

Parish of Saint Leonard

Phone (902) 862-2255 + Fax 862-7110

Email: pastoralcentre@parishofsaintleonard.com + Parish Website: www.parishofsaintleonard.com

Our Pastoral Centre is presently located at 553 George Street, New Waterford, NS B1H 4E4.

OFFICE HOURS - MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS - 9:30 AM - 12 NOON & 1:30 PM TO 4:00 PM

Our mission: To be a visible sign of the Body of Christ in our welcome, witness and celebration of all that we are as People of God.

Volume 2, Number 32

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2009

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35 (One Heart and Mind)

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6 (Faith in Jesus Christ)

Gospel: John 20:19-31 (That You May Come to Believe)

We Remember... Our celebrations of Baptism and Christian Burial ...

We welcome our newest parishioners, baptized on Easter Sunday ... *Ainsley Elizabeth Bishop, Hunter Terrance Eldridge, Jeffrey Luke Fraser, Abby Rose McSween, and Benjamin Warren Small.*

And we pray for those who have died, especially *Helen Lomax* and *Russell Pastuck.*

We Celebrate ... Our Sunday Gatherings for Eucharist



Saturday (Vigils)		Sunday	
4:00 PM	St. Agnes	8:30 AM	St. Joseph (Lingan)
5:30 PM	St. Joseph (New Victoria)	10:00 AM	Mount Carmel
		11:30 AM	St. Michael's

Our Daily Gatherings This Week

All weekday celebrations take place at our **St. Michael's Site**, unless otherwise noted.

Monday	10:00 AM – 12 NOON	Eucharist followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Scriptural Rosary and Benediction
Tuesday	10:00 AM 6:30 PM	Eucharist Breaking Open The Word
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Eucharist
Thursday	6:30 PM	Eucharist
Friday	10:00 AM	Eucharist

***Please note:** In the case of a funeral in our parish, daily mass (morning or evening) and exposition are cancelled.

Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrations of baptism take place on the third Sunday of each month, during and after the 11:30 AM Mass, at our St. Michael's site. If you would like to have your child baptized, please contact the Pastoral Centre at 862-2255.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Before Evening Masses (Wednesday & Thursday), or by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

If you wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage, please contact the Pastoral Centre at least 6 months in advance.

We Believe ... Today's Gospel continues the story of Easter Sunday. It is evening and the Apostles hide in a room with the doors locked. Suddenly, Jesus stands before them and says "**Peace be with you.**" He shows them the wounds in his hands and in his side. Then he says again, "**Peace be with you.**" He breathes on the Apostles and gives them the power to forgive sins. Although we cannot see the Risen Jesus as the Apostles did, we can see him in others who follow his way, who show us his love and his peace. We see the Risen Jesus too in our mirrors, if we accept his peace and forgiveness, if we offer his peace and forgiveness to others.



Questions of the Week

Adults: What personal experience of forgiveness strengthened my confidence in the gift of the Holy Spirit?
Children: How can I be a peacemaker among my friends?

Parish Activities

Breaking Open The Word



Our Breaking Open the Word for parishioners of all ages continues on **Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM** at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome!!

First Eucharist Celebrations

The first of three First Eucharist Celebrations takes place today, the Second Sunday of Easter, at our 11:30 AM liturgy at St. Michael's Church. Next week, the celebration of First Eucharist will take place at our 4:00 PM liturgy at St. Agnes Church. Please keep our First Eucharist Candidates and their families in your prayers as they celebrate this important milestone in their faith journeys.



Confirmation Preparation - Retreat



Confirmation Candidates are reminded of the retreat being offered **Saturday, April 25th, OR Saturday, May 9th**, at the Gaul Centre.

The retreat will begin at 10 AM and then families and sponsors of the candidates are invited to join candidates for the celebration of mass at 2 PM at St. Michael's to end the retreat. Lists of who has signed up for each of the days are posted in each of our churches this weekend and can also be found on our parish website on the "Youth Corner" page. Candidates are asked to arrive on time for the retreat, as we have a full day of activities planned. The celebration of Confirmation will take place on **Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 PM**.

Annual Parish Meeting for 2009

Once again, we will have an opportunity to review the pastoral and financial activity of our parish for the previous fiscal year. This meeting will take place on **Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Gaul Centre**. Written reports and financial statements will be published prior to the meeting. Thank you for the support you offer to our Pastoral Council and Committees of our parish.



Parish Discernment Process

Bishop Raymond Lahey has announced the following Committee to study the recommendations from the Pastoral Council of St. Leonard Parish: **Rev. Angus MacDougall Vicar General** - Chair (representing Council of Priests), **Mr. Rankin MacSween** (representing Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee) and **Rev. Norman MacPhee** and **Ms. Catherine Farrow** (representing Diocesan Finance Council). The committee and the Bishop hope to have their final decision made by June 15th, 2009. Please pray for them in this important time of discernment.

Catholic Tidbits ...

Divine Mercy

We have often heard that God is love, but have you ever heard that God is mercy? Merciful love is at the heart of our Trinitarian God. As God has shown us mercy by dying and rising for us, we are called to do the same and show mercy toward others. Is there anyone we need to forgive? Is there anyone we are refusing to accept forgiveness from? This is the weekend to allow the mercy of God to transform and soften your heart. Divine Mercy is the only reality that can bring about this healing. Divine Mercy Sunday is always the first Sunday after Easter, and our parish will host a special **Celebration of Mercy -- THIS WEEKEND -- Sunday, April 19, at St. Joseph's Church, New Victoria**.

Confessions will begin at 2:00 PM, with the Prayer Service beginning at 2:30 PM. The chaplet of Divine Mercy will commence at the hour of mercy: 3:00 PM. All are welcome. The ABC's of Divine Mercy: A) Ask for God's forgiveness; b) Be merciful to others; c) Completely trust in Jesus.



Eucharistic Ministers Are Needed



Eucharistic Ministers are needed for our daily masses at St. Michael's Church. If you are a Eucharistic Minister and would like to serve at daily mass, please call Emma MacLeod at 862-2281. If you are not presently a minister, but would like to learn more about this ministry, please call the Pastoral Centre (862-2255).

What is a Sacristan??

Did you ever wonder how...

...our gathering space is always organized?

...we always have everything we need to celebrate?

...the materials we use for our celebrations are cared for?

This is due, in a large part, to the faithful service of our Sacristans. Who is a Sacristan? you might ask. Sacristans are the people who work behind the scenes to maintain our supplies, our sacred vessels and cloths, and are conscious of our worship space and the order in which our space is kept. This is a very small insight into what our Sacristans do. You are invited to discover more about this essential ministry as we explore the many hats Sacristans wear. Come join us at St. Michael's Gaul Centre - **Saturday, May 2, 2009, from 9:30 AM - 2:45 PM**. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

Registration forms can be found at the entrances of our churches. Please drop your completed form in the collection basket or at the Pastoral Centre. Space is limited. For more info, contact, Rose MacKinnon - 862-2495 or the Pastoral Centre - 862-2255.



Tending The Flock



Supporting Ourselves as Parish

Sunday Collection for **Easter Sunday: April 12, 2009**

Envelopes (563): \$7,820.60 + Loose: \$1,486.57 = \$9,307.17 ♦ Good Friday (356 Envelopes): **\$3,721.30**

Thank-you for your continued support!

Receipts for Income Tax



Income tax receipts for Church Contributions in 2008 are available at the Pastoral Centre. If you are not able to pick up your receipt, please feel free to call the Office (862-2255). We will be happy to mail yours!

Upcoming Meetings

Pastoral Council Meeting	Wednesday	May 6	7:15 PM	Pastoral Centre
Liturgy Committee Meeting	Thursday	May 7	7:15 PM	Gaul Centre
Cemetery Committee Meeting	Tuesday	June 2	7:00 PM	Pastoral Centre

St. Vincent De Paul Society



♦ **Emergency Food Service** - Call 862-3779 or 862-3770.

♦ **Clothing Room** - Behind St. Michael's Church (on Christy Lane) – Mondays at 10 AM for drop-offs and Mondays from 11 AM - 3 PM for pickups.

♦ **Good, Used Furniture Needed** – Please Phone Dan MacMullin at 862-8832 or Alice Aucoin at 862-3193.

Catholic Italian Tour

Travel Our Way, New Glasgow, and Globus Tours is hosting a "**Grand Catholic 11 day Tour of Italy**" which includes: Rome, Vatican City (with papal audience), Montecassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Padua and Venice from Sept 21st-October 1st, 2009. This tour will be escorted by **our Pastor, Father Paul MacNeil!** Cost: \$3688 (includes taxes, flights from Halifax, all tours and admissions, hotel accommodations and most meals). For more information contact Angela Luddington at (902) 752-5567 or angela.luddington@ns.sympatico.ca.

March For Life

Campaign Life Coalition is sponsoring a **Rally** on **Thursday, May 14, at 11:45 AM** at Province House, Granville St., Halifax, to highlight the plight of the pre-born in Canada. This year marks 40 years of legalized abortion in Canada. More than 3 ½ million babies have died by abortion and abortion has killed more people than all the global wars of the past century. A **Candlelight Vigil** will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, at 8 PM** at the VG Hospital Site, South Park Street, Halifax. Please support this endeavor through prayer or participation.

Ministries Workshops

The Glace Bay Adult Faith Development Committee invites all those involved in Parish Ministries to attend a series of workshops. Register at 539-6188 ext. 237.

➔ **Lectors** – Wednesdays, **April 21, 28 & May 5**, from 7-9 PM – Holy Cross Church. Facilitator: Ken MacAdam.

➔ **Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion** – Tuesdays, **April 21, 28 & May 5**, from 7-9 PM – Holy Cross Church. Facilitator: Pat Bray.

➔ **Hospitality Ministers** – Thursdays, **April 23 & 30** from 7-9 PM – St. Anne's Church. Facilitator: Jay Bigley.

Spring Maintenance in our Cemeteries

The Cemetery Committee met on Tuesday, April 15, to begin planning for the maintenance of our cemeteries over the upcoming summer months. We are very thankful to the families of loved ones for their assistance in the maintenance and care of our cemeteries. We ask that parishioners and others continue to be mindful that no articles can be placed on graves which would interfere with the movement of machinery or pose hazards to caregivers of the cemeteries. **Only flowers or objects which can be directly attached to the headstone (NOT anchored to the ground in any way) are allowed.** These restrictions are in effect on an **ongoing basis**. *Please note that all items which have not been removed before May 17 will be removed and disposed of.* The **Terms & Conditions** governing our parish cemeteries came into effect on September 1, 2007. This document is available in all of our churches and on our parish website.

Summer Student Needed

Our Cemetery Society is now accepting applications for **one groundskeeping position** beginning **June 15, 2008**, for a period of 8 weeks. This position will require strenuous physical activity and some lifting. University students are welcome to drop their resumes off at the Pastoral Centre before **Monday, May 18**.



Our Email Addresses

Pastoral Centre:	pastoralcentre@parishofsaintleonard.com
Fr. Paul:	pastor@parishofsaintleonard.com
Fr. Doug:	associatepastor@parishofsaintleonard.com
Marcy MacKinnon:	catechesis@parishofsaintleonard.com
Deacon Leo & Viola Penny:	deacon@parishofsaintleonard.com

www.parishofsaintleonard.com

Diocesan & Community Events

● **Daily Mass on Vision TV (Channel 58)** – Mass is broadcast **Monday to Saturday at 9:00 AM and repeated at 1 PM**. Devotions in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on **Wednesdays from 9:30-10 AM**. **Sunday Mass from Boston - 8:30 AM** on Ch.12.

● **Scholastic Book Fair at Greenfield Elementary** -- **April 16-23** from 9 AM-12 Noon and 1-2 PM and Wednesday, **April 22** from 9 AM-12 Noon; 1-2 PM and 6-8 PM. Parents and guests are welcome to visit the Book Fair. Books available for all ages. **Volunteers are needed**. Call 862-4000.

● **Holocaust Memorial Service – TODAY -- April 19 at 2 PM** at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue, Whitney Ave., Sydney. Guest Speaker is **Max Eisen**, survivor of death & concentration camps. All are welcome!

● **Free Public Nutrition Education Sessions at New Waterford Hospital** – **Monday, Apr. 20** – Heart Friendly Cooking; **Monday, Apr. 27** – Cholesterol Management Class; **Wednesday, Apr. 29** – Blood Pressure Management. All sessions are from **6-7 PM**. Pre-registration is required -- call Florence Gillis, Primary Care Dietitian, at 578-3763.

● **Aging Gracefully Group** -- Meetings resume on **Tuesday, April 21**.

● **Ecumenical Celebration of Hope – Thursday, April 23, at 7 PM**. Sponsored by the Canadian Cancer at Holy Angels Convent Chapel on George St., Sydney. Presiders: Rev. Fred Rhymes & Rev. Ora McManus. Music by CB Regional Choir directed by Shauna Doolan. All are welcome.

● **Weekend of Grace – 3rd Annual Regional Catholic Woman's Conference – April 24-26, 2009** – Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, NS. An opportunity for women to share their faith in witness and prayer. www.stacm.ca. Pre-Registration only (\$135).

● **Bus Trip to Monastery** – A Bus Trip to celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph is scheduled for **May 1, 2008**. Father Albert MacPherson will be in attendance for Holy Mass and Healing Service at 7 PM. Cost is \$30 per person. For more information, please phone Yvonne at 862-6781.

● **St. Theresa's CWL Annual Giant Flea Market – Saturday, May 2**, from 9-11 AM at St. Theresa's Parish Centre, Sydney. All welcome.

● **Marriage Encounter** -- Enjoy a weekend free of distractions and fall in love all over again. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled for **May 1-3, 2009**, at the Highland Heights Inn, Iona. For more information call Anne & John 564-2190 or email renewmarriage@gmail.com

● **Cape Breton Orchestra 15th Anniversary Concert – Saturday, May 9**, at 7:30 PM at St. Joseph's Church, North Sydney **AND Sunday, May 10**, at 2 PM at Holy Redeemer Church, Whitney Pier. Featuring the music of Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Percy Grainger, Strauss, Duke Ellington and much more. For info, call 562-2004 or visit www.capebretonorchestra.com.

● **Workshop – “To Be A Healing Presence for the Human Heart and Earth” – May 22-23, 2009**, at Bethany Centre. Facilitated by Jim Profit, SJ, Director of Jesuit Collaborative for Ecology, Agriculture and Forestry, Guelph, Ontario. At a time of ecological crisis, hope is one of the great gifts that we can receive from Earth and from our faith. Hope enables us to act for the healing of the human heart and Earth. For info call 863-4726.

● **Marriage Preparation – June 12, 13 & 14** – Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Sydney. For all engaged couples. Pre-Registration required (\$60/couple). Call 539-6868, Ext. 2

● UPCOMING RELIGIOUS TOURS

▶▶ **MEDJUGORJE – April 25-May 4**, \$2,050 Air from Moncton or Halifax, hotels, 2 meals per day. 902-888-2291 or kevin.morrel@pei.sympatico.ca

▶▶ **MEDJUGORJE – Jun 22-Jul 4**, \$2785. includes taxes, air from Moncton or Halifax, accommodations, 2 meals/day & local guide. 902-648-0050, 902-648-3046 or tojesusthroughmary@gmail.com

▶▶ **IRELAND** – Are you interested in joining a Maritime Celtic Pilgrimage in the ancient Celtic Landscape of Ireland **July 20-30, 2009**, facilitated by Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave? www.emmausproductions.com

▶▶ **ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE AND CAP-DE-LA-MADELEINE** – Leaving Inverness on **August 16** and returning **August 22**, 2009. Contact Sadie Burton at 461-9051 for further information.

▶▶ **MEDJUGORJE & DUBROVNIK** -- Oct 16-26, \$2150 includes air from Halifax, accommodations, 2 meals/day, local guide. Contact Marie Desjardins at 207-868-5027 or bubblepink49@hotmail.com

▶▶ **GREECE & TURKEY in the Footsteps of St. Paul -- Oct 29-Nov 8**, \$2750 includes air from Halifax, accommodations, 2 meals/day, local guide. Contact Marie Desjardins at 207-868-5027 or bubblepink49@hotmail.com

▶▶ **HOLY LAND - Oct 29-Nov 7, \$2979**: Fee includes visits to Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada, the Jordan River, Dead Sea, Qumran, Mts. of Transfiguration & Beatitudes, etc. Air from Moncton or Halifax, hotels, 2 meals per day. 902-888-2291 or kevin.morrel@pei.sympatico.ca

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Easter! This Second Sunday of Easter shares with us the reaction of the Apostle Thomas when he was told of the Lord's appearance before the others but missed Jesus himself. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." Sometimes we too look for signs and proof along our faith journey for God's existence. We might think that God won't love us anymore if He knows what we are really thinking. But doubt is not the same as disbelief. Struggling with faith is never the same as denying faith. And Thomas..., blunt, straightforward, honest, wonderful Thomas, is the disciple who dared to bring doubt into dialogue with faith. Thomas is the disciple who was brave enough to say what we so often feel – *'show us yourself, God! Let me see you!'* And fortunately, Thomas was blessed with a God who appears. And you and I are blessed with a God who appears as well, and keeps appearing when our scriptures are proclaimed, when we celebrate Eucharist or the Sacraments, when two or three are gathered in Christ's name, when we recognize the beauty of creation, when we experience love or forgiveness with another person, when we pray, when we are in the presence of a dying person, or perhaps when we witness the birth of a child. Our God keeps appearing to us, too! Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

In the Risen Christ, Fr. Paul

P.S. Many thanks to all the people who made our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Celebrations so joyful and inspirational. Our heartfelt gratitude to the Liturgy Committee, the Pastoral Support Staff, our Music Ministers and Choirs, our Sacristans, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Church Decorators/Cleaners and Ushers. Thanks too for the wonderful crowds who participated in our Holy Triduum Celebrations. Let us continue to welcome each other and new members into our vibrant faith community throughout the year.

From Your
Pastor

