

St. Patrick's Church Restoration Society
 2263 Brunswick St. 902-429-4170
 givesaintpatrickahand@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Donations for the Restoration Society accepted in Green Box at the back of the Church/Church Hall & by VISA and MASTERCARD, by calling 902-429-4170 or mailing to Saint Patrick's Restoration Society, 2263 Brunswick St., Halifax, NS B3K 2Y9

Discipleship Journal: We hope you enjoy what you read and please spread the word! The journal is currently available by subscription only so encourage those you know to subscribe by going to: www.halifaxyarmouth.org

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Sat. Dec. 24 - 7.30 PM Carols in the Church **8 PM** Vigil of the Nativity Mass
Sun. Dec. 25 - 9:30 AM Carols in the Church **10 AM** The Nativity of the Lord
 (Christmas)
Sun. Jan. 1 - 10 AM Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God & New Year
Sun. Jan. 8 - 10 AM Epiphany of the Lord

Northend Parent Resource Centre—Celebrating 30 Years in the Community, Please join us as we look back and strive forward, December 21, 2016 from 4 pm to 6 pm., 5475 Uniacke St., Halifax, NS RSVP by Dec. 16th Phone 902-492-0133 email; parentresource@hotmail.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/North-End-Prent-Resource-Centre-709081052565756/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Veritas Catholic Books has launched On-line Shopping (www.veritasbookstore.ca) See the easiest way to shop ever at Veritas Catholic Books and gifts in time for Christmas gift giving. Visit our on-line store at www.veritasbooks.ca. We recently added the most beautiful Nativity Sets available in eastern Canada under *Seasonal Gifts*. We are adding new books & Bibles, new DVDs & CDs, devotional items, rosaries, Icons, Baptismal Gifts and more every week. We offer free pickup with no line-ups at our two locations of 1546 Barrington St. near Saint Mary's Cathedral-Basilica in Halifax and also in Enfield across from St. Bernard's Church. We also ship anywhere in Canada for one low price .

St. Thomas Aquinas Canadian Martyrs Parish is pleased to offer the Marriage Preparation Course, Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage. In 7 sessions couples will explore the profound importance, meaning, purpose, and beauty of the sacrament of matrimony. Couples will tackle various concerns of marriage from dealing with conflict to fostering intimacy. Guest speakers will speak on topics such as: communication, finances, and natural family planning. This course will run for **7 weeks beginning Mon, January 16th – March 6th, 2017, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** at the St. Thomas Aquinas hall. Registration fee is \$100.00. Registration is mandatory: please call our parish office 902-423-3057. For more information contact Mary Thérèse MacDonell, Director of Family and Adult Faith Formation: 902-423-3057 or e-mail familyministries@stacm.ca



St. Patrick's Church

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 902-429-1300 ♦ st.pats@ns.sympatico.ca

Website: www.stpatrickshalifax.ns.ca twitter at [@stpatrickshfx](https://twitter.com/stpatrickshfx)



Today is Gaudete Sunday the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday December 18, 2016
4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14
2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24

Deacon Art Mitchell, Parochial Administrator
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Email: deaconartstpats@gmail.com
Cheryl Delaney, Secretary
 Mon-Fri. 9 am to 1 pm
phone 902-429-1300
email st.pats@ns.sympatico.ca
Michele O'Neill, Assistant for the New Evangelization and Parish Council Chair
Email: micheleoneill@ns.sympatico.ca
David O'Connor, Assistant for Financial Affairs
Sr. Bernadette Cool, FoH.
 Religious Education Coordinator *PT*
 email: qubertcool@gmail.com

Please welcome Fr. Francesco Piri-si, FoH who is celebrating the Christmas Season with us.

“Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.”

In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah predicts that when the Messiah comes, he will make the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, and the lame walk and leap. In the Gospel Reading, when John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus whether He is the one the Israelites have been waiting for, Jesus says they should tell John that Jesus has done all these things and more. Even the dead are raised! Just as John the Baptist had doubts so we also have doubts at times. Is it really possible to know God and have a personal relationship with God?

Christ is not unknowable and he is not something abstract, like being itself. He is a particular person, born in a particular time, in a particular place and He has a face. True, he is God made flesh, and his face is human. But, still, His face is the face of God. “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father,” Jesus tells Philip (John 14:9).

So we can know God, and we can see God's face in the face of Jesus. God is present to us as a person in the person of Christ. And God in the person of Christ is always with us (Matt. 28:20)! We can know him and face him every day. “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.” As we wait patiently for the birth of that tiny baby let us ask God for the grace of humility that John the Baptist had; may we make space in our lives for Jesus to grow, and allow ourselves to be the face of Jesus to all those we encounter on our daily journey. God Bless

Deacon Art

Parish Financial Information

Dec. 4, 2016

ENV. 55	\$1,939.13
Loose	232.45
PAR 24	389.23
Total	\$2,560.81

Average Weekly PAR contribution \$16.22.
Average Sunday Envelope contribution \$35.26

Key Teachings of the Church Holiness—The quality, or condition, of a person who is living in communion and in right relationship with God, with others, and with all creation; being in the state of grace is holiness.

Confirmation Classes—*following Mass, please keep in your prayers those young people who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

Catechism Classes—will be held following Mass.

This week's Jesse Tree ornaments

Abraham and the Covenant: Abraham's descendants *Genesis 15*

The Ram: God will provide *Genesis 22*

Jacob's Ladder: Confirmation of the Covenant *Genesis 28*

Joseph: God's providence *Genesis 37-42*

Moses: I Am who Am *Exodus 1-6*

Samuel: The call *1 Samuel 3*

2017 Missals: The new Liturgical Year began last Sunday. A limited supply of Saint Joseph Sunday Missals are available, at the back of the Church. The Parish purchase price was \$4.15 each. Donations accepted!

2017 Parish Envelopes: are on the table at the back of the Church. Please pick them up.

REMINDER - PARKING

As the Parish is no longer the owner of the former Rectory, parking is **not** permitted on that property. Please take note. Unauthorized vehicles could be towed at owner's expense.

Meals for Hope Cottage

Group 1 - Diane Sullivan - Jan. 13

Group 2 - Pam Gasparetto - February 23

Group 3 - Mike Convey - March 24

Volunteers are always welcomed. The commitment is for 4 meals a year based on a set recipe which is provided. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Cheryl at the office.

Christmas Flowers: Would you like to make a donation towards Christmas Flowers in memory of loved ones? In an envelope marked "Flowers" on the outside, please list your name, mailing address, the name (s) of your loved one (s) and your donation. Then place the envelope in the collection basket. The names of our loved ones will be posted in the church entranceway or in the Church bulletin on Christmas Eve.

For those wishing to send greetings to Father Jean-Marc his mailing address is:

Rev. Jean-Marc Laporte, SJ
5611 Gatineau Ave House,
Montreal, QC H3T 1X6

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1998 proposed Monday, December 12 the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe be a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Please pray for our Aboriginal peoples particularly this week.

Parish Event Planning Group: A meeting of the event planning group will take place **TODAY** after Mass in the church hall. The agenda will be a brief meeting to discuss future parish events. It will also be a gathering to help with the decoration of wreaths for our Christmas church decorations. All are welcome. Please see Michele O'Neill if you have any questions.

After Mass next Sunday we will need a few helpers to put up wreaths and Christmas decorations. Thank you.

St. Patrick's Penitential Service

THIS Tuesday, December 13

6:30 pm for confessions

Penitential Service at 7:00 pm

Confessions will continue following Mass.

In Loving Memory, Homeless Memorial Service will be held here at St. Patrick's. Wednesday, December 21st at 10:30 am. Please join us in remembering and honouring those who have lost their lives while experiencing homelessness and poverty. All are welcome to attend. (luncheon reception will follow the service.)

Chase the Ace Starting jackpot is \$2,000!! Starts today December 11, 2016

The owner of the winning ticket will get 20% of the days sales plus the chance to pick the card for the jackpot.

Tickets 1 for \$5; 3 for \$10; 7 for \$20. Tickets for sale in the hall Sunday's 11:00am to 1:00pm. Ticket draw at 1:15pm.

You do not have to be present for the draw to still win. However only the winner can pick up the prize.

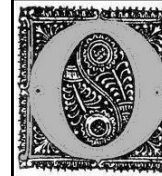
Please join us in the hall after Mass if you have questions, meet friends, buy a ticket.

Thank you for the support for this important fun/fund raiser.

Co-chairs are John Murphy and Blair Beed

Our actions are the best witnesses of our thoughts.

Anonymous



As we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ, each Sunday of Advent we will begin our Mass with a member of the choir singing the traditional O Antiphons.

Antiphons are short psalm verses or sentences from Holy Scripture. The O Antiphons are the seven antiphons traditionally chanted during Evening Prayer. In the Roman tradition they are sung from December 17th to 23rd. Each O Antiphon begins with a name of Christ taken from Scripture. They express the Church's longing and expectation for the coming Messiah.

O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

O Adonai (O Lord)

O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

O Clavis David (O Key of David)

O Oriens (O Rising Sun)

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) and

O Emmanuel (God is with us).

The ordering of these antiphons is purposeful. Starting with the last O Antiphon and taking the first letter of each, the Latin words *ero cras* are formed meaning *Tomorrow I will be there*. This is the Good News of the Advent Season. The O Antiphons remind us of the joyful conclusion of our Advent preparation.



Are You Being Called to the Permanent Diaconate?

"the call to be a permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Halifax/Yarmouth is clearly the recognition that the individual has a deep and strong desire to serve the Church, especially among the poor and marginalized". If you are interested in hearing more information please contact Deacon David Hasler dave.hasler@investorsgroup.com or Deacon Tom Smith @ tesmith@ns.sympatico.ca or Deacon Brian Smith @ brianksmith@hotmail.com.