



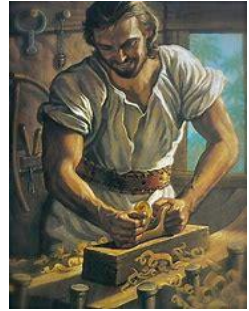
PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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

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Northsydneyparish.com holycrosscemeteryns.com

Facebook at St. Joseph's Parish North Sydney



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

† NOVEMBER 7TH, 2021 †

REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR

New address: parishministry@aol.com

GLEBE HOUSE: 902-794-4599

Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon

roy.smith@hotmail.com

Leadership Ministry Team

Pam Hall- Secretary /Faith Formation, Cavell Young –
Bookkeeping, Sally Ryan- Liturgy, Monica Shebib-Baptism, /
Bereavement/Funeral Team, Richard Rose-Finance

OFFICE HOURS:

TUES., WED., THURS, FRI – 9AM – 1 PM

OPEN TO PUBLIC WEDNESDAYS 9AM- 1PM

TEL: 902 -794-3951

ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEXT WEEK

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK 

Date	Location	Time	Details	
Mon. Nov. 8th	Private Mass			For All Teachers
Tues. Nov. 9th	Private Mass			For All Students
Wed. Nov. 10th	St. Joseph Church	6:30 pm	Mem. Of St. Leo The Great	For All The Sick
Thurs. Nov. 11th	Private Mass		Mem. Of St. Martin of Tours	For All Police Officers
Fri. Nov. 12th	Private Mass		Mem. Of Josaphat	For All Seniors
Sat. Nov. 13th	St. Joseph Church			For All Maintenance Workers
Sun. Nov. 14th	St. Joseph Church			For All Parshioners

Ministries	4 pm Mass Saturday	10 am Mass Sunday
SACRISTAIN & LINENS	Deacon Roy Smith, Team	Deacon Roy Smith, Team
CHOIR		
GREETERS		
USHERS		
READERS	Norm Connors	John Ratchford
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS		
EXTRAORDINARY MIN. OF HOLY COMMUNION	Deacon Roy	Deacon Roy
Cleaning of Church	Team	Team
PORTER - OPENS CHURCH	George Quirk	Calvin Gracie

PARISH NEWS

Remembrance Day at St Joseph's Church

We are pleased to welcome local Legion Branch #19 for the annual Remembrance Day service. You are warmly welcome to St Joseph Church in North Sydney on Thursday Nov 11th at 11 am. Social distancing, hand sanitizing, masks and no congregational singing in effect. All are welcome.

Peace, Fr. Doug

Funerals and weekday mass

When a funeral takes place on the same day as regularly scheduled weekday mass, the weekday mass is cancelled. Thank you for your understanding.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Will meet Wednesday Nov. 7th at 7 PM in the Hall.

ROSARY FOR THE BLESSED MOTHER

Thank you to all who volunteered and those who participated last month in praying the rosary. Please join us again in May, 2022.

Food Bank

The North Sydney Food Bank is in need of the following items: cranberries, stove top dressing and can milk. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will take place again this year. However, the ongoing pandemic has resulted in some supply shortages. We have a limited quantity of shoeboxes for parish distribution, but you can use any standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. We will have instructions available plus Age Category Labels for your use.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Matthew - Wesley United Church

Fishcake & bean supper

2 Peppett Street, North Sydney

Friday, NOVEMBER 19TH

4-6P.M. take out ONLY!

price- \$10.00

Tickets available at the church office

902-794-3651

Or Charlie Maclean 902-794-3573

(Anyone holding paid tickets from

April 30th will be honored)

*(All tickets must be purchased by **NOVEMBER 15TH**)*

DESSERT INCLUDED!

These shoeboxes help put a smile on the faces of children around the world suffering as a result of war, poverty, famine, disease, and disaster, demonstrating that they are loved and not forgotten.

A donation of **\$10 per box for shipping** is requested. This can be done by cheque (payable to Samaritan's Purse) placed in a marked envelope inside the box, or online at **SamaritansPurse.ca**

If you can't get one of our shoeboxes, or a standard shoebox, you can also pack a shoebox(es) online and follow your box(es) at **PackBox.ca**

Tax-deductible receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

The designated location for the return of filled shoeboxes is a table in the bell tower lobby area. These will sit for 72 hours before being packed for shipment.

Please return your shoeboxes no later than Monday, November 15th. The shipping crates will be collected promptly thereafter by Samaritan's Purse, so they can arrive at their destination before Christmas.

The CWL thanks you for your ongoing support.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Why are artificial insemination and artificial fertilization immoral?

They are immoral because they dissociate procreation from the act with which the spouses give themselves to each other and so introduce the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Furthermore, heterologous insemination and fertilization with the use of techniques that involve a person other than the married couple infringe upon the right of a child to be born of a father and mother known to him, bound to each other by marriage and having the exclusive right to become parents only through each another.

Further reading: CCC 2373-2377

500. How should children be considered?

A child is a *gift of God*, the supreme gift of marriage. There is no such thing as a right to have children (e.g. "a child at any cost"). But a child does have the right to be the fruit of the conjugal act of its parents as well as the right to be respected as a person from the moment of conception.

Further reading: CCC 2378

HALL NEWS

Hall Envelopes - Donations to the hall are 100% levy free.

The finance committee created *new hall envelopes* that are available. For tax receipts write: *St. Joseph Hall* on your cheque.

COLLECTIONS ~ THANK YOU

Oct. 30th&31st

Envelopes		2886.00
Fuel		
Holy Cross		55.00
Special Collection		125.00
Candles		45.00
Faith Formation		49.00
Fuel		
Total		3160.00
Hall Fund		455.00

"ARE YOU GRIEVING? WE CAN HELP!"

Bereaved Families of Cape Breton will be offering a six-week grief support program for people who are grieving as the result of the death of someone they love. The sessions will take place over ZOOM, on Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:30pm beginning November 2nd. Each week we will explore a grief-related topic to help you move through and beyond your grief. ***REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED***. These sessions are free of charge. Please register by calling Bereaved Families of Cape Breton at 902-564-6795 or email infobfcb@gmail.com "

Contemplative Writing Program for Family Caregivers

Family caregivers in Cape Breton are invited to participate in a contemplative writing program. Two-hour sessions, held weekly for six weeks, will include guided meditation, writing practices, and time for sharing with other caregivers. To learn more, contact the research team at Contemplative_Caring@cbu.ca or call 902-563-1410.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I thank God that I live in a day when the enemy is outside the Church, and I know where he is and what he is up to. But I foresee a day when the enemy will be both outside and inside the Church and, I pray for the poor faithful who will be caught in the crossfire." -Saint John Henry Newman"

Week 5

Thank you for being vaccinated. If you got the Covid-19 vaccine you did an act of charity – Thank you! What I will share today is unsettling and may cause discomfort for some. I humbly ask that you keep an open mind and in the spirit of St. Francis – seek to understand. To be clear, if you are vaccinated, you did not sin, you did nothing wrong, if anything you did an act of love for the common good.

Given the mandates and concerns relayed to me, I will endeavor to explain long standing Church teachings on vaccination. Some people who are struggling whether to take the vaccine are not anti-vaxers, but for some reason their story can't get out. I have listened to them and they tell me they feel silenced for fear of reprisal. In the spirit of fostering understanding and unity in our community, I will undertake to try to explain the reasons for their reluctance in the context of Church teaching. Many have all their other vaccines, but don't want this particular Covid-19 vaccine because of its association with

abortion. Many of these people are women, mother's who struggle to accept the benefits of a vaccine at the expense of the boy and girl who were aborted years ago. "Do not slay the innocent" (Exodus 23:7). So what happened?

What is all the fuss about these Vaccines?

"The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but a baby, and before that a fetus in a woman's body." - C.S. Lewis

The position against abortion by the Catholic Church is longstanding, for the Bible instructs us to take this position: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (Jer. 1:5). The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life" CCC 2270.

Recently in Slovakia Pope Francis said, "It is always the taking of an innocent human life." Abortion is "more than a 'problem', it's a homicide. No middle terms. Whoever does an abortion, kills." The Pope went on to say that for the Church to countenance legal abortion as morally acceptable would be for the Church to accept daily homicide. The Church is affirming the evil done, but there is more to the story.

We also know mercy is present in abundance for anyone associated with this act. The automatic excommunication one incurs is a call to conversion, not condemnation, so God's loving mercy is always present to help bring healing. There can be many reasons why someone turns to abortion, but know you can always be forgiven. If you ever want to speak with me or if there is a financial concern - parents with babies in the parish can call me (902-794-3951) and we will pay for your baby food, diapers, formula and baby accessories.

Many decades ago seventy-six fetuses (unborn children) were purposefully prepped for direct abortion, so the organs and stem cells could be harvested for scientific research. The stem cells were preserved, and replicated for use in science over the decades e.g. research, products, optional vaccines, Covid-19 vaccines etc... There are ethical questions around using aborted stem cells in the development and production of the vaccines (Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca and others), and to a lesser extent in the confirmatory testing of the mRNA gene therapy (Pfizer and Moderna), since they used the human embryonic kidney stem cell line for confirmatory testing of the vaccine.

The question of conscience for many is whether taking a vaccine developed by exploiting the murder of a child can be morally permissible fifty years later in the context of a pandemic. The Church says, yes - it is morally permissible, but not mandatory. In the communion rite of the mass after the Our Father we say, "deliver us Lord, we pray from every evil." The request that God would "deliver us from evil" comes from Matthew 6:13. Normally, we have an obligation to avoid evil, but given the pandemic circumstances, the Church has "permitted" the cooperation with evil for the greater good. In paragraph 2 of the Vatican CDF document, the Church states, "When ethical irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available, it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetus in their research and production process." The Church is also rightly calling the scientific community for an ethical vaccine.

The Church can never compel anyone to cooperate with evil, only "permit" us to cooperate with evil if our conscience allows. Church law does not "compel" cooperation with evil, hence the personal choice which weights on an individual conscience. The difference between permit and compel creates a moral theological distinction which should not be trivialized. Mandates which compel or coerce choice can lead to an ethical and moral dilemma which infringes on conscience.

My canon law professor in the seminary taught us the importance of words in the Church and how the selection of one word can change the meaning of a sentence. For example, *must* take the vaccine is different from *should*. Similarly, *recommend* or *may* is much different than shall or must. The Church deliberately chose the word "permitted" in reference to the Covid-19 vaccines because the Church acknowledges the presence of an evil in the beginning - namely the use of aborted fetuses. Further, the written laws and doctrine of the Church trump any one cleric's personal opinion on the matter. Clergy are well aware of these distinctions, but the average person may not be.

The Catholic Church through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) and confirmed by Pope Francis in December 2020 clearly stated in paragraph #1: "In cases where cells from aborted fetuses are employed to create cell lines for use in scientific research, there exist differing degrees of responsibility of cooperation in evil," "the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision."

In using the Covid-19 vaccines the Church acknowledges material/indirect cooperation with evil. This indirect cooperation with evil can be proximate (close) or distant (remote). Using the Covid-19 vaccine which has associations to abortion is a distant or a remote connection because we are not intending this evil. The more serious type is formal/direct cooperation with evil, for example the scientists who performed the procedure. We are never permitted to cooperate directly with evil.

Catholic moral theology teaches, "one may not do evil so that good may result from it" CCC 1756. "There are concrete acts that it is always wrong to choose, because their choice entails a disorder of the will, i.e. a moral evil. Some in the scientific community justified they were advancing science by formally cooperating with evil back in the 1970's when the infants were aborted. However, we who take a vaccine derived from copied stem cells from those infants fifty years later never intended they be killed. We are far removed from that violent act. The indirect cooperation in choosing the vaccine has so much distance it is remotely cooperating with evil. Simply put there can be situations in life where there may be things you would use or actions you would take that you would not normally do, but for some grave reasons and the circumstances in which you find yourself. Assuming there is a serious reason for such cooperation, then morally you may not be obliged to avoid this evil and can be permitted to cooperate with it.

The Church has a long-standing principle of permitting cooperation with evil in some circumstances and it is helpful to understand this, so one can feel comfortable taking the Covid-19 vaccine. That is why I can't stress enough that you did nothing wrong if you received the Covid-19 vaccine and you did an act of charity in taking it given the pandemic. In the absence of ethical vaccines, which are currently under development, it is morally acceptable to get vaccinated. "A morally good act requires the goodness of its object, of its end (intention), and of its circumstances together" CCC 1760.

We have an obligation to pursue the good always and as far as possible ensure others do good too. There may be circumstances in which we can cooperate in the sin of another in order to achieve a necessary good or avoid a great harm (pandemic). Charity does not oblige if there is great difficulty, but it can be heroic (St. Gianna Molla). If the good effects can be obtained in other ways (ethical vaccines), the cooperation with evil is not legitimate. Everyone one of us unknowingly cooperates with evil frequently when we shop, vote, invest, pay taxes, social media etc., but once we are aware of it, we have new moral responsibilities. I am only speaking out now because of the mandates that are threatening consciences which the Church has an obligation to protect.

As a result the Vatican CDF, says in paragraph 5, "Vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore it must be voluntary." Since the Church can never compel someone to cooperate with evil, the Church says there is no moral responsibility to take the vaccine, as the Church recognizes not everyone can love in this way. There is moral justification to use these vaccines, but not everyone can make that choice and the Church in its wisdom understands not everyone can.

People are objectively permitted to use the vaccines, and encouraged to take the vaccines as an act of fraternal charity; however, if one feels there is a moral constraint than one has to take that into consideration and to prayerful discernment. The vaccinated are invited to reflect on these teachings when considering how to deal with unvaccinated neighbours and family members. The Church encourages people to follow their conscience after a process of education and prayerful reflection.

This brief explanation attempts to highlight why some people are citing moral, conscience and religious concerns to delay or avoid getting vaccinated for Covid-19. It strives to demonstrate that either decision is permitted by the Church for various reasons. Finally, it hopes to foster understanding among parishioners, not only in the position of the Church on vaccination, but on differing individual decisions of conscience. We all need to be understanding of each other and love one another regardless of vaccination status.

The Church clearly permits people to take the Covid-19 vaccine, so what is the difference between permitting us to do something and making us to do something?

Why does the Church teach all vaccines must be voluntary, even during a pandemic?

When did you last prayerfully listen and reflect deeply in your heart and soul? What thoughts and feelings arose in you from reading this section? Why do you believe you reacted that way?

