

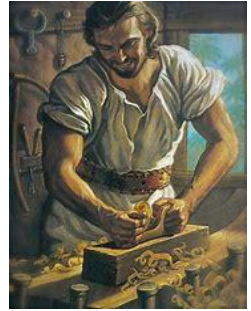


# PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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## December 15th, 2024

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

<b>DECEMBER 15TH, 2024 †</b>		
<b>REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR</b> <b>CHAPLAIN CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY</b> <b>Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon</b> roy.smith@hotmail.ca	<b><u>Leadership Ministry Team</u></b> Pam Hall- Secretary /Faith Formation, Cavell Young – Bookkeeping, Cathy MacDonald- Liturgy, Monica Shebib- Baptism, / Bereavement/Funeral Team, Lana Verschuren- Finance	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> <b>TUES., WED. THURS, – 9AM– 1 PM</b>  <b>TEL: 902 -794-3951</b>

#### ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEXT WEEK *Mass Intentions*

Date	Location	Time	Details	<i>Mass Intentions</i> FOR THE WEEK 
Mon. Dec.16th	St. Joseph Hall	11am		Theresa Forrest
Tues. Dec.17th	St. Joseph Hall	11am		Marie Power
Wed. Dec.18th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)			
Thurs. Dec. 19th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)			
Fri. Dec. 20th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)			
Sat. Dec.21st	St. Joseph Church	4pm		For a Greater Awareness of the Blessed Sacrament
Sun. Dec.22nd	St. Joseph Church	10 am		For All Parishioners

Ministries	4 pm Mass Saturday, Dec.21st	10 am Mass Sunday, Dec.22nd
SACRISTAIN & LINENS	Deacon Roy Smith, Team	Deacon Roy Smith, Team
CHOIR	St. Joseph Choir	Alan Gale
GREETERS	Ellen McNamara, Elaine MacNeil	Ina Taylor, Pam Hall
USHERS	Men and Women of the Parish	Men and Women of the Parish
LECTORS	Carolyn Aker	Difu Nzelu, Kas Nzelu
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	Parishioners	Parishioners
EXTRAORDINARY MIN. OF HOLY COMMUNION	Sheila MacCormick, Cathy MacDonald	Joan Skinner, George Quirk
Interior Church (cleaning)	Volunteer Team	Volunteer Team
EXTERIOR SERVICE (SHOVELING)	Fr. Doug	Hunter Hill
RINGING OF BELLS		Dave Williams

#### PARISH NEWS

#### Mass Schedule Dec 24 – January 1, 2025

Tuesday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve Masses** – 4 PM and 7 PM:

Wednesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day Mass** – 11 AM

Saturday Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – 4 PM; Sunday Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – 10 AM

Tuesday Dec 31<sup>st</sup> **New Years Eve** - 4 PM

Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup> **New Years Day** – 11 AM

#### Ministries Schedule Christmas Eve Dec 24, 2024 – New Years Day Jan 1, 2025

**Music:** Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM: St. Joseph Choir; 7 PM Andrew Doyle  
 Dec 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11 AM: Alan Gale Jan 1 @ 11 AM: St. Joseph Choir

**Greeters:** Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM: Debbie Reashore / Rebecca Gracie:  
 7 PM: Kim Dooley / Elaine MacNeil.

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11 AM: Yvonne MacDonald / Pam Hall

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM: Alberta Devoe / Sally Ryan

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM:** Taralee MacInnis / Pam Hall

**Dec 31<sup>st</sup> @ 4 PM:** Debbie Reashore / Rebecca Gracie

**Jan 1, 2025 @ 11 AM:** Ann Sampson, / Pam Hall

**Lectors: Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM:** Jude Rankin / Charlotte Monroe

**7 PM:** Taralee MacInnis / Joan Byers:

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11 AM:** Alexandra Young / John Ratchford:

**Dec 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM:** Carolyn Aker / Tomsy Thomas

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM:** Denise Jardine / Difu Nzelu

**Dec 31<sup>st</sup> @ 4 PM:** Iris Young / Taralee MacInnis

**January 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11 AM:** John Ratchford / Helen Gray

**Extraordinary Eucharist Ministers of Communion:**

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM:** Lisa Brown / Cathy MacDonald: **7 PM:** Sheila MacCormick / Monica Shebib: **Dec 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11 AM:** Janis and Richard Rose: **Dec 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM:** Sheila MacCormick/ Cathy MacDonald: **Dec 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM:** George Quirk/ Joan Skinner: **Dec 31<sup>st</sup> @ 4 PM:** Lloyd Brewer/ Sheila MacCormick: **January 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11 AM:** Cathy MacDonald/ Joan Skinner

**Reconciliation Schedule for Saturday Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Joseph Church, North Sydney**

**Fr. Victor** 10am-11am

Fr. Angus 11am-12pm

Fr. Nunso 12pm-1pm

Fr. Leo 1pm-2pm

Fr. Fabin 2pm-3pm

Fr. Doug 3pm-4pm

**Lector Schedule**

The hard copy for all Lectors is now available in the vestry for those who need a copy.

**Christmas Eve Music – St. Joseph Choir**

Please join us for our pre-mass choir presentation on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM.

**Thank You**

Our Christmas Fair was held on Saturday, December 7th and it was a great success. We raised a total of \$5,500.00. We would like to thank all those who volunteered the day of the fair, those who bought tickets or sold tickets for us and all those who donated items or prizes for our ticket draws. All monies raised go to support our parish.

**Winners of our Tickets**

We have the winners of the ticket draw from the Christmas Fair. The winners were drawn by Cst. Mitch Ellsworth. Our **1st prize** winner of a \$300.00 Walmart Gift Card is Carolyn Campbell.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** of the Various Gift Cards is Jeff Simms

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** of the \$50.00 Sobeys Gift Card is Michael Cox

**Our 50/50 winner** of \$170.00 is Shelley Munroe

**Crafted Christmas Tree** is Matt Batherson. Congratulations to all the winners.

**Christmas Ornaments**

The CWL is again offering for sale, Christmas Ornaments for loved ones who are in our thoughts and prayers. The order sheets are in CWL

**Christmas Ornaments** envelopes, at the back of the church, and on-line with our Parish bulletin, as a separate attachment. When completed, place your order form with its payment in an envelope marked as **CWL**

**Christmas Ornaments** on week-ends, in the masses' collection basket or drop it off at the church during office hours. If using a personal cheque, please make it payable to "St Joseph's CWL". The cut-off date for acceptance of orders is **Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**. Our price remains at \$5 for

each ornament. The ornaments will be labeled as instructed on your order form and placed on the Parish Christmas tree for Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> services.

After the conclusion of the Christmas season, those requesting their ornaments will be contacted by phone for their pick-up time & location.

We thank you for your continuing support over the years.

**Advent Wreath**

During Advent, the candles on the Advent Wreath are lit at each mass. If you are interested in doing this, please tell the office or the Greeter as you enter the church. They will inform a Sacristan, who will take you and your partner/family to the altar for instruction and practice prior to the start of mass. The lightening will be at the beginning of mass and Father will request the lighter(s) of the candle to come forth.

**What is meditation?**

Meditation is a prayerful reflection that begins above all in the Word of God in the Bible. Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire in order to deepen our faith, convert our heart and fortify our will to follow Christ. It is a first step toward the union of love with our Lord. *Further reading:* CCC [2705-2708, 2723](#)

**What is contemplative prayer?**

Contemplative prayer is a simple gaze upon God in silence and love. It is a gift of God, a moment of pure faith during which the one praying seeks Christ, surrenders himself to the loving will of the Father, and places his being under the action of the Holy Spirit. Saint Teresa of Avila defines contemplative prayer as the intimate sharing of friendship, "in which time is frequently taken to be alone with God who we know loves us." *Further reading:* CCC [2709-2719, 2724, 2739-2741](#)

**Why is prayer a "battle"?**

Prayer is a gift of grace but it always presupposed a determined response on our part because those who pray "battle" against themselves, their surroundings, and especially the Tempter who does all he can to turn them away from prayer. The battle of prayer is inseparable from progress in the spiritual life. We pray as we live because we live as we pray. *Further reading:* CCC [2725](#)

**COLLECTIONS~ THANK YOU! DEC.7TH& DEC.8TH**

Envelopes		1750.00
Loose Cash		240.00
Candles		10.00
Fuel		740.00
Expectant Mothers		
Pre-authorized		750.00
Total		3490.00
Hall		1365.00
Church Improvement		650.00

**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/>

**Quote of the Week**

*"Advent is here. What a marvellous time in which to renew your desire, your nostalgia, your real longings for Christ to come- for him to come every day to your soul in the Eucharist." St. Josemaria Escriva*

**News Story**

<https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2024/12/eating-disorders-are-not-untreatable.html>

**Peace Be with You and Have a Great Week**

