Spirit upon all who live in conflict, bringing them healing and peace. Merry Christmas ~ *Fr. Allan*

Merry Christmas Everyone!