



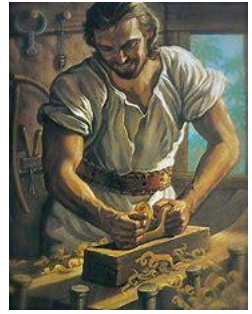
PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

P.O. Box 338 34 ARCHIBALD AVE. NORTH SYDNEY, N.S. B2A 3M4

E-MAIL: stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Northsydneyparish.com holycrosscemeteryns.com

Facebook at St. Joseph's Parish North Sydney



Pentecost Sunday

† MAY 31ST 2020, ORDINARY TIME YEAR A †

Rev. Douglas MacDonald
Rev. M r. Roy Smith

Leadership Ministry Team

Pam Hall-Faith Formation, Cavell Young – Bookkeeping,
Janis Rose & Cathy MacDonald - Liturgy, Monica Shebib-
Baptism, Sonny Guy-Communion to Sick, Richard Rose-Finance

OFFICE: 902-794-3951
GLEBE: 902-794-4599

ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEXT WEEK

Date	Location	Time	Details
Mon June 1st	Private Mass		Michelle MacDonald
Tues. June 2nd	Private Mass		Geralyn Reid
Wed. June 3rd	Private Mass		Michael Young
Thurs. June 4th	Private Mass		For All Doctors
Fri. June 5th	Private Mass		For First Responders
Sat June 6th	Private Mass		For Postal Workers
Sun. June 7th	Private Mass		For Parishioners

PARISH NEWS

Pentecost

“The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church,” proclaims the *Catechism* (1617). This means Pentecost, like every other mystery of our faith, can be seen as a nuptial mystery – a mystery that communicates the marriage of heaven and earth.

One of the most important keys to unlocking the mystery of Pentecost is the presence of Mary in the upper room. Somehow, what happened to her at the Annunciation is about to be perpetuated in the whole Church. When she was told that she’d be the mother of the Father’s eternal Son, Mary inquired of the angel: “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Lk 1:34-35).

Caryll Houselander writes: “Just as no one can have an ordinary child of flesh and blood without there being a union of flesh and blood first, no one can generate spiritual life without first having union with the Spirit. Marriage ... is only a faint shadow, a kind of symbol, of the wedding of the Spirit of God to humanity; and it is from that wedding that Christ is born into the world” (*Reed of God*, p. 84).

On the day of Pentecost, that wedding – the wedding of the Spirit of God to Mary at the Annunciation – was extend to all those gathered in the upper room. What happens through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon our humanity? Saint Bonaventure proclaims: “It is nothing other than the heavenly Father by a divine seed, as it were, impregnating the soul and making it fruitful. The power of the Most High comes upon the soul and overshadows it (Lk 1:35)” (*Bringing Forth Christ*).

And what happens after “conceiving Christ” in this way? The Apostles then “birth” Christ for others through the power of their proclamation. The Holy Spirit – the fire of God – is the very source of evangelization. Hence, evangelization is simply impossible, as Pope Francis tells us, “unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts” (*Joy of the Gospel* 261).

You’re probably familiar with those icons of Pentecost in which the Apostles are gathered with Mary and little candle flames float above their heads symbolizing the “tongues of fire” that descended upon them. A “tongue of fire,” however, is not a little candle flicker. It’s more like the firey blast of a flame-thrower. This is the *fire of God* we’re talking about here – something infinite, something hotter than the sun!

Let’s put that in perspective. Imagine you were gathered around a campfire so hot that you had to stand about 20 feet away from it so you didn’t get burned. That’s a **pretty big fire**. Now imagine a fire so big you had to stand 100 feet away ... then a mile away. That’s an *enormous* fire. Keep going to 10 miles ... then 100 miles. How big a fire are we talking about now? And that’s *nothing* compared to the

sun – a fire we have to “stand” 93 million miles away from so as not to be burnt to a crisp. And that’s only a created image of the “consuming fire” that is the Spirit of God.

Christ came to set the world ablaze with divine fire (see Lk 12:49). And, if we are to be his true disciples, we must not fear to subject our entire being to this divine inferno. Only in this way can we share the divine life with others: we must be set ablaze by the Spirit! “As fire transforms into itself everything it touches, so the Holy Spirit transforms into the divine life whatever is subjected to his power” (*Catechism* 1127).

Indeed, if we are to become true disciples and, in turn, evangelists, we must allow ourselves to become “wholly possessed” by the Holy Spirit, surrendering utterly to what the mystics call “nuptial union” with the Lord (see John Paul II, *Novo Millennio* 33). Unfortunately, we hear the word “possessed” and we tend to think of something demonic. Possession by unholy spirits is, in fact, a diabolic mockery of possession by the Holy Spirit.

This is what happened to Mary when she conceived Christ: she became “wholly possessed” by the Spirit of God. She became “clothed with the sun” (Rev 12:1) surrendering to the nuptials of the Spirit. This, too, is what happened to the Apostles on Pentecost day. This, too, is what we must allow to happen to us.

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Possess us body and soul and teach us what it means to utterly surrendered to your inspiration, vibrating at your touch, set ablaze by the divine inferno and ready to go wherever you lead us. Bring us into the full glory of the nuptials of Pentecost!

Christoph West

Question of when will the Church reopen?

With NS beginning to open up on June 5th, numerous people have inquired when St. Joseph Parish will reopen?

New Brunswick issued protocols surrounding their church re-opening plan. Bishop Kirkpatrick and other church leaders had a meeting with Dr. Strang, who informed the group that church communities would be treated differently from regular business operations.

A committee is looking at all the issues to address. It is important that no parish goes on its own; as reopening needs to be a united approach. Bishop Kirkpatrick noted that the province needs to engage in a united approach, so our diocese will be working with the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth to ensure unity.

In the meantime I am always available to speak to you over the phone 902-794-4599 and/or to arrange a needed meeting with social distancing. You can also email me at: fatherdouglas@gmail.com

As a pro-life church, safety amidst this deadly virus is our priority, as we navigate these times. We will reopen when it is safe to do so with special protocols in place to ensure your safety. Daily I celebrate mass with my mother for your intentions in my private chapel at the glebehouse.

Any parishioner with a mass intention is invited to call the parish office 902-794-3951. Your intention will be added to the bulletin which is emailed to everyone who provided the parish with their email address. If you want to be added to our parish e-bulletin list, please let us know. Thank you. 🙏

Peace be with you, Fr. Doug

Donations to St. Joseph Parish

Several parishioners have been asking us, how they can drop off their envelopes. A **new locked mailbox** has been installed at the glebe house for anyone who would like drop off their donation there. Parishioners can drop their donations inside, but the key is necessary to get mail out. There is also a camera on the box to deter theft.

The most secure way is to place your church envelopes in the mail and mail to our post office box. Otherwise you could manually drop it off to the clerk inside the post office, in box 338, however any hand delivered letters will also require a stamp.

St Joseph Parish PO Box 338 North Sydney B2A 3M4

We are providing this option because several people have been asking. We will get through this. Peace Fr. Doug

COLLECTIONS ~ THANK YOU!

May 8 th – May 27 th		
Envelopes		2095.00
Loose cash		
Fuel		60.00
Special Collections		60.00
Change for Change		
Holy Cross		120.00
Other		
Totals		2335.00
Hall Fund		

New Way to Donate

With the increase in concern over the spread of COVID-19 and with added precautions for everyone in Nova Scotia, The Diocese of Antigonish has added a **DONATE** button to the Website. Please let parishioners know that they still can donate to their parish.

Anyone can open the Diocesan website and then click on the tree or the word ***Donate*** at the top of the home page.

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/>

The diocese will pay all fees and will send weekly cheques to any parishes that receive donations on line.

Conversation

If you would like to chat and check in and I am delighted to connect with you by phone, email or in person with social distancing. Feel free to call me at the glebehouse 902-794-4599 to talk, pray or to pre-arrange to meet, or email me at: fatherdouglas@gmail.com

Holy Cross Cemetery Opening

The cemetery access roads will be open on May 15th and the official opening with employees working will be **Monday June 1st**.

Social distancing requirements of 6 feet between people and a maximum of 5 people at any one plot are still required as per NS regulations.

Thank you to everyone for your patience during this pandemic. People are asked to be careful while walking in the cemetery, as some sites are uneven and a lot of branches are down. Burials can commence anytime [after Wednesday June 3](#) with provincial regulations in force.

Special thank you Daniel and the Holy Cross Cemetery Society for their continued volunteerism as they care for the dead of North Sydney. Peace be with you all, Fr. Doug

\$1000 Payment

Call the Red Cross for a one time payment due to COVID-19. 1-800-863-6582

We want Email Addresses?

In the summer of 2019 the parish secretary called parishioners inviting them to share their email address so they could receive the bulletin by email. To date approximately 75 people shared their email with us. Given the pandemic St Joseph Parish is asking parishioners who receive this bulletin by email each week, to invite their friends and family to email or call the parish with their email address, so we can add them to the email list. We would like to email the bulletin to them each week as well. Thank you for assisting us to reach out to all parishioners during these times of isolation. Please have your family and friends email the parish office at:

stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca

HOW does the HOLY SPIRIT intervene in the church's prayer?

The Holy Spirit, the interior Master of Christian prayer, forms the church in the life of prayer and allows her to enter ever more deeply into contemplation of and union with the unfathomable mystery of Christ. The forms of prayer expressed in the apostolic and canonical writings remain normative for Christian prayer. Further reading: ccc2623, 2625

Community Compassionate Care

Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868

Prevention Through Action – Reporting and healing incidents of abuse or misconduct in our diocese. Rev. Charles Cameron 1-902-863-4373 or email: charleshugh7@gmail.com.

Canada Suicide Prevention Service – 1-833-456-4566 or Text. 45645

Canadian Sport Abuse Help Line: - call/text: 1-888-837-7678 info@abuse-free-sport.ca

Compassionate Community Care – 1-855-675-8749 Euthanasia Prevention Advice, Support, Confidential and Free.

Expectant Mother Fund – Diapers, formula, and baby accessories for parents in need. Please phone 902-794-3951.

talktoafriend@jesuits.ca-anyone can be paired up with a Jesuit or someone else with experience in Ignatian principals of discernment and spiritual conversation.

Quote of the Week

“When our Lord inspires us with some deed, He also gives the strength to do it.” St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Salt and Light website for daily masses, including **Pope Francis mass from Rome.** <https://saltandlighttv.org/>

PEACE BE WITH YOU AND HAVE A GREAT WEEK!