

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 31, 2017 (Year B)
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Weekly Reflection

In this time of year, our focus as a Church shifts into an aspect of the life of Jesus that otherwise is sometimes brushed aside in favor of His teaching and miracles. December 31st is the Feast of the Holy Family and January 1st celebrates Mary as the Most Holy Mother of God. In the Gospels for these two celebrations, we see the special devotion and love of Mary and Joseph for the child Jesus give rise to the same devotion and love for Christ in others!



In the Gospel for Sunday, Jesus is presented in the Temple, in accordance with the Jewish custom of the time. One can imagine the arduous journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem with a days-old infant in tow! Yet Mary and Joseph remain obedient to God despite the difficulty. And in their devotion, the love of God is passed along to others they meet at the Temple. The presence of Christ, even as an infant, gives hope to Simeon and Anna, and they in turn pass that hope along to all they meet!

In Monday's Gospel, we hear of the shepherds called by the angel to visit the stable in Bethlehem. They come, meet the Holy Family, and through them meet Christ, and go away filled with joy and praising God and sharing the Good News that God has come to dwell among us. Luke records a point which may serve as a reflection in our lives today: "Mary treasured all these things in her heart." Do we look for and treasure these experiences of Christ? Do we make an effort to be open to sharing Him with those who come looking? Do we take time to discern God's movement and presence in our lives?

The similarities between these two Gospels, the last Gospel of one year and the first Gospel of a new year, are perhaps fitting. The Gospel of December 31st reminds us that it is never too late to meet Christ, to be changed and transformed by an encounter with Him, and to have that zeal to share that encounter with others! The Gospel of January 1st can serve though as a reminder that each year, each month, each week, day, or hour is a new chance to say Yes to God as Mary did at the Annunciation, as she and Joseph did in letting these shepherds visit the Christ child, as they did in obeying the Law of Moses to have Christ presented in the Temple and circumcised, and even in all the untold moments of the Holy Family who raised the Son of God to be "strong, filled with wisdom, and full of the favor of God."

Let us leave 2017 and enter 2018 with the evangelistic desire of the shepherds, of Simeon and Anna, of Mary and Joseph, to fulfill the wishes of Christ to be shared with the whole world! Happy New Year! Let's get to work!

~ Alex Craven, Coordinator of Family Formation

NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

Monday, January 1st

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

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.



CHANGES TO CRYING ROOM AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY You may have noticed the construction of a wall in the crying room at St. John Vianney recently. The wall was built to create a small video control room to accommodate the equipment needed to livestream our Masses in the near future. This would enable people who may not be able to get to a Sunday Mass due to illness, being away, or a host of other reasons, to still participate in the weekend Mass. Many thanks to Home Depot for donating the supplies and the team of 6 parishioners who donated their time and talent to the construction of the wall and the wiring of the equipment.

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.

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.

"Think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things, through the mercy of God, will make you go to heaven."

~ St. Camillus de Lellis

URGENT Are you a tradesperson and have some time and skills to donate to our church?

WE NEED YOU! Due to the age of our buildings and in an effort to keep costs in check, we are in need of some help in plumbing, electrical, furnace and heating, construction and drywall, painting, general cleaning and dusting and gardening. There a number of small projects currently waiting for people to help. For more information, please contact Catherine at the Parish Office @ ext. 23 and we will put you into contact with the Management Committee of the church you can help at. Thank you in advance!
Many hands make light work!

We NEED you.
Can you HELP?

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.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



WEEKEND OF GRACE FOR WOMEN is taking place from April 13th - 15th at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. Be sure to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration fee of \$175. Following that date, the cost will be \$195. For information, please call 902-405-9613 or visit www.weekendofgrace.com.

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, e-

mail bsime@privatelabeltravel.ca with "keep me informed" in the subject line.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH ARCHBISHOP MANCINI ~ Join Archbishop Anthony Mancini for his annual New Year's Day Levee at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica.



Following the 10am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God all are invited to gather with our Archbishop in the hall 11:00am

to welcome in the new year and enjoy some light refreshments and fellowship.

May Mary, the Star of the New Evangelization, intercede for all our needs this coming year as we seek to renew our local Church.

START YOUR YEAR OFF WITH A VISIT FROM SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER!

We are excited to welcome the relics of Saint Francis Xavier to the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth



on Sunday, January 7, 2018, the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. The relic, his right arm,

will be received by Archbishop Anthony Mancini at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 10:30am Sunday Mass
- 11:30am - 4:30pm Public Veneration
- 5:00pm Sunday Mass, Celebrant: Archbishop Mancini
- 6:00pm - 10:00pm Public Veneration
- 6:30 Relic Talk: Life of St Francis Xavier and the Three Graces
- 10:00pm Closing Prayer: Litany of St. Francis Xavier

All are encouraged to take part in this unique opportunity to encounter Christ through one of the most famous missionaries of all time.



The relics of Saint Francis will make a 14 city cross Canada tour from January 3-February 3, 2018. The project is a collaboration of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, the Jesuits of Canada, and Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO).

For more information about the tour see: cco.ca/relic

~ 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

(Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle with Rosary)

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.

