



PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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September 21st, 2025

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025 †		
REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR CHAPLAIN CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon roy.smith@hotmail.ca	<u>Leadership Ministry Team</u> 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 
Date	Location	Time	Details	FOR THE WEEK
Mon. Sept. 22nd	St. Joseph Church	11am	St Pius of Pietrelcina	For T. J. Vickers
Tues. Sept. 23rd	St. Joseph Church	11am		For Margaret Alice Thomas
Wed. Sept. 24th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)	9am		
Thurs. Sept. 25th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)	9am		
Fri. Sept. 26th	Holy Family (Sydney Mines)	9am	St Jean De Brebeuf & St Isaac Jogues	
Sat. Sept. 27th	St. Joseph Church	4pm		For those who will die during the coming year
Sun. Sept. 28th	St. Joseph Church	10 am		For All Parishioners
Ministries	4 pm Mass Saturday, September 27th		10 am Mass Sunday, September 28th	
SACRISTAIN & LINENS	Deacon Roy Smith, Team		Deacon Roy Smith, Team	
CHOIR	St. Joseph Choir		Alan Gale	
GREETERS	Alberta Devoe, Sally Ryan		Susan & Gary Burton, Pam Hall	
USHERS	Men and Women of the Parish		Men and Women of the Parish	
LECTORS	Cheryl Delorey		Helen Gray, Iris Young	
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	Parishioners		Parishioners	
EXTRAORDINARY MIN. OF HOLY COMMUNION	Theresa Ivey, Ken Young		George Quirk, Joan Skinner	
Interior Church (cleaning)	Volunteer Team		Volunteer Team	
EXTERIOR SERVICE (SHOVELING)	Fr. Doug		Hunter Hill	
RINGING OF BELLS			Dave Williams	

PARISH NEWS

Mass Schedule

Weekday mass for Monday Sept. 22nd & Tuesday 23rd will be held upstairs in the church for this week.

Faith FormationClasses

Registration for Faith Formation classes for all levels from Pre Primary to Level 6 will be held on September 21st after the 10am mass downstairs in the Hall. We will be having ice cream and floats for all the children. Our faith is something important we need to pass on to

our children, and we hope to see all our young people attend these classes starting on October 5th, 2025.

St. Joseph Fall Fair

Our Fall Fair is fast approaching. The date for this year’s fair is September 27th from 10am to 2pm. We depend on the generous support of the parishioners to make this event a success. If you have any items you may want to give a new home to, we will gladly take them. Our bake sale was well received last year, and we hope parishioners will be willing to help us again this year Be sure to check out our on- line auction for great items. The web site is:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15xfNMsQv3/>

There will be Pulled BBQ Chicken Burgers with Dessert for \$10.00
If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 902-794-3951. Hope to see everyone at the fair.

Lectors/Readers & Communion Refresher

There is a refresher session from 2-3 pm on Sunday October 19 in the parish hall for all current lectors/readers, ministers of communion and anyone interested in reading at mass or giving communion at Church or to shut ins, need to attend. The new term for Eucharistic minister is extraordinary minister of communion. The latest liturgical guidelines will be shared. Peace Fr. Doug

Old Church organ to give away

There are two old Church organs that require repairs, but are free for the taking. Please call the parish office if your interested. Free delivery. Peace, Fr. Doug

Greeters Schedule

The new schedule from October to December 22nd is now available in the vestry for pick-up.

Visitation to Hospital/Nursing Homes

Relatives or friends of persons in hospital or nursing homes are asked to contact the parish to arrange for spiritual/pastoral care.

Delivering Meals to Neighbors’

Do you know a neighbor or relative or person that could use a meal? Consider coming to St Joseph Hall the 4th Wednesday of each month and picking up meals and bringing them to people you know. Each bagged meal includes a healthy well-balanced lunch.

Collections~ Thank You September 13th & 14th

Envelopes		1305.00
Loose Cash		355.00
Church Maintenance		25.00
Candles		15.00
Pre-Authorized Debit		750.00
Totals		2450.00
Hall Fund		877.00
Church Improvement		50.00

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

Ways to Donate

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

To donate by credit card, google pay or PayPal click:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-josephs-parish-north-sydney/>

Come to the office to use our debit or credit card machine

Diocesan

Parish Mission

Please mark your calendar for the Parish Mission in St. Peter’s Parish Port Hood, from Saturday, October 25 to Tuesday 28, 2025 preached by Archbishop Martin Curry, Archbishop Emeritus of St. John's NL. The mission will begin with the Holy Mass on Saturday at 4.00pm. Details to follow.

Life Chain

Life Chain is an annual pro-life event to raise awareness about the injustice of abortion and the inherent dignity of every human being. Participants pray silently and hold non-graphic signs with messages of love and truth at hundreds of locations across North America.

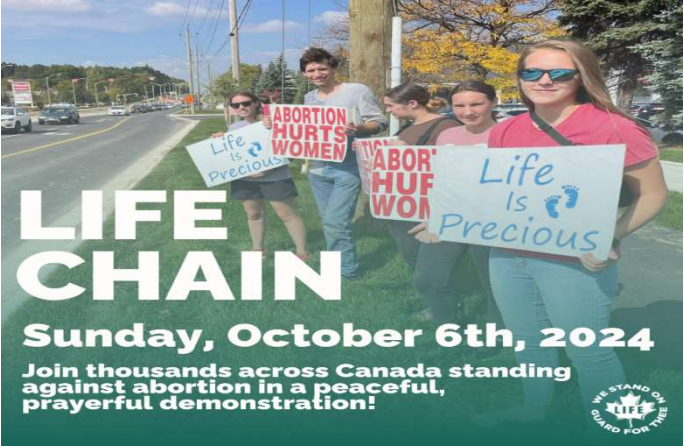
Join us for this year’s Life Chain event in Sydney and bear witness to the sanctity of human life!

When: Sunday, October 5th, 2:00-3:00 PM

Where: Sidewalk in front of the Mayflower Mall
(800 Grand Lake Rd)

Contact: Pat Moore, (902)-322-5624

Visit: campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain



Cursillo Weekend

Women’s Cursillo weekend to be held at Camp McLeod October 2-5
Men’s Cursillo weekend October 16-19 Our first Ultreya of the season will be held September 25 th at Our Lady Of Fatima Church @ 7:30.

For more info please call Arlene Edwards 902-577-4214

Karen Macsween 902-317-5425

Community

Celtic Concert

Sunday Sept. 21st. 2:00 p.m. \$10.00 per person at door. Howie MacDonald, Beverly MacLean, Mike Cavanaugh. MC Joe Gillis. St. Margaret's Community Hall. 2353 Grand Mira South Road . Tea n Oatcakes Served Profits to support Adopt a Family for Christmas

Healing Manger Farm Walk a thon & Open House

On Saturday October 11, 2025 at 7003 Kempt Head Road, there is an open house and optional walk a thon from 10 am – 2 pm to raise money for mental health treatment. The Manger offers immediate therapy in two ways:

1. From the comfort of your home with online counselling by a certified Canadian Counsellor, and/or
2. In person animal therapy at the Healing Manger for nature heals.

Attached to this bulletin is the Walk a thon poster and sign up. Please bring any donations to the event or drop by the parish office. Debit and credit machine available. Free chili, music and come see the animals.

Visit our mental health non-profit website: healingmangerfarm.com

KOC

Immediately following 4 pm mass on Saturday, September 20th, the Knights of Columbus Council 5109 will be conducting a “Installation of Officers” ceremony in the church. All members of the congregation ae invited to stay to observe this twenty minute event.

Quote of the Week

“Before the sin, Satan assures us that it is no consequence; after the sin, he persuades us that it is unforgivable.” Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

The Sacred Pause

As a Catholic priest serving in North Sydney, the past seven years I have accompanied more than 500 families during their mourning of a loved one. One remarkable aspect of this community that touches me deeply, is its shared tradition following funerals. As the hearse departs from the church and proceeds through town toward the cemetery, all vehicles pull over to the right and traffic halts. This collective gesture demonstrates the community’s respect for the deceased and their families, irrespective of individual circumstances.

Recently, there were two notable tragedies with our US neighbours: the death of a Ukrainian immigrant on public transportation and an assassination involving a speaker at a university campus where open discussion is encouraged. I do not use social media, but I have received screenshots showing individuals, including some in Cape Breton, celebrating and justifying the violence.

It saddens me that there has been little public outcry over the death of an innocent girl just coming home from work, an act that once would have led to solidarity for vulnerable women, refugee or not.

In the other case, there is online outcry over the assassination, but the anger is not on the shooter, instead it is focused on the victim. Many are justifying the murder and some are celebrating the speaker's assassination during a public debate on a university campus.

As a university chaplain, education spaces were designed to seek truth in many fields, cultivate dialogue and foster the free exchange of ideas. How can students enter into the quest to learn if they are not safe to dialogue on a university campus?

Parishioners, students and friends have asked for my perspective, and I cannot write on mourning without first acknowledging the mourning in Gaza which is unending, and deepening. The Bible says, “*there is a time for everything.*”

“*There is a time for war and a time for peace*”

“*a time to weep and a time to laugh.*”

“*a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

“*A time to speak and a time to keep silent*”.

- now is that time. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11.

While not everyone accepts the authority of the Bible, its influence as the most published and read book in history lends a moral weight to guidance like; keeping silent during mourning. The disturbing online reaction is designed to silence, but in an inverted sense; the evil one twists timing and truth. Notice the craftiness, how the spirit of evil convinces good people not to be outraged at the assassin. Instead, the evil one whispers in our ear to redirect the outrage, even celebrate death, while disrupting the universally accepted time of family mourning.

All civilized states in the world practice a period of mourning according to their cultural and/or religious traditions. Even in the ancient world, there was a time of mourning. Healthy societies, out of respect, at least maintain silence, including social media, until after the funeral. I know good, holy, honest people who say they are against the death penalty but then justified this killing. Some even publicly maligned the deceased on social media, during the time of mourning, blaming them for unacceptable views. One Canadian teacher showed the execution to the class and explained why he deserved it. However, when a death occurs, regardless of who it is, we stop for a time and the friend or foe narrative is put on hold.

The evil one is so cunning and manipulates with language, emotion, the senses and other tactics. From a spiritual perspective, it is a sign of a dark culture when the death of another is relished and in one case celebrated. The person who does not respect the time of mourning only reveals a wound

within themselves. There will be a time to speak, and that is after the funerals. At death, civilized societies show respect for the deceased family members who are mourning. Even when we vigorously disagree with the deceased, at least during this sensitive time after death, where fellow human beings were murdered, we speak words of sympathy, but if we cannot we remain silent. “*There is a time to speak and a time to keep silent*”. Ecc. 3:7

As a priest, who has celebrated funerals for all types of people, I can say all are treated like the children of God, they are. Remember, to God you will always be a beloved child. We extend this love to all grieving families. The people of North Sydney demonstrate a respect for all deceased by pulling to the side of the road as the deceased drives past in the hearse. Such a welcoming and non-judgmental gesture by the people.

I invite everyone to extend that spirit of respect to all forms of communications. Keep silent during the time of mourning until after the funerals are celebrated. Please invite your friends and family to take this time of mourning into reflection, which will unconditionally be given to all families. Hopefully after consideration, including prayer for some, we pause and we wait - for soon there will be a time to speak.

Peace Fr Douglas MacDonald

Pastor St. Joseph Parish

North Sydney N.S.

Peace Be With You and Have a Great Week