

Parish of Saint Leonard

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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 17 **Fourth Sunday of Advent** **December 21, 2008**

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 (The Lord Speaks to Nathan)
Reading II: Romans 16:25-27 (Him Who Can Strengthen You)
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 (The Angel Gabriel)

We Remember... **Our celebrations of Christian Burial ...** We pray for those who have died, especially *Neil MacDonald, Gerald MacMaster, Catherine "Kay" Muise, Elizabeth Olszowiec, Roderick Tomiczek and Sylvia "Bugsy" M. Young.*

We Celebrate ... **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Monday, Dec. 22	11:00 AM	Funeral St. Joseph (NV)	Saturday, Dec. 27	4:00 PM	St. Agnes
	6:30 PM	Liturgy of the Word		5:30 PM	St. Joseph (NV)
Tuesday, Dec. 23	9:00 AM	St. Michael	Sunday, Dec. 28	8:30 AM	St. Joseph (L)
Wednesday, Dec. 24	4:30 PM	Mount Carmel		10:00 AM	Mount Carmel
	5:00 PM	St. Agnes	Monday, Dec. 29	9:00 AM	St. Michael
	6:00 PM	St. Michael	Tuesday, Dec. 30	9:00 AM	St. Michael
	7:30 PM	St. Joseph's (L)	Wednesday, Dec. 31	4:00 PM	St. Agnes
	10:00 PM	Mount Carmel		5:30 PM	Mount Carmel
	12 Midnight	St. Joseph (NV)	Thursday, Jan. 1	11:30 AM	St. Michael
Thursday, Dec. 25	10:00 AM	St. Agnes	Friday, Jan. 2	NO MASS	
Friday, Dec. 26	NO MASS				

***Please note:** In the case of a funeral in our parish or a school cancellation, daily mass (morning or evening) and exposition are cancelled. Parishioners who celebrate daily Mass are invited to join us in supporting families in their loss through the funeral rites when possible. This is a great opportunity to be a visible sign of the Body of Christ.

Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrations of baptism take place on the third Sunday of each month at St. Michael's Church. 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 ... In today's first reading, God promises King David that his house and kingdom will "endure forever." Then, in the Gospel, we read of the Angel Gabriel's words to Mary about the Son she will bear, whose dignity will be great, who will be the Son of the Most High, and to whom the Lord God will give "the throne of David his father." The "house" is the family of David from which Jesus is descended. The "kingdom" is the one Jesus establishes. Because we have prepared our hearts well this Advent, our Christmas joy and peace will be heartfelt. We will celebrate the wonder of that first Christmas, when all the prophecies of the Messiah come to pass in the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. On Christmas, and every day of our lives, we are fully open in faith, as Mary is in today's Gospel. We live in a spirit of advent all year long, welcoming Jesus and bringing him to a world that is desperate for the promise of salvation.



Questions of the Week

Adults: What do the words, "Do not be afraid" say to me this Advent? What fears do I need to turn to God?
Children: Who is the person I trust the most? What makes this person trustworthy?

Parish Activities

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following young people of our parish who have completed the preparation for the sacrament of reconciliation, most of whom celebrated this sacrament for the first time on Friday, December 12th at our Advent Reconciliation Celebration:

<i>Katelyn Beaton</i>	<i>Terrance Corbett</i>	<i>Jared Hutchison</i>	<i>Liam Marsh</i>	<i>Jonathan Smolensky</i>
<i>Derrick Burke</i>	<i>Bianca DeGiobbi</i>	<i>Jody Lahey</i>	<i>Holly McSavaney</i>	<i>Morgan Spencer</i>
<i>Renae Burke</i>	<i>Selena Digerio</i>	<i>Sara Lever</i>	<i>Kendra Meery</i>	<i>Tyler Syms</i>
<i>Julia Cameron</i>	<i>Bailey Flynn</i>	<i>Morgan MacDonald</i>	<i>Kaleigh Muir</i>	
<i>Molly Campbell</i>	<i>Dylan Fraser</i>	<i>Matthew MacKinnon</i>	<i>Deion Perfect</i>	
<i>Justin Corbett</i>	<i>Jessica Gillis</i>	<i>Michael MacLean</i>	<i>Linda Rockett</i>	



Supporting Our Food Bank



Throughout the year, children are welcome to come forward during the collection to place money in a can labeled, "Food Bank". The money collected in these cans is passed along to our local St. Vincent de Paul food banks to use to buy food items and to help with other expenses they may have. Over the past year, we have collected a total of **\$1,208.26** in these cans. Many thanks to the youngest members of our faith community for reaching out to support the needs of the larger community!

Parish Night Gatherings

Many thanks to those who came out on Tuesday, December 16th to reflect on the meaning of the upcoming Christmas Season and to help prepare our chrismon tree. A special thanks to Angela, Tom, Leo, and the children who presented the Christmas story according to the Gospel of Luke. There will be no parish night gatherings for the next two weeks.

Gatherings will resume on January 6th at 6:30 PM with our Breaking Open the Word.

As always, all are welcome!



Christmas Basket Ticket Draw



Our Ways & Means Committee will be drawing for their Christmas Basket **today at the 11:30 AM Mass**. We wish the best of luck to all ticket holders.

Attention C.W.L. Members

All CWL Members are reminded that the **Annual Dues (\$13)** should be submitted by December 31, 2008. You may place them in a plain envelope (clearly marked "CWL") and drop them in the Sunday Collection. Thanks!

Shuttle Ministry

Those who need transportation to get to Mass starting in the New Year are invited to please call the office. We invite parishioners who have extra space in their vehicles to please be mindful of those in need of transportation. Thanks for your assistance in this noble ministry!



Youth Activities

Gatherings for our youth in grades 9-12 will break for the next few weeks, **resuming on January 11th at 7 PM** at the Gaul Centre.



Confirmation Preparation



Confirmation Candidates are reminded to complete their **online activity** for the month of December. If you have yet to complete the previous months' activities, they are still posted on the website. All online activities are under the "Youth Corner" section of our website.

Preparation for First Eucharist

The families of children in grade 2 (and up) are invited to enter into preparation for First Eucharist (a.k.a. First Communion) in the New Year. There will be a meeting for parents/caregivers on **Sunday, January 18th at 7 PM** at the Gaul Centre to explain the preparation process. Registration will take place at this time. Please note that the expectation is that families are regularly taking part in ongoing faith development opportunities such as participation in Sunday Eucharist, Breaking Open the Word, monthly Spaghetti Nights, etc.



Baptism Celebration



Once again this month we have received a large number of requests for the celebration of Baptism. As such, we will have a special Baptism Celebration **THIS Sunday, December 21st at 2 PM** at St. Michael's. The community is encouraged to come out for this celebration to welcome the newest thirteen members of our faith community.

Winter Burials

Due to ground conditions at present, the Winter Chapel in Mount Carmel Cemetery will be used for all burials in our Parish. Following a funeral in any of our churches, the priest, deacon or other minister can go to the Vault Chapel, where the committal prayers will be said. The actual burial of remains will take place after May 1, and can take place without a priest, deacon or other minister present.

Tending The Flock



Supporting Ourselves as Parish

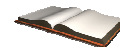
Sunday Collection for **December 14, 2008**

Envelopes (457): \$6,186.35 + Loose: \$368.52 = \$6,554.87.

Thank-you for your continued support!

Hymn Book Donations

Hymn Books have been donated to the Parish of Saint Leonard In Memory Of **Ida Coady** and **Theresa Madden** by St. Michael's Choir Members. Thank you for your generosity!



2009 Church Envelopes



Contribution Envelopes for Parish Support in 2009 have been distributed. If you are a regular envelope user and have not received your envelopes, please call the Pastoral Centre (862-2255). If you are not presently using envelopes, but would like to start, simply pick up a box over the holidays at the back of any of our church buildings. All envelope users are requested to put their **name and street address** on the first few envelopes of the year, in order for us to update our files. If you wish to support your parish through pre-authorized debit, please contact the Pastoral Centre. Thank you

for your generous support!

Upcoming Meetings

Liturgy Committee Meeting	Thursday	January	15	7:00	PM	Gaul Centre
Finance Committee Meeting	Thursday	January	22	7:00	PM	Pastoral Centre

Church Decorating

Our church buildings are prepared for feasts through the generosity of many volunteers and benefactors. Preparing a church for Christmas is among the most special celebration activities. Decorating will take place at the following times. Please feel free to come to any or all of the decorating sessions to lend a hand. Everyone is welcome!

Church	Day	Date	Time
St. Agnes	Saturday	December 20	5:00 PM
St. Joseph (L)	Sunday	December 21	9:30 AM
Mount Carmel	Sunday	December 21	1:00 PM
St. Michael	Sunday	December 21	3:30 PM
St. Joseph (NV)	Sunday	December 21	1:00 PM



WELCOME HOME TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

One of the joys of Christmas is the gathering together of family and friends. Welcome home to all who are celebrating Christmas this year with family and friends. God's blessing upon all of you as you travel and return to your homes in the near future.



PASTORAL CENTRE CLOSED

Please note that the Pastoral Centre will be closed from December 23 at noon until **January 5, 2009**, at 9:30 a.m. for regular office services. Our Pastoral Centre Staff will be on Christmas break. Pastoral Services of priests will be available as scheduled and as needed where possible. You may leave a message at 862-2255 or 862-7153, in case of an emergency.

ONE PUBLICATION

Please note that there will be no publication of **OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN** for Sunday December 28, 2008 or Sunday, January 4, 2009. Items for the next publication should reach our office by 4:00 p.m. **Wednesday, January 7, 2009.**

Mass Schedule for the New Year

As was mentioned in October, from January 1, 2009, until the end of the heating season, St. Michael's Church and St. Joseph's Church, Lingan will be used for all of our liturgies, including funerals. The mass times will be as follows:

Saturday (Vigils)		Sunday	
4:00 PM	St. Michael's	8:30 AM	St. Joseph's, Lingan (barrier free access)
5:30 PM	St. Michael's	10:00 AM	St. Michael's
		11:30 AM	St. Michael's

Please Note ...

There will be no Liturgy of the Hours on Monday, December 29. Please refer to our Christmas Mass Schedule (front page) for a full listing of masses over the next week. Thanks.

No Scents Is Good Sense -- we ask that you help make all parish buildings Scent Free. Thank you for your consideration of others.

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



What's Going On ...

● **Marriage Preparation** – For all engaged couples.

1. **January 9, 10 & 11** – Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Sydney
2. **February 21, 22 & 23** – St. Leo's Parish, Glace Bay
3. **March 13, 14 & 15** – Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Sydney
4. **March 27, 28 & 29** – Bras d'Or Hall.
5. **June 12, 13 & 14** – Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Sydney
Pre-Registration required (\$60/couple). Call 539-6868, Ext. 2

● **Holy Land Pilgrimage** – Follow in Christ's footsteps on a journey to sacred sites in Israel for 13 days in **February 2009**. Spiritual director is Father John Mills. Call 902-434-5554.

● **HOLY LAND - Feb 18-27**, \$2399: Garden of Gethsemane, Church of Holy Sepulchre, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Upper Room, Dead Sea, Mts of Transfiguration & Beatitudes, Sail on Sea of Galilee. Info: Linda Randall 902-648-0050 / 902-769-8399 tojesusthroughmary@gmail.com
Includes air from Halifax or Moncton, 2 meals/day, guides and tours.

● **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. You can pick up a brochure at the back of the church or visit www.stacm.ca. Pre-Registration only (\$135).

● **Alcoholics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership. They are self-supporting through our own contributions. Their primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. The New Waterford Group of AA meets at their rooms on Ling Street on Mondays at 10:30 AM, Wednesdays at 8 PM; Fridays at 10:30 AM and Saturdays at 8 PM.

● **PORTUGAL & POLAND** - Apr 17-27, \$2755: Shrines of Fatima, Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, Black Madonna of Czestochowa, Pope John Paul's Home in Wadowice + more! Pay by Dec 31 save \$200. Info: Marie Desjardins 207-868-5027 / bubblepink49@hotmail.com
Includes air from Halifax or Moncton, 2 meals/day, guides and tours.

● **Passion Play and European Tour – September 10, 2010** – an 18 day tour Featuring the world famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, which is performed every ten years, fulfilling a promise made to God 375 years ago. For info, call 562-0676.

Christmas Message

Dear Parishioners,

We have journeyed together from being Advent pilgrims to becoming confident and joy-filled Christmas believers. Together through our prayers and good works, our recent Reconciliation Service with both our young people and our adults, reaching out to those in need with our Combined Christmas Giving, celebrating the Sacrament of the Sick with our friends at Maple Hill Manor, witnessing the wonderful First Christmas by our children (and cute little lambs) and many other personal and communal moments of becoming more aware of God's Grace has allowed us to arrive at this powerful, solemn and holy feast of Christmas. We are now ready to take our place in the manger, alongside Mary and Joseph, and pay homage and surrender our lives to our Lord and the Saviour of the World, Jesus. We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate Christmas with both family and friends from near and far at our various liturgies. May God abundantly bless each of you and all of us as members of the Parish of St. Leonard during this season of heavenly and earthly joy. Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year!
With much love and prayers,

*Fr. Paul, Fr. Doug,
Pastoral Team & Pastoral Staff*

