



PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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December 21st, 2025

4th Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 †

REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR
CHAPLAIN CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY
Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon
roy.smith@hotmail.ca

Leadership Ministry Team

Pam Hall- Secretary /Faith Formation, Cavell Young – Bookkeeping, Cathy MacDonald- Liturgy, Monica Shebib- Baptism, / Bereavement/Funeral Team, Lana Verschuren- Finance

OFFICE HOURS:

TUES., WED. THURS.-9AM- 1 PM

TEL: 902 -794-3951

ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEXT WEEK

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Date	Location	Time	Details	
Mon. Dec. 22nd	St. Joseph Hall	11am		For Brett MacDonald
Tues. Dec. 23rd	St. Joseph Hall	11am		For Shaylyn Hawkins
Wed. Dec. 24th	St. Joseph Church	4pm, 7pm	Nativity of the Lord	
Thurs. Dec. 25th	St. Joseph Church	11am	Nativity of the Lord	
Fri. Dec. 26th	St. Joseph Hall	11am	Feast of St. Stephen	
Sat. Dec. 27th	St. Joseph Church	4pm		For those suffering from mental illness
Sun. Dec. 28th	St. Joseph Church	10 am		For All Parishioners
Ministries	4 pm Mass Saturday, December 27th			10 am Mass Sunday, December 28th
SACRISTAIN & LINENS	Deacon Roy Smith, Team			Deacon Roy Smith, Team
CHOIR	St. Joseph Choir			Alan Gale
GREETERS	Ann Sampson, Rebecca Gracie			Pam Hall, Ina Taylor
USHERS	Men and Women of the Parish			Men and Women of the Parish
LECTORS	Ellen McNamara			Ken MacDonald, Lynn Hamilton
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	Parishioners			Parishioners
EXTRAORDINARY MIN. OF HOLY COMMUNION	Lloyd Brewer, Sheila MacCormick			George Quirk, Joe Tobin
Interior Church (cleaning)	Volunteer Team			Volunteer Team
EXTERIOR SERVICE (SHOVELING)	Fr. Doug			Hunter Hill
RINGING OF BELS				Dave Williams

PARISH NEWS

St. Joseph Parish & Elizabeth Fry Society

St. Joseph Parish is partnering with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton to help fill their pantry and support women, single mothers, and community members facing homelessness who are struggling with severe food shortages. The need in our community is greater than ever, and even small donations of pantry staples—canned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, and other non-perishables—can make an immediate difference in someone's life. Please drop off contributions during [days/hours] at the collection area located [location in the church]. Thank you for helping us care for those who need it most.

Weekday Mass Cancellation

Just a reminder that when school is cancelled due to bad weather, weekday mass will also be cancelled.

Mass Schedule Dec 24, 2025 – January 1, 2026

Wednesday, Dec 24th Christmas Eve Masses – 4 PM and 7 PM

Thursday, Dec 25th Christmas Day Mass – 11 AM

Saturday, Dec 27th – 4 PM

Sunday, Dec 28th – 10 AM

Thursday, January 1st New Years Day – 11 AM

Christmas Confession Schedule

The Northside Deanery will be having confession for Christmas at Holy Family Parish on Saturday, December 20th from 10am-3pm. The priest schedule is as follows:

10am-11am Fr. Victor
11am-12pm Fr. Nonso
12pm-1pm Fr. Doug
1pm-2pm Fr. Leo
2pm-3pm Fr. Fabin

Office Schedule for Christmas

The office will be **open Wednesday on December 24th until 12 noon**. The office will be **closed on Thursday December 25th, Friday December 26th**. There will be a **Mass on Friday December 26th at 11am for the feast of Saint Stephen**. The office will **reopen on Tuesday December 30th and closing at noon on December 31st**. The office will be **closed on Thursday New Years Day and again on Friday January 2nd**. The regular office schedule will resume on Tuesday January 6th.

Northside Soup Kitchen

The Northside Soup Kitchen is open every Monday and Tuesday from 11am to 1pm. It is open to anyone who wants a free hot meal. They are located at **127 Brook Street, North Sydney. Phone number (902) 794-0555**

Advent Prayer

Father, thank you for sending Jesus your Son to us. In this Advent season, prepare the 'inn' of our hearts with silence as the straw for the creche, and adoration as the swaddling cloth to wrap Him in. Make us contemplatives of a new order - able to hear Your voice and heed your word.

4th Sunday of Advent Wreath Lighting

The purple candle lit today is known as the "Love or Angel's candle", because it represents God choosing Mary to be the mother of His son and for us to feel God's peace which Jesus came to bring to us.

Recitation of the Rosary

Please join us in the new year, on the weekend of January 3rd – 4th, **one half hour before mass**, as we pray the rosary to Our Blessed Mother.

Collections~ Thank You December 13th & 14th

Envelopes		2020.00
Loose Cash		340.00
Fuel		35.00
Candles		35.00
Pre- Authorized Debit		750.00
Total		3180.00
Hall		415.00
Church Improvement		

Pre-Authorized Debit: please call the office to get started.

Ways to Donate:

To donate by credit card, or debit come into the parish office, or by E-transfer, email: stjoseph2006@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Diocesan

Cape Breton Advent Calendar

Prepare your heart for Christmas with the Cape Breton Advent Calendar! Beginning December 1st, enjoy a daily Scripture passage paired with a beautiful photograph by Cape Breton's own Steven MacNeil. This Advent Calendar is a **free service** for Cape Breton provided by Holy Rosary Parish, Westmount and is accessible anywhere through the Internet. Visit each day and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. (But you have wait till December 1st! no peeking!) Watch for the Cape Breton Advent Calendar on Facebook or tuerchen.app/0wSOnibkc4ab462u

Musique Royale Presents Yuletide Ceremony of Midwinter

Friday December 19 at 7 pm - Holy Rosary Mission, **Ballantyne's Cove**

Ménestrel (*Janelle Lucyk- soprano, violin; Kerry Bursey- tenor, lutenist*) and guest artists invite you to delve into the historical roots of Yule for a wintertime immersion into early song and folk dance music from around the world. Celebrating the ancient magic of midwinter, the concert weaves together the threads of Yuletide traditions and ancient customs and symbols still present in beloved Christmas carols.

Admission: \$25 advance, \$30 at the door, youth free (18 and under)
[**TICKETS**](#)

Community

The St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Car Draw is back!

You could drive away with a brand- new car and help out our parish in the process! Tickets are \$50.00 each or 3 for \$125.00! You could win a NEW Chevrolet TRAX 2RS. The draw will take place on Dec. 31st. If we sell out before New Year's Eve the draw will take place earlier. Only 2000 tickets.

French Mass

There will be a Mass in French at the Centre Communautaire Étoile de L' Acadie (15 Inglis St, Sydney, N.S.) on Saturday December 13, 2025 at 5:30PM. Pot Luck supper to follow along with music from Le Cercle Musicale de la région de Sydney. Everyone welcome !

Challenge/Cursillo

Cape Breton Challenge Executive are trying to renew the Challenge movement in our area again. We are reaching out to our Challenge/Cursillo family to see if there is anyone among you who would be interested in working a Challenge weekend or be a member of the Challenge Executive.

If this is of interest to you please reach out to us - Eastern region Rose Henry roseh5029@gmail.com or 902-577-1517, Mabou region Ashley Roach roachashley1988@gmail.com or 902-224-5035.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers as we move forward and for the success of reviving this beautiful movement.

Thank You from Lay Directors Rose and Ashley

Quote of the Week

"An act of perfect conformity to the will of God unites us more to Him than a hundred other acts of virtue." St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

News Story

The Unspoken Trial of the Orphaning of Our Priests - Crisis Magazine
<https://crismagazine.com/opinion/the-unspoken-trial-of-the-orphaning-of-our-priests>