



Many thanks go to Greg Doyle, Annie MacLean and their helpers for hosting our 3 Lenten Lunches this month. There was a lot of work that went into the menus, and they were enjoyed by many.



**CHRISM MASS** : On April 11 at 12:00 noon at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica gather with Archbishop Mancini and the priests of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth as we bless the

Holy Oils to be used in the coming year.

Please remember parking at the Cathedral is very limited so please plan accordingly. The parishes of Saint Peter's on Maple St., in Dartmouth and Saint Agnes on Mumford Rd, in Halifax welcome those who wish to park in these church parking lots and carpool or use public transportation to get to the Chrism Mass.

**Training for Parish Palliative Care Volunteers:**

Do you feel called to visit the sick, terminally ill, dying and bereaved in your parish community? As a member of a parish, you would represent your parish community by journeying with a person and being a loving support by listening, with some understanding of the challenges with which they may be coping, to ease the suffering and improve quality of life. Would

your parish like to enhance the outreach ministry to include palliative care volunteer visits?

We are looking for people who are mature and compassionate to provide comfort and emotional support to those who are near the end of life. There is no nursing care attached to this ministry. A Parish Hospice Palliative Care course will be provided for volunteers who wish to serve in their parish community.

**Please register by March 28, 2017 (earlier is better)**

**When:** Two day certified course— April 8 and 22, 2017, 8:00am-3:30pm

**Location:** 26 Union Street, Bedford NS (Chalice building)

**Presenters:** Mary Wylde RN, Sister (Doctor) Nuala Kenny and Susan Duggan

**Cost:** \$25.00 to cover materials and lunch

**Contact:** Dianne Bulger [diannebulger@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:diannebulger@ns.sympatico.ca) or (902) 880-3494

**Training Provided by St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica**



# Repent, and believe in the Gospel!



March 26, 2017



**From the Desk of Fr. Paul :**

On Wednesday of this week the parish will have an extended period of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will do this on either side of the 12:10 Mass and will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as a sign and real assurance that [Jesus knows our fears and reticence of perhaps choosing to go to confession](#) – he is already there in the church waiting for us! There will be visiting priests and I encourage all of us to take advantage of this opportunity.

Lent began with the words of Jesus: “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” Repentance in the biblical sense means “to turn”, to change one’s path and course. It is a “turning 180 degrees” – a move that changes our view and changes our direction. Repentance is the fundamental disposition that describes the movement from sin to grace, from habits and ways of being that are less than what God intended us to be.

In our hearts (our conscience) we know that various times everyday, we say, do, or think things that take us away from the love of God and our neighbour – this is sin. Sins are not “accidents”; they involve freedom and choosing, even when we know something is wrong. Sin is a deliberate and willful action, word, or thought that harms our relationship to God and our neighbor.

In his opening lines from chapter 5 of the Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul says, “For freedom Christ came to set you free.” Yes! This should give us great hope. Christ’s life, his example, his sacrificial death, and now, the grace offered to us now in the sacraments of the Church Jesus founded gives us the means of rising above our sins and turning us back to God. And yet, having said all this, I easily acknowledge that going to confession is sometimes difficult – I find it difficult too! I want you to know that – we’re in this journey together!

I promise that the priests will receive you warmly, respectfully, and with their own knowledge that they also stand in need of God’s mercy. It is true that we speak about realities in confession that often no one else may know and there is always something counter intuitive about revealing our imperfections to another person. That’s certainly true. So we need to ask for a grace to trust! God won’t let us down but will give us the grace to rise above any reticence and make the decision to go. Ask for that grace if you are feeling anxious or reluctant.

In particular, I am making a special invitation to those who have been away from this sacrament for many years, to come back and celebrate it – you will feel so much better for having done so! We will feel better and renewed even if we only have small faults to confess. If it is true that daily life will continually remind us and provide plenty of examples of our human weakness, confession is also the means Jesus gives us to rise above them. It is a certain way of receiving forgiveness from God and a restoration of sanctifying grace in our soul. God’s mercy and love define who God is – it is as simple as that. So mercy and love are always more powerful than any sin we could ever have committed.

Confession is not just “dropping off” our sins, it is also “picking up” God’s grace. It gives us the means of “cleaning the slate”, a new resolve to choose a different path in our daily life.

I will be praying in our own personal prayers leading up to Wednesday that we have a large turnout. See you then!

**See Priests Reconciliation Schedule on page 3**





### Palm Sunday

April 9—8:30 & 10:30am

Monday April 10— No Mass

### Blessing of Holy Oils—Mass of Chrism

Tuesday, April 11—12:00pm (St. Mary's Basilica)

Wednesday April 12—12:10pm

### Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Thursday, April 13 —7:00pm\*

### Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Good Friday, April 14—3:00pm\*

### The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15—7:30pm\*

### The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday, April 16—8:30am & 10:30am

\*No other masses will be celebrated on these days.

\*\* As in years past, we are looking for donations of sandwiches/sweets for the parish reception that takes place following the Saturday Easter Vigil here at St. Agnes. It would be appreciated if you could drop them off in the Auditorium on Saturday April 15th after 2pm. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### Religious Education News



**ARK Sunday Suppers for the homeless> Need 5 more Casseroles** – St. Agnes we are on for dinner Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need **5 more** Spaghetti Pie Casseroles to provide a warm, safe meal for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. If your family

can donate a casserole, please advise Tanya at [stag-nesdre@eastlink.ca](mailto:stag-nesdre@eastlink.ca) Recipe can be found at <http://www.arkoutreach.com/recipes/> or by emailing Tanya. *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).*

**KEEPING A HOLY LENT - Lenten Fridays Mass and Lunch for Youth** St. Agnes Parish would like to invite all students to participate in a special Lenten observance. On Fridays, we will attend 12:10 Mass and then enjoy lunch - **2 Fridays remaining > March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday Fun Night – March 31<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm-8:00pm** Children are invited for an evening of faith, fun & fellowship. We'll explore Stations of the Cross, make Good Deed Beads, play and have our Friday Fun Night hotdogs & snacks.



**Rite of Enrolment for First Holy Communion Candidates** – Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please pray for our parish children and their families as they prepare to receive Jesus in the most holy Eucharist. Parishioners are invited to take a Prayer Card from the Prayer Tree at the back of the church and pray in a special way for that child as they journey to the table of the Lord. *Candidates for First Holy Communion – Evan Beaubien, David Brown, Giorgia Bona, Patrick Bowes, Joshua Brooks, Julia Chiasson, Sophie Connick, Rebecca Cox, Anya & Maeve Culligan, Logan Cummings, Charlotte DesBarres, Martha Dougan, San Flemming, Olivia Gogan, Ryan Hickey, Nev Holland, Joshua Landry, Adela Kopcova, Michael Kressall, Dylan MacAvoy, Maggie MacDougall, Fionnuala McKinnon, Michael MacNeil, Jane & Paul Maloney, Megan McCoy, Madison Moors, Heidi Murphy, Ethan Peddle, Keir Reynolds, Isobel Schrader, Chris Scriven, Emmett Skanes, Natalie Smith, Declan & Callum Walsh, Peter Warnat.*

**Rosary Making Club!!** Join us Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Campbell Center Room 101/102 as we continue to learn to make rosaries, pray and enjoy faithful fellowship. A one-time donation of \$5.00 to help cover materials would be appreciated . Bring a friend



**2017 St. Agnes Youth Bursary Application** – Are you a St. Agnes Parishioner, graduating from Grade 12 this June and obtaining post-secondary education this September? This opportunity might be for you! Applications may be found on the information tables at the entrance to the church and our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our St. Agnes Office. Deadline for Applications is May 1, 2017

### Easter Flowers for the Altar:



As in the past we are offering our parishioners the opportunity to contribute towards the purchase of Lilies and Easter flowers for the Altar at Easter. Donation cost \$10. Your donation will be acknowledged by list in the front foyer and Fr. Paul will say a special Memorial Mass for all those on the Memorial list at a later date. There are special envelopes at the back of the church with a donor card inside. Please complete the information on the donor card and place them in the collection baskets, or bring them to the Parish office. Deadline is March 9th Palm Sunday. Please ensure your name and env # or address is completed for Income Tax purposes.

### Upcoming Lenten Events:

**Stations of the Cross** every Friday at 11:30am. Concluding April 7th.

**Parish Lenten Reconciliation with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Wednesday March 29th: Adoration begins at 9:30am through to 12 noon. Reconciliation begins at 10:00am (with a break for the 12:10 Mass) until 2pm.

**Healing Mass & Blessing of Prayer Shawls :** Friday March 31st there will be a healing Mass at 12:10 with blessing of the completed prayer shawls provided by our Prayer Shawl Ministry.

### Week at a Glance

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**Sunday March 26 -4th Sunday of Lent**  
Rite of Enrollment—confirmation 10:30am Mass

### Tuesday March 28

Prayer Meditation—Campbell Centre 1:30pm  
Scripture Reading—Parlor 7pm  
Private Function—Auditorium 7-9pm

### Wednesday March 29

Parish Lenten Reconciliation (See below)  
Mothers Morning Out—Auditorium —10am  
Private Function—Auditorium 9-10pm

### Thursday March 30

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Campbell Centre 1:30pm  
Fr. Paul Adult Ed—St. Agnes Rm 6:30pm  
Private Function—Auditorium. 9am —12noon

### Friday March 31

Indoor Walking—Auditorium -9-10 & 10-11am  
Stations of the Cross 11:30am  
Healing Mass with Blessing of shawls 12:10pm  
Children's Lenten Lunch—Auditorium 12:30 pm

### Saturday April 1

Private function—auditorium 9am –3pm  
Private function—auditorium 5-10pm

### St. Agnes Lenten Reconciliation

**Wednesday March 29 from 10am —2pm**

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**from 9:30- 12 noon .**

10—11am - Fr. Raymond Odumuko  
- Fr. Gordon MacLean

11—12:pm - Fr Andrew Rembarczyk  
- Fr. Paul Morris

12:10—12:30pm Mass

1pm—2pm - Fr. Gerald David &  
- Fr. Paul Morris