

Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit

1 Church Family....3 Locations

~ St. Elizabeth Seton ~ St. Francis of Assisi ~ St. John Vianney ~

Parish Office: 4 Beaver Bank Road, Lower Sackville, NS B4E 1G3

Phone: 902-865-2112 / Fax: 902-864-8645

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 3:30 pm / After hours emergency: 902-865-6133

Email: karen@holytrinityns.ca Website: www.holytrinityns.ca Facebook: Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit

December 25, 2017 (Year B)

The Nativity of the Lord - Solemnity

Fr. Ken's Christmas Message

Christmas is truly a joyful season of spending time with family and friends as we gather to share a meal, to exchange gifts and to enjoy each other's company. We could be so busy preparing for this occasion: buying gifts, decorating our house, preparing meals, etc., that we could easily miss out on the reason for the season which is welcoming the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Despite the busyness of this season, let us pause for a while to reflect upon the significance of this day: God, out of His great love for all of us, sent His only Son to be our Savior. May we be truly grateful for this great gift that God has given us.

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place where Mary could give birth because there was no room for them at the inn. They ended up finding a stable for animals and it was there that Jesus was born and placed in a manger.

This Christmas, may we open our hearts to welcome Jesus in our life, in our family and in our parish. Let us give Jesus the permission to reign in us and to do His work of renewal not just in us personally but also as a parish.

This is the first Christmas that I will be able to celebrate with you as your Pastoral Administrator. I look forward to celebrating many more with you all.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

God Bless,
Fr. Ken



Archbishop Mancini's Christmas Wishes

Dear Friends,

The Christmas Season is once again upon us, and with it comes all the usual elements associated with the season. Children love this time of festivities, gifts and family gatherings. Adults fret over the preparations and shopkeepers try to make available the latest “must have” item. There is a kind of joy in the air that soon fades into the background, as a certain frenetic energy rises to get us to the finishing feast or family gathering. Hopefully, somewhere in all of these customs and traditions, there is some time to recall the reason for the season – that Jesus Christ was born today!

As I write these few words, I find myself wondering, what did the people of Halifax think about on Christmas day 100 years ago? On December 6, 1917, the city was destroyed in the Halifax explosion. Obviously, December 25 came and went that year, as it will this year. I can only imagine, however, that Christmas in Halifax in 1917 must have been an extremely difficult time. There was no time for superficiality, for artificial joys or exchange of insignificant gifts.



Instead, there was mourning for the victims of the explosion, the necessity to begin the recovery and try to imagine what the future might hold. Perhaps, in such an up-close and in-your-face experience of darkness and devastation, the reality of God and the gift of Christ the Light made a lot sense.

Archbishop Edward McCarthy, the then Archbishop of Halifax, wrote the following words:

“A new spirit sprang up within us, begotten of the anguish of our hearts, bursting into life from the agony of death.”

Christmas is about bursting into life from the agony of death. Christ's birth is not just another birthday to be celebrated with cake and gifts. It is the second chance given to humanity; it is God coming down to earth, to be with us in the dirt and darkness that would overcome us, and to shed light on the way forward that leads to humanity's most noble aspirations.

Our city in 2017 is not destroyed, and we may not be experiencing the loss of family and friends in an explosion of fire. We are, however, surrounded by a diversity of ethnic cultures, by religious convictions of many kinds and, perhaps the largest category of all, by the non-religious secular fellow citizens with whom we make up the city of today.

In this context, the Mystery of the Incarnation remains a source of light; it is a promise that retains all its power, and it is this Mystery that we who have faith celebrate this Christmas. May a new spirit spring up again within us.

Merry Christmas!

†Anthony Mancini Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS 2017 MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Services

4 pm	St. John Vianney
6 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton
8 pm	St. Francis of Assisi
11 pm	St. John Vianney

Monday, December 25th

9 am	St. John Vianney
11 am	St. Elizabeth Seton

NEW YEARS

Saturday, December 30th

4:30 pm	St. John Vianney
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Sunday, December 31st

8 am	St. Francis of Assisi
10 am	St. John Vianney
12 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton
4:30 pm	St. John Vianney

Monday, January 1st

9 am	St. Francis of Assisi
11 am	St. Elizabeth Seton

PARISH OFFICE / MASS SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed during the week between Christmas & New Year's ~ reopening on Tuesday, January 2nd.

During that week, daily Mass will still take place on Tuesday, December 26th at 7 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton and December 27th, 28th and 29th at 9 am at St. John Vianney.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will continue as usual ~ Wednesday, December 27th from 9:30 am - 10 pm and Thursday & Friday from 9:30 - 10:30 am. As a reminder, the office will be closed, so you will have to ring the doorbell to be let in.

PRAYIN THE NEW YEAR ROSARY ~ Come and join us as we pray in the new year by praying the Rosary at St. John Vianney from 11pm to 12 midnight on Sunday, December 31st. Doors open at 10:45 pm. All are welcome!

IN GRATITUDE OF YOU! During this Advent and Christmas Season, we want to take the opportunity to send a big **THANK YOU** to all the hundreds of volunteers that make the liturgies, ministries, outreach, formation, administration and operational work possible in our 3 churches. The extraordinary gifts all of our volunteers bring into our parish churches continually help us to be the Church witnessing to the goodness of God working amongst us. On behalf of all those who have received the fruits of your gifts this year, we wish to extend a deep and heartfelt thank you for your dedication to the mission of our Church! Mark your calendars! We would like to invite all volunteers to join us as we celebrate our church community at our **1st Annual Volunteer Appreciation Night** scheduled for Saturday June 9th, 2018.



DONATIONS 2017 ~ All donations received by December 31, 2017 in Church envelopes, dated 2017, will be included in your 2017 donation receipt. Any donations received after December 31, 2017 will be included in your 2018 donation receipt.

FAITH FORMATION

ADORATION REMINDER ~ please feel free to drop in to Adoration which takes place every Wednesday from 9:30 am - 10 pm in the Chapel at St. John Vianney. If you plan to come after 4 pm, please stop into the office and pick up your 'Adoration Pass' prior to. ***We are in need of volunteers from 12-1 pm. If you're able to help out, please contact Karen.*** Adoration takes place as well on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 am. All are most welcome!

In the event of a snow storm, Adoration will be cancelled if the Halifax Regional School Board cancels schools for the day.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

ATLANTIC MARIAN GATHERING ~ On January 6th, St. John XXIII Parish in Cole Harbour will host a Marian Retreat Day. The day will begin at 9:00 with Mass, Fr. Irek Bem, celebrant, and will include presentations by Deacon Larry Worthen and Dr. Nan Ferguson-Losier. Lunch will be provided by the KoC. Please RSVP to nora.muise@bellaliant.net to help us prepare appropriately for the lunch. The day will end with Eucharistic Adoration. Please join us!



PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE HOLY LAND—ADVANCE NOTICE ~ If you have a desire to see the Holy Land, this may be your opportunity. Fr. Simon Lobo, Saint Benedict Parish and Fr. Bryan Sabourin, are the planned spiritual leaders on this prayerful Pilgrimage. The itinerary has been carefully arranged with full consideration to the ministry of Christ as opposed to merely a tour of the Holy Land. This Pilgrimage is planned for 12 days in October, 2018. For information, send an e-mail to bsime@privatelabeltravel.ca with "*keep me informed*" in the subject line.

THE CARE AND COMPANIONSHIP AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY will conduct training in the month of January for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (ministering to those unable to attend Mass), and for those visiting Homebound parishioners on behalf of Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit (i.e. Nursing home visitors and those confined to home). This training is for new volunteers to this ministry, those who wish to have a refresher course, AND anyone who has not received this formal training in the past. Our goal is to ensure a level of consistency when homebound parishioners receive a visitor on behalf of the Parish. Training will take place at St Elizabeth Seton on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30 pm for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and on Tuesday, January 23rd at 7:30 pm for Visitor Training. Please contact the Parish Office to register for these sessions.

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE NOT CONNECTED TO THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH? At the Christmas Masses, we see the Body of Christ in our community in its fullness of life and participation. We rejoice in their presence and we long for them to reconnect with our faith community. ALPHA is a way for people who have questions about the meaning of life and the relevance of Jesus to be encouraged in conversation to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment.



ALPHA helps to transform the lives of those searching for answers. Maybe there are some family members or friends that you could invite to attend. Our next come and see what Alpha is about is on **Thursday January 11th** at 6pm at **St. Elizabeth Seton Church**. Invite your family and friends and join them on their journey. See our website for more information and feel free to drop us a line at alpha@holyltrinityns.ca.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. JOHN VIANNEY COUNCIL 7077 invite you to their Family Brunch taking place on the First Sunday of the month - the first one being held on January 7th from 11 am - 1 pm in the Hall at St. John Vianney. Menu includes eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, beans, toast, juice, tea & coffee. The cost is \$7 per person, \$4 (children under 12) or \$20 for a family of two adults and children. Contact Basil Weagle at 902-864-8159.

CASH CALENDARS ~ If you missed the opportunity to purchase a Cash Calendar from the Knights of Columbus, there are still some available. Please see Karen at the Parish Office.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

WELCOME SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER! ~ On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 7, 2018, Archbishop Mancini and the whole Archdiocese will welcome a visit from the relics of Saint Francis Xavier. More specifically, the arm of Saint Francis Xavier will be available for veneration at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica. To see the schedule, visit the website at Archdiocesan events, please visit <http://www.halifaxarmouth.org>



~ Meet Our Staff ~

Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Ken Lao CC.....ext 0
Associate Pastor: Fr. Bryan Sabourin C.....ext 0
Deacon: Rod Rowlands.....ext 0
Administrative Secretary:
 Karen Smith.....ext 0
Finance: Marlene Bellefontaine.....ext 21
Dir. of Ministries, Comm & Evangelization:
 Catherine Kidson.....ext 24
Coordinator of Family Faith Formation:
 Alex Craven.....ext 23

SUNDAY, THE DAY OF THE LORD

Saturday	4:30 pm	St. John Vianney
Sunday	8:00 am	St. Francis of Assisi
Sunday	10:00 am	St. John Vianney
Sunday	12:00 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday	7:00 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton
Wednesday	9:00 am	St. John Vianney
Thursday	9:00 am	St. John Vianney
Friday	9:00 am	St. John Vianney

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 6:30-6:45pm St. Elizabeth Seton
 Wednesday 8:30am-8:45am St. John Vianney
 Saturday 3:45-4:15pm St John Vianney
 or by appointment at any of our three Churches.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday at SJV following 9 am Mass and concludes at 10 pm with Reposition
 Thursday & Friday at SJV following 9 am Mass concluding at 10:30 am

PRAY THE ROSARY

Tuesday 6:30 pm	St. Elizabeth Seton
Wednesday (Pro-Life) 8:00 am	St. John Vianney
Thursday & Friday 9:40 am	St. John Vianney
<i>On Friday, recited for Peace in the World, as per Pope Francis'</i>	
Saturday 9:00 am	St. John Vianney
<i>(Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle with Rosary)</i>	

MINISTRY OF CARE & COMPANIONSHIP

AND HOMEBOUND: If you know someone who is seriously ill, in the hospital or homebound that would like a Parish Visitor or to receive Communion, please contact the Parish Office.

GOT LIFE QUESTIONS? RCIA might be just for you. Come journey with us as we explore the meaning of life and the Catholic spirituality. Contact Anne Marie Reid at reid.am@bellaliant.net to find out more about the R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Program.

PLANNING TO BE MARRIED in the Catholic Church? Congratulations! Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance in order to have time to prepare. For more information, check out our website under Faith Formation – Sacraments.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact Liz Connolly at 902-865-9214 at least three months in advance. A preparation session will be arranged for you.

HEARTS ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP invite you to join them on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton (weather permitting). For more information, call Ethel at 902-864-4927.

WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS take place on Thursdays from 10 am – 11:30 am; therefore, the Parish Office will be closed during those times.

NO SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE! Please refrain from wearing perfume/cologne to Mass. Thank you!

WOMEN'S FAITH SHARING STUDY GROUP will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am at St. Elizabeth Seton. Newcomers are most welcome. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

MEN'S "GYM" HOUR – God, You, Me – will take place every Friday at St. Benedict Parish in Halifax from 6:45 - 8 am. Come heighten your spiritual journey by sharing stories, Praise and Worship music and enjoy fellowship. Coffee will be provided. Contact Peter Covert at 902-478-5951. All men are welcome!

BEACON HOUSE MONTHLY REQUESTS: boxed



cereal, crackers, cookies, hygiene products, baby formula, diapers, canned corn, granola bars, Kleenex, toilet tissue, macaroni and cheese