

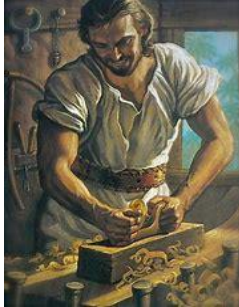


PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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

E-MAIL: stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Northsydneyparish.com holycrosscemeteryns.com



April 27th, 2025

Divine Mercy Sunday

		APRIL 27TH, 2025 †			
REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR CHAPLAIN CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon roy.smith@hotmail.ca		<u>Leadership Ministry Team</u> Pam Hall- Secretary /Faith Formation, Cavell Young – Bookkeeping, Cathy MacDonald- Liturgy, Monica Shebib- Baptism, / Bereavement/Funeral Team, Lana Verschuren- Finance			OFFICE HOURS: TUES., WED. THURS, – 9AM– 1 PM TEL: 902 -794-3951
ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEXT WEEK					Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK 
Date	Location	Time	Details		
Mon. April 28th	St. Joseph Hall	11am		CarlosFaria	
Tues. April 29th	St. Joseph Hall	11am		For Michael Young	
Wed. April 30th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)	9am			
Thurs. May 1st	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)	9am			
Fri. May 2nd	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)	9am			
Sat. May 3rd	St. Joseph Church	4pm		For the conversion of sinners	
Sun. May 4th	St. Joseph Church	10 am		For All Parishioners	
Ministries		4 pm Mass Saturday, May 3rd		10 am Mass Sunday, May 4th	
SACRISTAIN & LINENS		Deacon Roy Smith, Team		Deacon Roy Smith, Team	
CHOIR		St. Joseph Choir		Alan Gale	
GREETERS		Debbie Reashore, Sally Ryan		Taralee MacInnis, Pam Hall	
USHERS		Men and Women of the Parish		Men and Women of the Parish	
LECTORS		Ellen McNamara		Alexandra Young, Denise Jardine	
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS		Parishioners		Parishioners	
EXTRAORDINARY MIN. OF HOLY COMMUNION		Sheila MacCormick, Cathy MacDonald		George Quirk, Joan Skinner	
Interior Church (cleaning)		Volunteer Team		Volunteer Team	
EXTERIOR SERVICE (SHOVELING)		Fr. Doug		Hunter Hill	
RINGING OF BELLS				Dave Williams	

PARISH NEWS

Visitation to Hospital/Nursing Homes

Relatives or friends of persons in hospital or nursing homes are asked to contact the parish to arrange for spiritual/pastoral care.

Delivering Meals to Neighbors’

Do you know a neighbor or relative or person that could use a meal? Consider coming to St Joseph Hall the 4th Wednesday of each month and picking up meals and bringing to people you know. Each bagged meal includes a healthy well-balanced lunch.

Confirmation Practice

Please note the date for confirmation practice has changed to **May 1st at 6:30** in the church. This will be the only practice and all candidates, parents and sponsors are asked to attend .

Confirmation Celebration

The sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, May 2nd at 6:30 pm at St. Joseph Church. All are welcome to attend as these young candidates are confirmed by Bishop Kirkpatrick.

Parish Meetings

There will be a Finance Meeting on Sunday May 4th, after the 10am mass downstairs in the hall.

Holy Cross Cemetery

The Holy Cross Cemetery Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 pm in the church hall.

St. Joseph Awards

Applicants must be a child or grandchild of a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, North Sydney. A letter is due to the parish office by May 9th, 2025. Your name, address and plans for the fall are required.

Looking for used Portable Basketball Hoop

A young person is looking for a used moveable/portable basketball hoop/net. If anyone has one they are no longer using and are willing to sell or donate, please call the parish office 902-794-3951.

Car App for Parents to monitor Children Driving

Life360 app - Helps parents monitor their cars speed, when the kids are driving it. The app also sends messages if an accident occurs and tells parents if their child is on their phone while driving, or hard braking etc.

North Sydney Food Bank Yard Sale

Saturday May 3rd from 10-2 at 25 Wilkie Avenue North Sydney. (Enter through the side doors of the gym) furniture, books home décor to name a few. Lots of deals. All proceeds will go to the Food Bank. Free Admission. Hope to see you there.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 27TH, 2025

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited 30 minutes prior to each mass the weekend of April 26-27. Hope that you will be able to join us.

“Eternal Father, I offer you the body, blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”



COLLECTIONS~ THANK YOU! GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18TH		
Envelopes/Good Friday		1205.00
Loose Cash		430.00
Total		1635.00
Hall		120.00
Church Improvement		50.00

Collections~ Thank You April 19 th &20th		
Envelopes		1735.00
Loose Cash		540.00
Initial Offering		5.00
Candles		110.00
Pre- Authorized Debit		750.00
Good Friday		105.00
Totals		3245.00
Hall Fund		762.00
Church Improvement		50.00

Ways to Donate

Pre-Authorized Debit: please call the office to get started.

To donate by credit card, google pay or PayPal click:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-josephs-parish-north-sydney/>

Diocesan

Steubenville Atlantic Youth Conference

Inviting high schoolers into a life changing encounter with Christ! July 11-13, 2025 at Dalhousie University. For more details visit <https://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/pastoral-services/steubenville-atlantic> Or call Sarah Robinson of Saint Peter’s Port Hood to register your youth with the Diocese of Antigonish group that will be attending. 902-302-2324 or sarahlizwatts@hotmail.com

Fundraising opportunities are available!

Do you receive our diocesan newsletters?

Seven Ears of Grain is emailed each Monday morning, with news and events from our diocese and parishes, plus news and resources from the Vatican and national offices.ness of Hope is our seasonal newsletter.

To subscribe, visit <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/newsletter/>

or email jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca

Community

Healing Manger Farm Luncheon

The launch for a new mental health non profit is taking place at St. Joseph Parish Hall in North Sydney on Saturday, May 3 at noon. This project has arisen from the death of my sister and the need for mental health support in Cape Breton. Tickets are \$15 each which includes: Tea, sandwiches (egg, chicken, tuna and ham) and sweets. Prize for the best hat, fiddle music, draws and entertainment. Purchase a ticket at the parish office, or by phoning Pam at the office so we will know the numbers to prepare for. We would like to reserve a ticket for you, however you can also purchase a ticket at the door. All are welcome.

<https://flyer.healingmangerfarm.com/TeaFlyer.jpg>



News Story

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/article/pope-francis-the-pontiff-who-delivered-an-historic-apology-to-canadas-indigenous-people-dies-at-88/>

Quote of the Week

“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.” Pope Francis

Peace be with You and Have a Great Week

Voting during Holy Week

Recently a woman from North Sydney expressed to me how disappointed she was that voting was taking place over Easter.

This year the holiest time of year for Jews, the Jewish Passover coincides with the holiest time of year for Christians - The celebration of Easter.

In 2025 early voting was organized on the Holiest weekend of the year for Jews and Christians, but all the Abrahamic religions are affected. Early voting starts on Good Friday - the day of rest for Muslims, and continues Saturday - the day of rest for Jews and then Sunday - the day of rest for Protestants, Catholics, and most Orthodox Christians.

According to the 2021 census 54% of Canadians are Christian, with nearly 1/3 of Canadians (almost 30%) identifying as Catholic Christians. 5% are Muslims, the second largest religious group in Canada and 1.4% of Canadians are Jewish. Regardless of what people think of religion, over 60% of the country or a majority of Canadians are impacted by hosting voting Easter weekend.

God gives us a day of rest for our benefit, because God is always loving us. God knows we need one day each week to just be, with no work or commitments. Recently a grandmother told me no one visits anymore, but years ago her kids used to visit every Sunday; for the day of rest was to honour God, have a family meal and then relax visiting relatives and friends. As the day of rest evaporates, what will the long term impact be?

Studies show our mental health is impacted by stress and when we don't get adequate rest. And all this activity 7 days a week is forcing parents to be away from their children even more. Is the epidemic of loneliness today fixed by doing more, or by connecting more with family, friends and our God? Governments have a responsibility to ensure citizens' mental health is safeguarded. In 312 AD Emperor Constantine made Sunday the Sabbath "day of rest" for Roman society (though initially this was only for urban dwellers).

Now with Sunday shopping, the one day of the week when families could relax and visit each other, parents are often forced to work, and now even vote. Some parents told me their kids are not coming home for Easter this year because they are staying home to vote and it will be too overwhelming to also travel. As a priest on the busiest weekend of the year, I was forced to drive nearly an hour to the closest returning station on Holy Saturday so I could vote. Will hosting an election around Easter affect voter turnout? And at what cost?

Voting during the Jewish Passover and on Easter weekend keeps many families from resting, and peacefully coming together and this would be unthinkable in previous generations. We have to acknowledge this is no longer the Canada we knew, and regrettably some even demonize the past. Ironically in this new inclusive democracy where Holy Days are no longer respected, is their room for the Bible, the universal catechism and other religious beliefs? There is a growing intolerance to people of faith today, often by those who claim to be the most tolerant.

Contrary to popular opinion, separation of Church and State was originally created to protect religion from the State government. This concept has been warped today to the point many think religion cannot contribute or offer its point of view. The Church created the hospital and university systems Canadians take for granted, so as religious values are stifled, we will all be impoverished in the long run.

Impositions from the State are increasing on people of faith. A few examples that I can remember are in 2017 the federal government sought to force people of faith to attest to violations of their religious views to get grants and hire summer students.

<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.4491602>

Then they tried to remove section 176 of the criminal code which makes it a crime to interrupt a religious service in Canada. Hundreds of synagogues and churches have been vandalized and burnt. Wonder why the government would push this?

https://www.cccc.org/news_blogs/intersection/2017/11/09/standing-committee-votes-to-retain-s-176-of-criminal-code/

In 2021 some people of faith were coerced to violate their beliefs by taking experimental vaccines manufactured and/or tested using aborted fetal stem cells.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8205255/>

In the 2025 federal government pre-budget consultations, they recommended the removal of all religions from having charitable tax status. That means the government wants to keep Jews, Muslims, Protestants, Catholics, Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists, First Nation spiritualities and all religions from being able to issue tax receipts for donations. 40% of all charities in Canada are religious and their removal will diminish the communities they serve.

<https://www.charitylawgroup.ca/charity-law-questions/why-removing-charitable-status-from-churches-and-mosques-is-a-bad-idea>

Do we live in a post Christian, secular Canada? The State more and more appears to impose its views on religious people. People of faith must follow their principles and conscience for the good of society. Historically we have seen the tragic consequences when the Church blindly follows all Government creations and becomes the agents of the State. This will cause tension, but like in ages past persecution has always existed e.g. the penal laws.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_emancipation

It's time for all people of all faiths to come together. We will persevere, as we always have; for the human person is made for God. We followers of Jesus Christ, recognize all people as made in the image of God, so we love all, including those who hold disdain for us. We must pray even more and trust in the power of the Resurrection which makes all things new.

People of faith should no longer be surprised voting was coordinated during the Jewish Passover and on Easter weekend. Instead be filled with hope, and remember - bottom of the 9th inning - God bats last. The Resurrection always opens a way. Happy Easter.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Douglas MacDonald

