

THE BULLETIN FOR DEC. 14/15, 2019

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	St. Columba Iona	4 p.m.	Fr. Vargheese
Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	St. Andrew's Boisdale	4 p.m.	Fr. Doug MacDonald
Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	St. Mary's Frenchvale	4 p.m.	Fr. Everett MacDow
Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	St. Mary's Frenchvale	Midnight	Fr. Vargheese
Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	St. Michael's Baddeck	7 p.m.	Fr. Angus MacDougall
Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Queen of the World Wagmatcook	7 p.m.	Fr. Vargheese
Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)	St. Michael's Baddeck	10 a.m.	Fr. Vargheese

THE PARISH COMMUNITIES OFFER PRAYER & SYMPATHY TO:

The Family of Judy (MacNeil) Saunders, Kentville, formerly from Iona.

The Family of Charlotte Ann Fraser, St. Michael's Parish, Baddeck.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & PRIVATE CONFESSIONS:

Sunday, December 15 - St. Columba Church, Iona - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 15 - St. Andrew's Church, Boisdale - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ST. ANDREW'S, BOISDALE: Christmas cleaning and decorating will take place on Sunday, December 22, at 2 p.m.

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH, IONA: Decorating the Church for Christmas will be held after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 21.

PAUSE FOR ADVENT: Take a PAUSE during this busy time of the year. On Sunday, December 15, Holy Family Parish in Sydney Mines at 2 p.m. Come join us with Father Oliver to learn more about the Eucharist, and to discuss what it means in our lives.

ST. BARRA PARISH will be presenting the Christmas Eve pageant and planning is underway. Please contact Liz MacNeil at 902-295-8483 or lizm1964@icloud.com if your children wish to participate. There will be one practice prior to December 24. Date and time to be determined.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ST. MARY, FRENCHVALE: All Children welcome! There will be one practice for the Christmas pageant. This will happen immediately following Mass on Saturday, December 21, (Approximately 6:45). If folks are decorating the church we will practice in the basement. Pageant participants should try to be at the church at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. If you will not be able to make Practice or have any questions call Carol at 902-241-5435.

PLEASE PRAY FOR A PRIEST/DEACON EACH DAY: Let us show our love and appreciation for our priests, deacons and others serving in our diocese, by praying each day. Sunday, Dec. 15 - Fr. Everett MacDow. Monday, Dec. 16 - Fr. Angus MacDougall. Tuesday, Dec. 17 - Fr. Donald MacGillivray. Wednesday, Dec. 18 - Fr. Daniel MacInnis. Thursday, Dec. 19 - Fr. George MacInnis. Friday, Dec. 20 - Fr. Duncan MacIsaac. Saturday, Dec. 21 - Fr. Joseph MacKenzie.

MASS FOR SHUT-INS: 11:30 a.m. on Sundays on CTV.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: All parishes ... Anyone wishing to donate towards the purchase of Christmas flowers may do so by including it in a separate envelope and putting it in the weekly collection. Please include your name, parish and envelope number.

BOISDALE FIRE HALL: This past summer a documentary "Bann Nom Baghasdal" was produced. This film was done in Boisdale South Uist and Boisdale Cape Breton and tells of the similarities between the two communities both historically and culturally. A showing of this film, open to all local residents, will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, in the Boisdale Fire Hall. Following the film, an "Appreciation Night" for all Fire Hall Volunteers will take place. Music will be provided by Darrell Keigan and the kitchen will be open.

LET THERE BE LIGHT -- a Christmas Show of inspired festive music on Sunday, December 22, at 7 p.m. at Knox Church Hall, Baddeck, with Michelle Stephens, Joella Foulds & Robyn Cathcart. \$20 per person. Children 12 & under are free. Also, a show on Saturday, December 21, at 7 p.m. at Little Narrows Presbyterian Church, Little Narrows.

PIES: There are still a number of pies available for purchase from St. Barra Parish. If you wish to do so please call Wendy at 902-725-2525 or Gregory at 902-725-2840 to order apple or mincemeat pies.

THE CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY PIPE BAND has a Christmas CD for sale! The album features the CBU Pipe Band (recent winners of the Grade 5 North American Championships), Redmond MacDougall, and Carol Ann MacDougall. CD's are \$10 each and are available at the Cape Breton Curiosity Shop on Charlotte St, downtown Sydney, or through band members. All proceeds of this album go towards our fundraising efforts to fund uniform purchases, and a trip to the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. Contact Trevor Kellock at cbupb2014@gmail.com for more details.

DR. HILDA TREMBLETT will speak on "Surviving Cancer: How to do it" at St. Joseph Parish Hall (church basement), Archibald Avenue, North Sydney, on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Tremblett will discuss a number of ways to keep well and better manage our health. This event is in partnership with the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph Parish. There will be a free will offering at the door with all donated funds going to the Cancer Centre at our Regional Hospital. Light refreshments will be served after Dr. Tremblett's talk. All are welcome.

CARD GAMES: Tuesdays – Senior’s Club, Frenchvale – 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays – Boisdale Fire Hall – 7:30 p.m.

MINISTRIES - ST. COLUMBA - Saturday, Dec. 21 - 4 p.m. - Readers – Judy, Peggy MacKinnon. Eucharistic Ministers - Francis (The Bread), Florence (The Cup), Anne (The Cup). Hospitality - Hoss & Cynthia, Brad, Timmy. Altar Server – Grace, Katherine.

MINISTRIES - ST. ANDREW'S - Saturday, Dec. 21 - 5:30 p.m. - Readers - Blaine, Anita. Eucharistic Minister - Blaine. Hospitality - Len. Altar Server - Vince.

MINISTRIES - ST. MICHAEL'S - Sunday, Dec. 22 - 9 a.m. - Readers - Eileen Montgomery, Marie Hanam. Eucharistic Minister - Mary Ivey. Church cleaner for the week of December 15 - Bernice Grant.

OFFERINGS (Dec. 7/8)	St. Columba	St. Mary's	St. Michael's
Envelopes	\$ 755.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 458.00
Loose	102.05	4.00	64.00
DD	50.00	245.00	
Building Fund	25.00	10.00	
St. Columba Cem.	30.00		
St. Barra Cem.	40.00		
Donation	2000.00		
Talbot House		60.00	

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

The Advent invites us to spend some time daily in contemplation. Contemplation is a higher form of prayer than reciting prayers written by others. Contemplation is a kind of seeing that is much more than mere looking because it includes *recognizing* and thus *appreciating*. The contemplative mind does not tell us *what* to see but teaches us *how* to see what we behold. Contemplation allows us to see things in their wholeness without nit-picking. We judge and condemn others because we are biased and prejudiced. When we are biased, we do nit-picking. When we do nit-picking, we sin against charity. We need contemplative eyes and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to become compassionate and respectful of difference and diversity. God is quite comfortable with immense diversity. We have a much harder time with it preferring uniformity and conformity instead. God bless you.