

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

Volume 2, Number 14

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2008

Reading I: [Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7](#) (We Are the Clay)
Reading II: [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#) (God Is Faithful)
Gospel: [Mark 13:33-37](#) (Be Alert)

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

We pray for those who have died, especially *Marion Betts, John Brenna, Germaine Matthys, John Miller, Joe Mombourquette, Lloyd Steiger, Irene Syms and Kaye Turnbull.*

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 **St. Michael's Church**, unless otherwise noted.

Monday	11:00 AM	Funeral Mass for Germaine Matthys, St. Michael's Church
	6:30 PM	Liturgy of the Hours
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Eucharist
	6:30 PM	Breaking Open the Word
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Eucharist
Thursday	6:30 PM	Eucharist
Friday	9:00 AM	Eucharist

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

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.

"I Want To Be A Catholic"

Would you or someone you know like to join the Catholic Church? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the normal way that adults become full members of our Catholic Faith Family. It is a process for those seeking Confirmation and those seeking Baptism in our beautiful and rich Catholic Christian Tradition. If you or a family member or a friend would like to explore this process, please contact Fr. Paul.

We Believe ... As the faithful waited and watched for the first coming of Jesus, we wait and watch for him to come again. The four weeks of Advent dramatize this waiting and watching that we are meant to do not only in Advent but every day of our lives. So much of our waiting time is spent working for material success and all the problems it brings: worry and anxiety about the future. As this Advent begins, we should make an earnest effort to reclaim some of this valuable time by putting ourselves in the hands of God, waiting and watching, and preparing for the only future that counts.

Questions of the Week

Adults: What does "wait wisely and watch vigilantly" mean for you?
Children: How can you best prepare for Christmas this year?



Parish Activities

Development & Peace Fall Campaign

“Working for our land, fighting for our rights”

Imagine This...

Location: Siria Valley in Honduras



**Development
and Peace**

Situation: The people live in poverty, though at least in the past, they were able to grow enough food to feed themselves. That situation changed when a gold mine opened in 1998. The mine forced many families off their land. Since that time, gold has been extracted by cyanide leaching. This process is under attack world-wide because it not only wastes much water but frequently poisons the soil, rivers and ground water.

In the Siria Valley, the mine in question is pumping so much water that many village wells have dried up. Others are now contaminated with cyanide, lead, and arsenic. Because these wells are the only water supply for the villages, many people have high levels of arsenic and lead in their bodies. But there is more to this situation which further calls us to do something about it: the company in question is a Canadian company and a profitable one at that. What's more, it is supported by us through our pension plans and our investment structures.

What can we do?: Our government needs to pass laws to ensure that Canadian mining companies quit making messes and quit pushing people around. Then mines can be generators of development and **not** generators of poverty and sickness as they often are now. Our own Catholic international organization, Development and Peace, is holding a campaign to see this happen. Inside your bulletin this weekend you will find an Action Card that says to our government: “We insist that you develop legal mechanisms to hold Canadian mining companies accountable for their actions in the Global South.” Please take the time to sign both the card to the Prime Minister and to our MP, Mark Eyking. You can drop the cards in the mail yourself, or you can drop signed cards in the collection basket either this week or next. Alternatively, you could sign the online petition, the link to which is found on our website.

Spaghetti Night



Much thanks to all who helped with Tuesday's Spaghetti Night, “I Believe in God...Creator”. We were very fortunate to have Sr. Donna Brady with us to help us to explore the story of Creation both through scripture and through what science now tells us about the universe. We spent some time thinking about what all things in Creation

tell us about God and how we are called to care for Creation. We closed with a prayer ritual led by youth in our community that reinforced the Creation story and our interconnectedness. The documents included in the home kit for this session can be found on our website at www.parishofsaintleonard.com/households.html

Breaking Open the Word

The season of Advent is a wonderful time of preparation and expectation. How are you using the season of Advent this year to prepare for Christ's coming? Consider making part of your preparation joining with others in our faith community on **Tuesday nights** to explore the richness in the weekly Gospel readings. Parishioners of all ages are invited to gather in the main body of **St. Michael's**. After an opening piece, the children go downstairs with catechists and the adults stay upstairs with Fr. Paul. The gatherings begin at **6:30 PM** and are over by 7:30 PM. Hope to see you this Tuesday!

Youth Night

This past Sunday, the youth of our parish gathered and discussed clips of the movie, “Pay It Forward”. This is a story about a young boy who gets a challenging assignment from his Social Studies teacher on the first day of school: “Think of an idea to change the world and put it into action”. The young boy comes up with the concept of ‘pay it forward’, meaning that when we do something good for another person, we don't ask for any pay-back, but instead ask that person to ‘pay it forward’. Our young people discussed different ways to do this and they left with cards that they will hand onto people after having done something for them. If you happen to receive one of these pay it forward cards, we encourage you to do just that. Paying it forward is about spreading the Good News; spreading Jesus' message of love. **The next youth gathering will be on December 7th at Mount Carmel Gym.**



Attention First Reconciliation Candidates



Please note that the First Reconciliation Retreat has been moved from December 5th to **Friday, December 12th at the Gaul Centre**. The retreat will **begin at 5 PM** and will include supper. **Families are invited to join the candidates at 7 PM** for our communal Reconciliation Service, where the candidates will celebrate the sacrament.

Advent Reconciliation Service

The community is invited to join our First Reconciliation Candidates in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Friday, December 12th at 7 PM at St. Michael's**. There will be a communal service followed by the opportunity for individual confessions. Make the Sacrament of Reconciliation a part of your Advent journey this year.

Sisters of Charity

The Sisters of Charity invite you to the Annual Renewal of Vows at the Liturgy of the Eucharist on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, **Mon., Dec. 8 at 7 PM** in St. Anne's, Glace Bay. Reception to follow.





Tending The Flock



Supporting Ourselves as Parish

Sunday Collection for November 23, 2008

Envelopes (460): \$5,150.80 + Loose: \$599.79 = \$5,750.59 ♦ Shepherd's Trust: \$2,332.00

Pre-Authorized Debit Contributions for November, 2008 (45 Contributors)			
Sunday Offerings: \$2,254.53	Family Service \$150.00	Cemetery \$205.00	Shepherd's Trust \$20.00

Thank-you for your continued support!

Upcoming Meetings

Finance & Administration Meeting	Monday	December	8	7:00	PM	Pastoral Centre
Liturgy Committee Meeting	Wednesday	December	10	7:15	PM	Gaul Centre
Pastoral Council Meeting	Wednesday	December	17	7:00	PM	Pastoral Centre

Combined Christmas Giving

Once again this year, the Churches and Organizations in our town are working together to help those in need at Christmas. There are a number of ways in which you can help ...

- **Adopt-a-Family** – Adopting a Family is a gift you can give to yourself at this time of year ... to know that you have put a smile on someone's face is the most wonderful gift you can give or receive. The program is private and anonymous. Neither the family nor the sponsor will have any knowledge of one another. Anonymous as it is, we can assure you the family is extremely appreciative and thankful for the kindness shown to them. To find out more about the program, call Shelly McLellan at 862-6142.
- **Giving Trees** – will be on display in each of our churches until **December 7th**. Parishioners are invited to decorate the trees with purchased or handmade hats, caps, socks and mittens. As well, gifts and toys are appreciated.
- **Monetary Donations** - may be made to the Combined Christmas Giving Committee through our Church collections. You will find envelopes in your packets for this purpose, or you may use a plain envelope, mark it "Combined Christmas Giving" and include your name and address for income tax purposes.



We hope that the effort of all the Churches and organizations will help make this a good and holy Christmas for all families. Thank you for your caring and kindness!!

Memorial Christmas Trees



In each of our churches this year, we will have a Memorial Christmas Tree (Bow Tree) as part of our Christmas décor. If you wish to participate in the purchase of flowers, wreaths, Christmas decorations, or provide help for those in need, in memory of your deceased loved ones, please deposit your contribution in the collection basket along with the name(s) of the people you wish to be remembered and your envelope number (be sure to specify the church you desire). The Memorial Trees will be decorated with bows, each bearing the name of a deceased parishioner you wish to remember. At Christmas, we will publish an "In Memoriam" section of the bulletin, listing the names of the persons or families remembered. You are asked to submit any requests before **December 7, 2008**.

Sale of Christmas Wreaths



Once again this year, our Ways & Means Committee will sponsor the sale of Travis' Wreaths and Teardrops. The cost is \$20, and they can be picked up on Thursday, December 11. Order forms are available in all of our churches. *\$7 from the sale of each wreath will go to the Parish.* Just fill out and place in the collection basket no later than **December 7**. Thanks for supporting this project!!

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

Sincere Congratulations are extended to **Jack & Florence Webb** as they celebrate their **55th Wedding Anniversary** on November 29, 2008. Best Wishes are extended to you from your family and friends. May God continue to shower you both with His many blessings as you travel your journey of life together.



Catholic Women's League



Mount Carmel CWL Bake Sale

Mount Carmel CWL will be holding a Bake Sale on Sun., Dec. 7th from 11 AM - 1:30 PM at the Carmel Centre. Complimentary tea will be served. Members are asked to donate baked goods, preserves, or fudge and if any parishioners would like to do the same, it would be greatly appreciated. You may drop off your baking at the Carmel Centre on Sat., Dec. 6th from 2-3:30 PM and Sun., from 9:30-11 AM.

St. Agnes CWL -- the Regular Meeting will take place this **Tues., Dec. 2, at 7 PM** at St. Agnes Centre.

All CWL Members are reminded that the Annual Dues of (\$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!

2009 Church Envelopes

We are now preparing our 2009 Church Envelopes for distribution. If you have moved, or have any other address changes, please notify the Parish Office (862-2255) as soon as possible. Thank you!!!

Thank You For Your Support

A Sincere Thank You to all those who supported the Christmas Bake Sale hosted by the Ways & Means Committee on Sat., Nov. 22nd. Prize Winners were: **Ed Cook** – Snowman; **Philomena Sutherland** – Clock/Candle Holders; **Margaret MacLellan** – Red Afghan and **Winnie Odo** – Purple Afghan. A total of \$958.25 was raised!!!

Diocesan & Community Events

● **Share the Warmth** – Family Service of Eastern NS has initiated a program to assist people facing high heating costs this winter. Donations of new or gently used blankets and bedding will be accepted at any Family Service Office or local Credit Union **until December 19**. Your support is appreciated. For info, call 849-4772.

● **Taize Prayer** – the next Taize Prayer will be held on **Mon., Dec. 1st at 7 PM** in St. Anthony Daniel Church, Sydney. Taize prayer is a prayer form developed by an ecumenical community of brothers in Taize, France. "The emphasis of its style is on silence, light, and above all, the meditative weaving together of prayer & music. All are welcome.

● **St. F.X. Alumni Annual Mass** – A special Mass for the St. F.X. Alumni Family & Friends will take place **at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 2, 2008** at St. Anthony Daniel Church, 105 Alexandra St., Sydney. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

● **Bereaved Families of Cape Breton** - is offering a Grief Support & Share Night on **Thursday, December 4, 2008 from 7-9 PM** at the Recreation Room, Miners Memorial Manor, 6 Lorne St., Sydney Mines. Topic: Coping with the Holidays. No fee or pre-registration is required. Everyone is welcome. For more info, call 564-6795.

● **Life in the Spirit Weekend for Men** – to be held on **Dec. 5, 6 & 7** at Villa Madonna. For more info, phone Lloyd Hussey at 564-4232 or Eugene MacNeil at 562-4681.

● **St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae** – Annual Christmas Party, **Sun., Dec. 7, at 2 PM**, Anne's Church, Glace Bay. All Alumnae invited to attend.

● **No Time to Bake for Christmas???** - **Christmas Bake Sale, Sat., Dec. 13 from 12-3 PM** at the New Victoria Fire Hall hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the New Victoria Fire Department. Tickets will be sold on a beautiful basket filled with Christmas goodies. See you there!

● **Experience A Burke Family Christmas - Sat., Dec. 13, at 8 PM**. The Burke Family will combine the music of their ECMA winning Christmas CD and their newly released CD, to give audiences a seasonal evening like no other...but the music is just the beginning. Tickets (\$20) available at the Savoy Box Office (842-1577), Centre 200 Box Office (564-6668) or on-line at www.savoytheatre.com

● **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 Tour – February 18-27, 2009** -- \$2399 includes air from Hfx., accommodations, two meals per day, guide and tours. Call Linda Randall 902-648-0050 or email tojesusthroughmary@gmail.com

● **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.

● **Weekend of Grace** - 3rd Annual Regional Catholic Women's Conference to be held the weekend of **April 24-26, 2009** at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. This conference provides an opportunity for women to share their faith in witness and prayer. You can pick up a brochure "A Time of Mercy" at the back of the church or call 902-423-9759 or visit www.stacm.ca select "Programmes" and click on "Weekend of Grace". Pre-Registration Only. Early Bird deadline is December 31, 2008 - \$135.00 After December 31, 2008 - \$155.00.

Dear Parishioners,

It was so nice to have my mother here these past few days with me in the parish. She really enjoyed meeting and reconnecting with many of you, singing in the funeral choirs, participating in our liturgies and spending time in our community by the sea. Thank you all for your kindness to her while she was here. She keeps telling me how much she has enjoyed the tea down here...what is the CB secret? (I think it has a lot to do with the great people who do the pouring ☺) I want to wish each and every one of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Yes, that's right. This weekend, as Church, we celebrate a brand new year once again as we enter the wonderful liturgical Season of Advent. Today's gospel rightly reminds us as followers of Jesus to be prepared...to "keep alert" and "keep awake". We are invited to be prepared for the coming of the Lord, not just on December 25th for the Feast of the Incarnation, but for his Final Coming at the end of time, and more specifically for each of us...at the end of our own earthly lives. Living in joyful expectation and anticipation is our calling as believers. May this Advent Season be a time of new beginnings and renewed faith in the One born of Mary. As we begin our New Church Year, May Almighty God bless you, protect you and keep you, and may the light of God's face always shine upon you.

Peace & Prayers, Fr. Paul