

Parish of Saint Leonard

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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 29

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2009

Reading I: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) (A New Covenant)

Reading II: [Hebrews 5:7-9](#) (The Obedience of Christ)

Gospel: [John 12:20-33](#) (The Grain of Wheat)

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

We pray for those who have died, especially *Ivan Tighe*.

We Celebrate ...

Our Sunday Gatherings for Eucharist

<i>Saturday (Vigils)</i>		<i>Sunday</i>	
4:00 PM	St. Michael's	8:30 AM	St. Joseph (Lingan)
5:30 PM	St. Michael's	10:00 AM	St. Michael's
		11:30 AM	St. Michael's



Our Daily Gatherings This Week

All weekday celebrations take place at **St. Michael's Church**.

Daily Mass during Lent	Monday through Friday	10:00 AM
	Wednesday & Thursday	6:30 PM
Exposition, Rosary & Benediction	Monday	10:30 AM to Noon
Spaghetti Night	Tuesday	5:30 PM
Reconciliation	Wednesday & Thursday	6:00-6:30 PM
	Saturday	3:00-4:00 PM
Stations of the Cross	Thursday	6:00 PM
St. Paul Video Series	Friday	6:30-8:00 PM

***Please note:** Funerals in our parish during Lent will take place at 10:00 AM, replacing the morning mass. In case of a school cancellation due to weather, the regular morning mass & exposition will be cancelled on that day.

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 Marriage

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

We Believe ... In order to succeed at anything, especially love and friendship, we must risk pain and disappointment. We must "die" to ourselves. Jesus describes this kind of death in today's gospel. When a grain of wheat falls on the ground and does not germinate, it dies. But if it is buried and watered and grows into a wheat plant, then it produces an abundance of grain.

Questions of the Week

Adults: What actions of sacrifice in my life are producing lasting benefit for myself and others?

Children: Do I recognize the sacrifices others make for me? Do I thank them for their love?



Parish Activities

Church Re-Openings

As announced at our Christmas Liturgies, St. Agnes, St. Joseph (NV) and Mount Carmel churches will re-open **next Sunday (Palm Sunday)**! At that time, we will return to our previous mass schedule ... as follows

Saturday (Vigils)		Sunday	
4:00 PM	St. Agnes	8:30 AM	St. Joseph (L)
5:30 PM	St. Joseph (NV)	10:00 AM	Mount Carmel
		11:30 AM	St. Michael

We thank you for your patience over the winter months, and welcome you back to worship in these sacred spaces!

Spaghetti Night

“I Believe in Jesus’ Death and Resurrection”



This **Tuesday, March 31st**, is the last Tuesday of the month, and thus is Spaghetti Night. As we continue to explore our theme of the year, *The Creed*, we will use this time leading up to Holy Week to discuss our belief in Jesus’ death and resurrection. We will do this by examining the three components of our Triduum celebration – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Our gathering will help to prepare us to take part in our holiest of celebrations. Parishioners of all ages are invited to join us from **5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Gaul Centre!** No registration is required. Contributions for the dessert table are welcome.

First Eucharist Preparation

Families of First Eucharist candidates who did not participate in Thursday’s workshop are reminded that they are required to take part in the workshop being **held TODAY, March 29th from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM at the Gaul Centre.** The last three home lessons are due at this time. First Eucharist families are also encouraged to take part in this Tuesday’s Spaghetti Night, in preparation for Holy Week.



Confirmation Preparation



Any Confirmation candidates who have yet to schedule an interview are asked to come to TONIGHT’S, Gym Night and their interview will be conducted at that time. Candidates are reminded of the **Retreat** being offered **April 25th OR May 9th** (date chosen at the interview) and that the celebration of Confirmation itself will happen on Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 PM.

Youth Night

Our next Youth Night will be held **TONIGHT, March 29th, at Mount Carmel Gym from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.** Youth in grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend.



St. Paul Video Series



In this Year of Saint Paul, we have taken some time during the Lenten Season to explore the life and works of St. Paul through a wonderful video series. Our **final gathering** will take place **THIS Friday (April 3), from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM.** Parishioners are invited to view Part 2 of the Emmy Award winning movie, **Peter and Paul**, starring Anthony Hopkins and Robert Foxworthy.

Stations of the Cross for Families

Once again this year, parishioners of all ages are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross together on **Good Friday at 11:00 AM** at St. Michael’s. This is a great opportunity for families to remember together Jesus’ journey to the Cross. All are invited!



Movie Screening – Good Friday



On Good Friday, we invite parishioners to attend a screening of the 2004 movie *“The Passion of the Christ”* by Mel Gibson – at 6:30 PM in St. Michael’s Church. ***This movie is not recommended for those under 17 years of age.***

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ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Have we got an invitation for you!

Come to the **Steubenville Atlantic Youth Conference** at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, **July 31 – August 2, 2009** -- an opportunity to experience the love of God through amazing talks, awesome music, praise and worship, time for prayer and fellowship, entertainment and powerful liturgies. Of all the things to do this summer, Steubenville Atlantic will be the experience that rates **ABOVE ALL**. You can find out more and watch video clips at www.steubenville.ca **Registration Deadline is March 31.** Local contact: Jari-Ann Timmons at 862-6655, jatimmons3@hotmail.com, or see Fr. Doug.

Catholic Tidbits ...

On **Palm Sunday** Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. For many Christian traditions, Palm Sunday, is also referred to as Passion Sunday, and this special day marks **the beginning of Holy Week**, which concludes on Easter Sunday. Our scriptures reveal that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him with waving palm branches, and by covering his path with palm branches. Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, he begins his journey to the cross. The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in all four gospels: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.



Tending The Flock

Supporting Ourselves as Parish

Sunday Collection for March 22, 2009 Envelopes (418): \$4,614.05 + Loose: \$400.77 = \$5,014.82 <i>Thank-you for your continued support!</i>	Receipts for Income Tax will continue to be available at the Pastoral Centre during office hours. If you are unable to pick yours up, we'd be happy to mail it ... just call the Office!
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Share Lent Collection



The Share Lent Collection will be taken up at all masses **today**. Temporal riches and giving to the needy have always been part of the threefold Lenten tradition for Christians: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Our gifts today can bear fruit for the life of the world. To serve Christ, we are invited to follow his example – to give of ourselves, that others may live.

Upcoming Meetings

Cemetery Committee	Wednesday	April 15	7:15 PM	Pastoral Centre
Pastoral Council Meeting	Wednesday	May 6	7:15 PM	Pastoral Centre
Liturgy Committee Meeting	Thursday	May 7	7:15 PM	Gaul Centre

Mission Thanks -- "Journey of Lent, Journey of Life"



A huge thank-you goes out to all of those involved in this year's parish mission, including our planning team, choir, leaders of prayer, lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, sacristans, hospitality people (upstairs and downstairs), catechists, the banner-making group, our volunteer firefighters for their assistance with parking, and to those who attended. A special thanks goes out to Father Bedford Doucette for sharing his insights with us and challenging us to see things in new ways. We encourage anybody with feedback or suggestions for future missions to contact one of our Pastoral Team.

Catholic Women's League – Installation of Officers

Installation of Officers and Conveners for Mount Carmel CWL and St. Agnes CWL took place on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at the 6:30 PM Mass. Following mass, a short meeting and welcome to new Officers & Conveners took place, along with a luncheon. The new Executives & Conveners are as follows:

Executive	Mount Carmel	St. Agnes	Conveners	Mount Carmel	St. Agnes
President	Anna Caverzan	Rita McEachern	Spiritual	Maureen Finlayson	Mary McKenzie
Past President	Leona MacNeil		Christian Family Life	Viola Penny	
Secretary	Connie Boone	Marje Wilson	Community Life	Willena Blackwood	Eileen Muise
Treasurer	Ann MacSween	Sherry Timmons	Communication	Becky Smith	Joan Purdy
			Health & Education	Irene Obracay	
			Sick Visitation	Theresa Walzak	

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 6

- ✠ **Mass** at 10:00 AM – St. Michael's Church
- ✠ **Mass of Chrism** at 4:00 PM
St. Ninian's Cathedral, Antigonish

Tuesday, April 7

- ✠ **Mass** at 10:00 AM – St. Michael's Church
- ✠ **Individual Confession** – 10:30 AM - Noon

Wednesday, April 8

- ✠ **Mass** at 10:00 AM – St. Michael's Church
- ✠ **Individual Confession** – 10:30 AM - Noon
- ✠ **Mass** at 6:30 PM – St. Michael's Church

Holy Thursday, April 9

- ✠ **Mass of the Lord's Supper** at 7:00 PM
- ✠ **Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Individual Confession** until 10 PM
– Mount Carmel Church

Good Friday, April 10

- ✠ **Way of the Cross** at 11:00 AM
St. Michael's Church
- ✠ **Solemn Liturgical Service** at 3:00 PM
Mount Carmel & St. Agnes Churches
- ✠ **Movie Screening - The Passion of the Christ**
by Mel Gibson 6:30 PM at St. Michael's Church



Holy Saturday, April 11

- ✠ **Easter Vigil** at 9:00 PM
Mount Carmel Church



Easter Sunday Masses

We rejoice in Christ's Resurrection and Renew our Baptismal Promises



- 8:30 AM St. Joseph's, Lingan
- 10:00 AM St. Agnes
- 10:00 AM St. Joseph's, New Victoria
- 11:30 AM St. Michael's

Please keep this schedule for reference during Holy Week!

Diocesan & Community Events

- **Stations of the Cross & The Rosary** – Seaside Cable Channel 5, Isle Madame, presents the Stations of the Cross at 9:00 AM & the Rosary at 9:30 AM each morning (Sunday-Saturday) during Lent.
- **The Lay Carmelite Community of St. Elijah** will hold its monthly meeting on **Sunday, March 29**, at 1:30 PM at St. Joseph Church, Reserve.
- **Cursillo Spring School of Leaders, “Going to the Villa with our Eyes Wide Open”** – **Sunday, March 29, from 1 – 5 PM**, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Sydney. **All** Cursillistas are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come and bring a friend. Lunch will be provided. For info, contact Blair Murray at 862- 9201 blairmurray@ns.sympatico.ca
- **Crepe & Sausage Breakfast** – **Sunday, March 29, from 11 AM-2 PM** at the Etoile de l'Acadie, 15 Inglis St., Sydney. \$6/Adults; \$3/children. Music, entertainment, information booths. Call 563-3900 or 539-1416.

- **Free Public Lecture – Spirituality & Cancer – Hope, Meaning and Keeping it Real** – **Tuesday, April 7, from 7:00-8:00 PM (via Telehealth from Halifax)** – CB Regional Hospital, Speaker: Rev. David Maginley, Chaplain, QEII Cancer Care Program. Call 562-1367 to register.
- **National Catholic Mission – “Reflections for Lent”** – **Monday, April 6**, and **Tuesday, April 7**, at 10 PM, and repeated at 12 AM, on VISIONTV.
- **Holocaust Memorial Service** – **April 19 at 2 PM** at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue, Whitney Ave., Sydney. Guest Speaker will be Max Eisen, a survivor of death & concentration camps. All are 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

Dear Parishioners,

I want to sincerely thank you for your thoughtful input, insightful comments and heart-felt suggestions in regards to the recent Parish of Saint Leonard Discussion Document. Pastoral Council has met on two occasions, in the presence of three parish observers, to collate and organize your comments, thoughts and ideas. After that stage was completed, Pastoral Council then met two more times alone, reflecting and praying upon what you have shared with us, as well as reflecting upon the various reports regarding our structural needs as a parish. I must assure you that every comment (both written and spoken), offered by a parishioner who is registered in our parish, will be sent to the Bishop's Office as it was originally expressed. Also, Fr. Paul Abbass had asked Pastoral Council to put at least three serious options together as possible ways forward for the Parish of St. Leonard. He emphasized that the decisions would not be made at the local level but rather with the Bishop and his respective diocesan committees. Wednesday past, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Pastoral Council unanimously passed a motion which approved of the following letter to be sent to Bishop Lahey. It states,

Dear Bishop Lahey,

We, the Pastoral Council and the Pastoral Team of the Parish of St. Leonard, after examining the written and oral commentary pertaining to the Parish of St. Leonard Discussion Document, after much prayer and sincere discernment, viewing the parishioners' feedback and reflecting upon the various reports pertaining to our situation, hereby articulate the following options as a way forward for the Parish of St. Leonard at this time:

IN ... NO SPECIFIC ORDER, WITH NO HIERARCHY, OFFERED AS EQUAL OPTIONS ...

- *St. Michael's Church as a worship space; Pastoral Centre either at St. Michael's (Gaul Centre) or St. Agnes Centre.*
- *St. Michael's Church as a worship space and one of the larger Churches (Mt. Carmel or St. Agnes) as a worship space; Pastoral Centre either at St. Michael's (Gaul Centre) or St. Agnes Centre.*
- *One of the two larger churches (St. Agnes or Mt. Carmel) as a primary worship space and St. Michael's Church converted to a Pastoral Centre and Daily Chapel.*

We will pray for you and wish you every blessing as you and your appropriate diocesan bodies and committees make the final decision regarding what the Parish of St. Leonard will look like. A decision by late spring or early summer would be optimal for us in our parish.

Gratefully yours in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Paul MacNeil, Pastor – Parish of St. Leonard

Please note that these are options or suggestions for the Bishop and his committees to consider and he may choose one of them or none of them as a final result. Please also note that the main thrust currently in our parish is to decide upon a main worship space or worship spaces. That was the focus of this recent process. Once we know what we will look like in this regard, then we will have to discern how we will move forward with our other parish buildings and structures. The smaller churches in our parish family are equally important and significant, however are unable to offer the capacity required for our entire parish to worship. Even though the smaller churches were not included in the Pastoral Council's option list, this does not mean that these churches would necessarily be demolished, forgotten or abandoned. Possibly, occasional worship or noble usage in other ways (through historic preservation etc) would all be actively considered. Please continue to pray for our parish; and, in a very special way, pray for our Bishop and his respective committees at this very important time of decision making.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Paul

*From Your
Pastor*

