



This weekend we invite you to take part in our annual diocesan collection for Formation. What is formation? Archbishop Mancini has described it as “a process of re-fitting ourselves to be a more effective community of Christ’s disciples, ready and willing to take up the mission of presenting the Gospel of Jesus in our contemporary world.” We are saints in the making and as such we need the skills and training to take up this task. But we need to help one another to answer Christ’s call.

Please prayerfully consider your contribution to this task and give as you are able to this weekend’s collection for faith formation. Together let us equip the saints!

PLEASE NOTE: Due to technical difficulties the direct to home mail out regarding this collection was delivered late. Contributions will be accepted throughout Lent. Your gift can be: placed in your parish collection OR mailed directly to the Archdiocese (1531 Grafton St, Halifax, NS, B3J 2B9) OR made online through www.halifaxyarmouth.org

For more information on this diocesan collection contact Lydia Hood by email: lhood@halifaxyarmouth.org or by phone (902)429-9800 ext 401

Movie Screening of ‘OPEN BETHLEHEM’ at Halifax Central Library, Monday March 6th

The Halifax Diocesan Council of Development and Peace will be co-hosting a FREE screening of ‘OPEN BETHLEHEM’ with the Halifax Public Libraries on MONDAY MARCH 6TH, at the Halifax Central Library. All are welcome to attend this free event, which will be followed by a Q&A session!

‘OPEN BETHLEHEM’ is a film project that Development and Peace sponsored, which gives viewers a snapshot of modern-day Bethlehem and how it has weathered the Israel-Palestine conflict.

It is a story of a homecoming to the world’s most famous little town. The film spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of

astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation. The film draws from 700 hours of original footage and some rare archive material. In fact, the making of this film has led to the creation of the largest visual archive of Bethlehem in the world and plans are currently being discussed with University College London (UCL) to turn the collection into a museum. While telling the personal story of filmmaker Leila Sansour, the film charts the creation of a campaign to compel international action to bring peace to the Middle East.

Please visit our event page for more information and to watch the film’s official trailer: <https://www.facebook.com/events/370548033327838/>

The official trailer can also be viewed on the Open Bethlehem website at www.openbethlehem.org

The Details: Date: Monday March 6, 2017
Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Paul O’Regan Hall, Halifax Central Library

Women at the Well: A Six Day Guided

Retreat Looking for a retreat opportunity in June? Villa Madonna Retreat House in Rothesay, New Brunswick is hosting a retreat called: Women at the Well. This retreat will invite participants to imagine themselves in the company of some of the women in the Gospels with the aim of strengthening a few basic postures of the soul and refining some habits of the heart that can further transform all into fearless and radical artists of the Good News.

The retreat leader is Fr. Philip Chircop, S.J. He has worked in high school, university and parish settings in various capacities. More recently he has been heavily involved in retreat work. He is a seeker always looking for fresh ways to proclaim the Good News hopefully helping people to embrace real and radical changes that lead to transformation in Christ Jesus.

When: Monday, June 19, 2017 begins with supper to Sunday, June 25, 2017 finishes with lunch
Cost: \$95/day includes accommodation and all meals. Please call (506) 849-5125 or Email: villamadonna@nb.aibn.com to register or for more information. A \$75 deposit is required to confirm your registration.

Repent, and believe in the Gospel!



5th March 2017



From the Desk of Fr. Paul :

“Repent and believe in the Gospel”

The minister spoke these words as each of us came forward on Ash Wednesday to receive this symbol on our foreheads, signaling our beginning of the holy season of Lent. What is repentance? Although it is a word we hear often in church, what does it actually mean?

In our own time and place, it seems that the command to “repent” seems too dramatic and severe, something that is out of keeping with our desire to build people up and foster a deeper sense of our own self-esteem. Repentance seems like a “downer” of a message. So can’t we just forget about this word and idea and emphasize more positive aspects of faith and spirituality? The central problem with that idea is...uh, these were the actual words of Jesus himself! He began his public ministry with these words: *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”* (Mk. 1:15) If we are disciples (students) of Jesus, this call from him cannot just be relegated to the shelf as if he never said it.

So what does this call us to? The word “repentance” is the translation of the Greek word *metanoia*, and literally means, “to turn away from”. **Repentance is a true change of the heart and mind that leads to a corresponding change of action.**

It is a turning from within that is “shown” by the changed way we live. The need to change is an ongoing, universal one – we are never perfect in this life. One only need to see the state of affairs both near and far in our world to see clearly that there is much “turning” still required in the hearts of human beings – that also means in me and in you. When habits, attitudes, actions, and thoughts are deeply ingrained, we can also become morose and despairing that we could ever be different. We may desire this change for ourselves, but experience futility in ever attempting to “turn”. But the second part of the Lord’s statement – “believe in the Gospel” – gives us hope that change is possible. Believe! *Credo* – “I believe” – is a statement we profess every Sunday as we pray the Apostles’ Creed together, that all of my being trusts God. Even that which seems most habitual and ingrained in me, can be different. It requires effort from me but the capstone is always the grace of God working in and through us.

“Repent and believe in the Gospel.” Let us pray for one another during this holy season, that our penance, fasting and almsgiving to the poor, may root out of our lives the things, attitudes, practices, thoughts, and patterns of being that do not deserve and belong to be there – that God doesn’t want there - and little by little, re-fashion us concretely more and more into the image of Jesus, whom we seek and strive to follow in daily life.

St. Agnes Parish, 6903 Mumford Road, Halifax NS B3L 2H4 -902-454-8200 fax 902-455-3831,

Website: <http://www.stagnesparish.ca>; email: stagnes@hfx.eastlink.ca

Weekday Masses: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00am; Wednesday & Fridays 12:10pm

Saturday: 4:00pm (anticipated); **Confessions:** Saturdays 3pm – 3:30pm.; **Sunday:** 8:30am & 10:30am

Pastor : Father Paul Morris **Email:** fatherpaulmorris@gmail.com

Religious Ed. Director: Tanya Thomson- 902-454-8281 or stagnesdre@eastlink.ca

Office Administrator: Marlene Turpin **Parish Office Hours:** 9:00am – 3:00pm

Marriages: Baptisms: RCIA & Hall Bookings contact the parish office. 902-454-8200 x2

Upcoming Lenten Events:

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

Children's Lenten Lunch Fridays during lent beginning March 3rd—following the 12:10 Mass concluding April 7th

Parish Lenten Lunch : Wednesday March 8 & 15, & 22nd Soup/Sandwich/desert /coffee/tea \$8.00/person Take out available.

Thinkfast : March 10 from 6:30pm to Sat March 11 in the auditorium

Parish Lenten Reconciliation with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday March 29th: beginning at 10:00am (with a break for the 12:10 Mass) until 2pm.



Religious Education News

There will be no Religion Classes Sunday March 12th and March 19th – May God bless you with a safe, happy and pleasing March Break .

Rosary Making Club!! Join us Monday March 6th 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 J. Bring a friend



First Communion Parent Meeting – Sunday March 5th 9:30am – 10:10am in the AUDITORIUM. Children will attend class; Parents will gather in the St. Agnes Room for a meeting regarding Rite of Enrolment scheduled for April 2nd at 10:30am Mass.



ARK Sunday Suppers for the homeless – St. Agnes we are on for dinner Sunday April 2nd. We need 16 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 stagnesdre@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).*



Our 2017 THINKfast Retreat is Friday March 10th 6:30pm – Saturday March 11th 6:00pm. Youth in Grade 6 to 12 (and friends) are invited to participate in this overnight retreat focusing on social injustice in the Global South. For more information and to Register please contact Tanya Thomson stagnesdre@eastlink.ca

Thank You to our Junior High Youth for sharing their talents with us! They worked hard on Posters to be displayed at the Development and Peace Workshop March 5th.

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 12:10pm Mass at St. Agnes Church and then enjoy a warm lunch before heading back to school. Fridays March 10th / 17th (March Break-free play in the gym after lunch) / March 24th / March 31st / April 7th



St. Agnes Parish Lenten Lunch Mark your Calendars:

Wednesday March 8th, 15th. & 22nd We will be hosting a Lenten Lunch on these days in the Auditorium. Menu—Homemade Soup/ Sandwich/desert with refreshment all for \$8.00/person. Take out will be available. Lunch will be served from 12 noon until 1:30pm. Pre bought tickets are available in the parish office or through Greg Doyle.

Adult Education program: Please join Fr. Paul for a series of informative sessions, which will include both learning and discussing “The Mass”. This is a great Lenten preparation for anyone who is new to our faith, or anyone who is curious about the history, formation, meaning or intent of the Mass—this is the place to learn. The next session is March 9th at 6:30 in the St. Agnes room and go though to its concluding night of April 6th. All are welcome to attend.

“26th Halifax Beavers, Cubs and Scouts wish to thank the



St. Agnes Parish Community for their tremendous support again this year at our Annual Pancake Supper. It was a great success again this year!”

Pilgrimage to Three Quebec Shrines—June 2017: come and join us as we visit Cap-de-la-Madeleine; Saint Joseph’s Oratory and Saint Anne de Beaupre. Leave from St. Michaels parish on Sunday June 25th returning Sunday July 2nd. For more information Contact Sharon MacKinnon at 902-453-2918 by march 15th.



Our new website has finally been launched. To view this super site go to <http://www.stagnesparish.ca>.

Many thanks to Mike Tanner who has slaved for the past while to put this together.

Week at a Glance

Saturday March 4

St. Bedes Ordindariate Mass 11am

Sunday March 5 1st Sunday of Lent

Gr 2 Parents Mtg St. Agnes Rm 9:30am
Development & Peace Workshop—Auditorium
11:30—4pm

Monday March 6

Bingo—auditorium 6:50pm

Tuesday March 7

Kirk Funeral—10am with rec
Prayer Meditation—Campbell Centre 1:30pm
Scripture Reading—Parlor 7pm

Wednesday March 8

Mothers Morning Out—Auditorium —10:30am-
12:00pm
Parish Lenten Lunch—auditorium 12—1:30pm
Private Function—Auditorium 9-10pm

Thursday March 9

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Campbell Centre 1:30pm
Fr. Paul Adult Ed—St. Agnes Rm 6:30pm

Friday March 10

Indoor Walking—Auditorium -9-10 & 10-11am
Children’s Lenten Lunch—Auditorium 12:30 pm
Thinkfast—6:30pm through to 7am on Saturday

Sunday February 19

2nd Sunday of Lent

No Religious Education Classes
L’Arche—auditorium 1—4pm

Daylight Saving time begins next

Sunday March 12 at 2am. Please remember to set your clocks ahead.

