

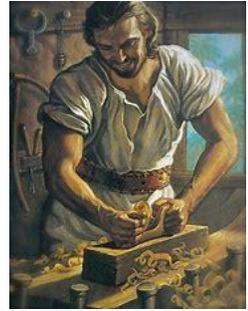


# PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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

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Northsydneyparish.com holycrosscemeteryns.com



## March 22nd, 2026

# 5th Sunday of Lent

MARCH 22ND, 2026 †

REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR  
CHAPLAIN CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY  
Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon  
roy.smith@hotmail.ca

### Leadership Ministry Team

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. March 23rd	St. Joseseph Hall	11am		Cordell Brown
Tues March 24th	Personal Mass			
Wed. March 25th	Personal Mass		The Annunciation of The Lord	
Thurs. March 26th	Personal Mass			
Fri. March 27th	St. Joseph Hall	Mass 9am with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		Heather Ginter
Sat. March 28th	St. Joseph Church	4pm		
Sun. March 29th	St. Joseph Church	10 am		For All Parishioners

Ministries	4 pm Mass Saturday, March 28th	10 am Mass Sunday, March 29th (Palm Sunday)
SACRISTAIN & LINENS	Deacon Roy Smith, Team	Deacon Roy Smith, Team
CHOIR	St. Joseph Choir	Alan Gale
GREETERS	Debbie Reashore, Sally Ryan	Ina Taylor, Pam Hall
USHERS	Men and Women of the Parish	Men and Women of the Parish
LECTORS	Cheryl Delory, Charlotte Munroe	Lynn Hamilton, Difu Nzelu
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	Parishioners	Parishioners
EXTRAORDINARY MIN. OF HOLY COMMUNION	Sheila MacCormick, Cathy MacDonald	Gary & Susan Burton
Interior Church (cleaning)	Volunteer Team	Volunteer Team
EXTERIOR SERVICE (SHOVELING)	Fr. Doug	Hunter Hill
RINGING OF BELLS		Dave Williams

### PARISH NEWS

#### Modules for First Communion and Penance (Confession)

The modules for children making the sacrament of First Eucharist, will begin on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** and continue until **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Classes are held on Sundays at 11am downstairs in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please call the office at (902) 794-3951

#### Easter Confession 2026

This year the North side deanery will be organizing a penitential service, (a slight departure from our usual all day confession that normally lasts from (10am to 4pm). This will take the form a para liturgy. It will commence with an **opening prayer**. This will be followed with **readings from the scripture, responsorial psalm,**

**gospel proclamation and a short reflection by the presider.** After the reflection, **the priests will invite all to examine their consciences** and will be followed with an elaborate **act of penitence**. We will then share the **Peace of Christ** and then the ceremony concludes with a **closing prayer**. All the priests in attendance will proceed to the different confessionals to hear **Private individual confession**.

**Note: This is not a general absolution therefore it does not in any way shape or form take the place of private individual confession.**

**Host Parish:** Holy Family Parish Sydney Mines

**Date and time:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, 6pm.

## Holy Week Mass Times

**Holy Thursday** April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7 pm

**Good Friday** April 3<sup>rd</sup>: 3 pm

**Easter Vigil** April 4<sup>th</sup>: 8 pm (**NOTE: there will be NO 4 PM mass**)

**Easter Sunday** April 5<sup>th</sup>: 10 am

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Please come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8-9 pm. Please spend this sacred time with our Lord at the altar of repose immediately following the mass of The Last Supper.

### Stations of the Cross

Please join us at 6 pm on Holy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Stations of the Cross.

### Church Open Good Friday for Stations of the Cross

The Church will be open on Good Friday, from noon to 3 pm, for Personal Stations of the Cross and Private Prayer. All are welcome.

### Easter Lilies

Anyone wishing to donate lilies for Easter, are asked to please have them delivered to the parish office, during office hours 9-1, on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank You.

### CWL Holy Oils

The CWL will be selling Holy Oil's that were blessed on the Feast of St. Joseph in the entrance of the church before and after mass this weekend. You can also obtain the oils from any member of the CWL or Debbie Murphy at 902 794 7947. An offering of \$5.00 is suggested.

### Life in the Spirit Seminar

#### *Renew or Begin Your Relationship with Jesus Christ*

Experience the peace and power of the Holy Spirit

. Deepen *your* prayer life

. Strengthen *your* Faith

Beginning Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, Saint Joseph Hall

### Marriage Preparation Course

A marriage preparation course is being offered at St. Joseph's Parish, 34 Archibald Ave. North Sydney on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. It is a requirement for any couples seeking to be married in the Catholic Church and all couples in the diocese are welcome to this free course.

Marriage prep starts with mass at 10 am with a special homily on the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, followed by a social in the hall. Then sessions on: hopes, dreams, communication spirituality, conflict, family, intimacy, NFP and finances. Includes a free lunch & certificate and ends at 4 pm. Couples must register by Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 902-794-3951 or by email: or [stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

A free survey on marriage compatibility at:

<http://marriageprep.dynamiccatholic.com/>

and other free resources are to be reviewed prior to arrival:

[beholdvancouver.org](http://beholdvancouver.org)

### Munro Academy Presentation this weekend

Munro Academy provides a life changing Christian educational alternative to over 150 Pre-Primary to Grade 12 students. Munro students come from any faith background or none and from our island and around the world. Catholic and Protestant teachers provide a world class, caring learning environment. In addition, the Munro Academy Early Learning Centre provides fully licensed care which incorporates age appropriate Christian worldview content to over 110 infants, toddlers and preschoolers Munro Academy offers a transformative Christian education to over 150 students from Pre-Primary through Grade 12. Welcoming families from all faith backgrounds—both locally and globally—our dedicated Catholic and Protestant educators provide a world-class, nurturing learning environment. Additionally, the Munro Academy Early Learning Centre offers fully licensed care for over 110 infants and toddlers, integrating an age-appropriate Christian worldview into their daily discovery.

## COLLECTIONS~ THANK YOU! MARCH 14TH MARCH 15TH

Envelopes		1050.00
Loose Cash		300.00
Fuel		565.00
Pre- Authorized Debit		750.00
Total		2675.00
Hall		980.00
Church Improvement		50.00

### 7 Ways to Donate :

**Send a cheque donation:** St Joseph Parish

P.O. Box 338 34 Archibald Ave. North Sydney, N.S. B2A 3M4

**E-transfer:** Email a donation to the parish email address:

[stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca) **Credit card, or debit card:** Please come into the parish office to complete your donation.

**Parish Envelopes:** Please see the office or ask us at mass for your own personal box of donation envelopes.

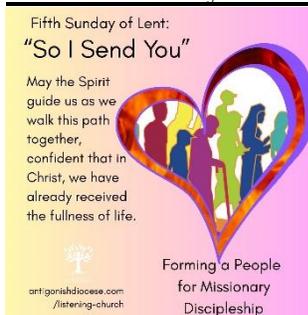
**Hall Fund Envelopes:** 100% of Donations to the St. Joseph Hall Fund stay in North Sydney and are spent locally. They are available throughout the Church.

**Pre-Authorized Debit:** Please bring a void cheque and call the office to get started.

**Cash Donations:** All cash donations given directly at the office get a tax receipt. Loose cash donated at mass is locked in security bags by two screened volunteers and the total amount is posted each week in the bulletin.

## Diocesan

### For Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 22



Collection Sunday, Development and Peace

A 'Common and Shared Formation' Scripture challenges us to consider what it means to be a Church that embodies resurrection—alive, vibrant, and committed to life-giving missions in the world. Synodality calls us to walk together, to listen deeply, and to discern the Spirit's guidance as a community. It is about shared participation—men and women, laity and clergy, young and old—collaborating in the mission of the Church. The synodal process emphasizes a "common and shared formation," where every member's voice contributes to the discernment of how we can more effectively live the Gospel. It recognizes that the Spirit dwells within all of us, animating our collective journey of faith, hope, and love. As we journey through Lent towards Easter, let us renew our commitment to be a synodal Church—one that listens, learns, and acts together, inspired by the Spirit of resurrection. Let us be open to conversion, to growth in love, and to the collaborative discernment that shapes our mission. In doing so, we become a Church that truly embodies the life, hope, and renewal promised in these sacred texts.

## Community

**Annual Fishcake Dinner :** April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 4 - 6p.m.

Adult \$18.00 Child \$10.00 St. Margaret Community Hall

2353 Grand Mira South Road Grand Mira South

## News Story

Songs to Mary

<https://youtu.be/KpKTyyQtRwo>

## Quote of the Week

*"Do not lose your inner peace whatsoever, not even if your whole world seems upset. If you find that you have wandered away from the shelter of God, lead your heart back to Him quietly and simply."*

*St. Francis de Sales*

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