

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish



Pastor: Fr. Francesco Pirisi, FoH
Associate Pastor:
Fr. Nathanael DesRoches

Deacons:
Rev. Mr. Paul Carnell
Rev. Mr. Len Moore

Serving the Communities of:

St. Catherine of Siena Church
6476 Bayers Road; 902-454-8221
www.saintcatherineofsiena.ca

St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata Church
6032 Normandy Drive; 902-454-5835
www.motherteresaparish.com

St. Patrick's Church
2263 Brunswick Street; 902-429-1300
www.saintpatrickschurch.ca

St. Theresa's Church
6351 North Street; 902-454-8221
www.sttheresaschurch.ca

Parish Address:
6351 North Street, Halifax, NS B3L 1P7
sttheresachurch@ns.sympatico.ca
<https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisandStClareofAssisiParish>

Pat Belgrave, Admin. Assistant
St. Theresa's:
Mon: 9:00 am-11:30am
Tues. & Thurs. 9:00 am-5:00 pm

St. Catherine's:
Wednesday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Cheryl Delaney, Admin. Assistant
St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata:
Tues. & Thurs. 9:00 am-2:00 pm;

St. Patrick's:
Wed. & Fri. 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Religious Education Coordinators:
St. Catherine's—Donna Noddin
St. Mother Teresa—Susan Sarty
St. Patrick's—Sr. Bernadette
St. Theresa's—Sr. Lucia

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

<u>St. Catherine of Siena</u>	<u>St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata</u>	<u>St. Patrick's</u>	<u>St. Theresa's</u>
Sunday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm	Saturday 4:00 pm; Sunday 11:15 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Saturday 4:30 pm; Sunday 9:30 am

The Baptism of the Lord—January 10, 2021

Liturgy



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We hear John say that he baptized with water but the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of Jesus, reported by Matthew, Mark and Luke, was clearly an event of great significance for Jesus and the early Christian community. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism, the voice

from heaven, shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

The Baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany". Matthew wrote that as Jesus was baptized a voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in who, I am well pleased." In Luke's gospel all three members of the Trinity are manifested here; God the Father in the voice, The Holy Spirit descending and Jesus the Son. The Gospels reveal Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

The feast marks the end of the Liturgical Season of Christmas and the beginning of Ordinary Time which extends to the beginning of Lent. Jesus began his active ministry following his baptism. The Sundays of Ordinary Time take us through the life of Christ. It is a time when we are encouraged to grow and mature in the daily expression of our faith. The Liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green, frequently associated with new beginnings and new growth.

Prayers for the Deceased Member of our Community

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of **Rose McGinn**—a long time parishioner of St. Theresa's Church. Her funeral Mass was held on Thursday, January 7th.

Her loving tribute can be found at:
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/halifax-ns/rose-mcginn-9981241>

We pray for her family and for the repose of her soul:

Eternal rest grant unto her, oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May her soul and the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Pastoral Team Message

Your Pastoral Team has yet to reconvene in 2021, but we do want to offer the following wishes to all:

May God be with you through the New Year,
and fill your life
with comfort, love and joy.

May this day and the days ahead,
hold many blessing
for you and yours!



Finance Corner

After a blessed Christmas celebration despite COVID-19 and the start of a New Year, we are all getting back to daily life including St. Theresa's. We are all praying for a better 2021 and that the vaccines will allow us to return to a normal life especially in our spiritual home.

During the month of January, Finance Corner will provide a refresher on how St. Theresa's depends on everyone's generous prayers, volunteer efforts, financial support or all three in order to run our spiritual home.

Your support along with the guidance from the Holy Spirit, St. Theresa and St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi allows us to keep the doors of our spiritual home open, to provide the blessed sacraments, plus varied Christian programs and services like the Mass by live stream over the internet.

Boxes of Envelopes for Offerings, PAPP and e-Transfer

Offerings are the main source of money for St. Theresa's. Most Parishioners use the weekly **Sunday Envelopes** contained in the boxes passed out each year or the **Pre-Authorized Payment Plan (PAPP)**.

If you are a registered Parishioner, please pick up your box of envelopes at the back of the Church or contact the office to arrange to have it delivered, if you are unable to attend the Church.

If you are not registered and would like to receive a box of envelopes or you would like to register for PAPP, call the Parish Office. Parishioner registration ensures that your email address is used to send you emails about the Parish, to send you the weekly transcribed homily and other important news

St. Theresa's Church is a member of the Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Please remember to mark the box next to St. Theresa's Church to indicate that you are directing that your offering is to go through St. Theresa's Church to the Parish. If you forget to mark the box and you drop it in the collection basket at St. Theresa's it will be treated as though you marked "St. Theresa's Church" so not to worry.

If you use a cheque to make an offering, please make it payable to:

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi Parish
[Yes, it is a little long to write.]

PAPP Offerings: All Offerings by PAPP at St. Theresa's are treated as offered and directed through St. Theresa's Church.

e-Transfer Offerings: Please check out St. Theresa's website on how to e-Transfer your Offerings

www.sttheresaschurch
"Tips on How to Make Donations
to St. Theresa's Church"

My Extra Help to Keep St. Theresa's Strong – 2021, PAPP and e-Transfer

Additionally at St. Theresa's we hold a very important special monthly collection known as **My Extra Help to Keep St. Theresa's Strong**. This collection ensures that St. Theresa's will have funds to meet unexpected needs like the Bell Tower Roof Investigation and the Flat Roof Icicle Protection Project and to potentially operate without a deficit. (Remember a deficit occurs when expenses exceed income.) Special envelopes are stapled to the bulletin each month except during July and August for Parishioners. Monthly updates are provided throughout the year in the bulletin to show our progress. Our goal for 2020 was \$30,000.

PAPP My Extra Help: If you prefer making your offering for My Extra Help automatically, you can to do so by registering for **PAPP**.

e-Transfer My Extra Help: Please check out St. Theresa's website on how to e-Transfer My Extra Help Offerings

www.sttheresaschurch
"Tips on How to Make Donations
to St. Theresa's Church"

Check Finance Corner next week for the **Big Reveal** to see if we reached our \$30,000 goal for 2020 despite COVID-19.



A Note of Thanks from Archbishop Dunn

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my Christmas greeting to the faithful of this Archdiocese, I wrote that, due to Covid-19, we were experiencing many uncertainties and anxieties, resulting in a widespread sense of helplessness and hopelessness. The message we needed to hear was that Jesus is still with us even during this pandemic and that God is with us in the uncertainty and anxiety of this pandemic.

Our plans during December for the liturgical gatherings were very uncertain, as we experienced a spike in cases. However, we continued on, and we did come together, either in person or via electronic means, to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But these gatherings did not just happen. It took the dedication of many volunteers: those who contacted and registered the attendees to the masses; those who cleaned and decorated the churches; those who prepared and participated in the liturgies; those who looked after the technical parts and pieces; those who welcomed the faithful and ensured that the protocols were followed.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all these individuals who volunteered their time and talents to ensure not only a wonderful celebration of the Nativity, but one where all felt safe and secure. Thank you.

May God, the source and origin of all blessing, grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance and keep you safe from harm throughout the year.



January 24: Word of God Sunday

Each Sunday an important part of the Mass is the Liturgy of the Word. A time in which we recall the story of our salvation by reading from Holy Scripture. Studying and praying with the Word of God is an important aspect of our faith. So much so that in September of 2019, Pope Francis instituted Word of God Sunday which is to be observed each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The Pope intended this day be dedicated to the celebration, reflection and dissemination of the Word.

This year, Word of God Sunday will fall on January 24, 2021.

Let us take time on January day to reflect on God's revelation through his Word.



COVID-19 Vaccine

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes more available to more people, some Catholics are asking: Is it okay for Catholics to be vaccinated against COVID – 19? The development of a vaccine is complicated and often times controversial. Knowing that this question would enter the minds of many Canadian Catholics the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops shared a pastoral letter written by the bishops of Western Canada offering the faithful some guidance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

This letter can be found at www.cccb.ca



Year of Saint Joseph

As we begin a new year we are also reminded that Pope Francis has declared a Year of Saint Joseph. Our neighbours in the Diocese of Antigonish shared Five Questions about the Year of Saint Joseph. We offer them below:

1. What is the Year of St. Joseph?

With the release of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (*With a Father's Heart*), the Holy Father recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

2. What is *Patris corde* and why was it written?

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* as a reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who exercise patience and offer hope every day, often unseen or even taken for granted. In this, they resemble St. Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." You can read "Patris Corde" on the Vatican website or by [clicking here](#).

3. Why is it important to honour St. Joseph?

Joseph is seen as a role model in several ways. He trusted God and Mary and "concretely expressed his fatherhood", providing Jesus with a father on Earth and a safe and nurturing home life in which to grow. This was not easy in a land where war, poverty, and violence were common, and in a family situation that was anything but common. Joseph embraced his faith and his family with courage and conviction, despite danger and doubts. Because of this, Joseph is also seen as an important part of the 'crossroads between the Old and New Testament,' and a father of all Christians.

It is also worthy of note that St. Joseph is the patron saint of Canada.

4. What else can we learn from St. Joseph?

Jesus grew up watching Joseph work in his trade as a carpenter, seeing first hand the dignity of work, the importance of honouring one's calling, and the goodness that comes from creation and being of service. We can use the experience of St. Joseph to reflect on the roles of work, skills, calling and creation in our own lives.

5. Do you know the Prayer to St. Joseph?

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.