

**St. Patrick's Church Restoration Society**  
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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](http://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](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](http://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](http://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](mailto:familyministries@stacm.ca)

**Learn Catholic Apologies in the New Year:** A 12-week course on Catholic Apologetics is being offered in January 2017 at the Atlantic School of Theology. Entitled "Catholic Apologetics: The Difficult Questions", Dr. David Deane will explore the Catholic position on morality, sexuality, and much more. The class takes place on Wednesday nights from 6:00pm to 8:30pm beginning on January 4. Students can participate in person or online. Registration cost is \$100. All are welcome. To register or for more information contact Dr. Deane at [ddeane@astheology.ns.ca](mailto:ddeane@astheology.ns.ca)

December 18, 2016 — 4th Sunday of Advent



## St. Patrick's Church

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Today is Sunday the  
4th Sunday of Advent

#### Christmas Eve 8:00pm

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 62.1-5

**2nd Reading:** Acts 13.16-17,22-25

#### Christmas Day: 10:00 am

**1st Reader:** Isaiah 62.11-12

**2nd Reader:** Titus 3.4-7

Please welcome  
Fr. Francesco Pirisi, FoH  
who is celebrating the  
Christmas Season with  
us.

**“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign”.**

Do you hold on to the promises of God at all times, especially when you are faced with uncertainty or adversity?

We hear in the gospel this week that Mary also had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God, and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility and great risk. Mary was not yet married and pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days and punishable by death. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer; he was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in God. Joseph believed in the divine message to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. When we are faced with seemingly insurmountable problems God does not leave us alone. He has given us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So as we approach the Savior's birth, the Feast of the Incarnation, let our hearts sing with joy, let us believe and trust as Mary and Joseph did, and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in His redeeming work. God Bless.

**Deacon Art**

## Parish Financial Information

Dec. 4, 2016		Dec. 11, 2016	
ENV. 55	\$1,939.13	ENV. 50	\$1,195.00
Loose	232.45	Loose	219.95
PAR 24	389.23	PAR 24	389.23
Total	\$2,560.81	Total	\$1,804.18

**Average Weekly PAR contribution \$16.22.**  
**Average Sunday Envelope contribution \$23.90**

**Confirmation Classes/Catechism Classes**—There will be no class today. Classes will resume in January."

**This week's Jesse Tree ornaments**  
**Jesse:** Foretold through Isaiah from his line the Messiah would be born *Isaiah II*  
**David:** A shepherd anointed king *1 Samuel 16*  
**Solomon the wise:** Son of David *1 Kings*  
**John the Baptist:** The precursor *Matthew 3*  
**Joseph:** Foster Father to Jesus *Matthew 1*  
**Mary:** The mother of Jesus *Luke 1*

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
 Thanks to over 15 Vincentians who distributed food vouchers and gift certificates for children in our area on Wednesday. This year we have been able to help 144 families 201 adults 56 children. Over \$10,750 of assistance was distributed. Thanks to Parishioners for supporting the Society's given tree

**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.

**Key Teachings of the Church Creed** - A creed is a statement of beliefs, a profession of faith, a summary of the principal beliefs of the Church.

**Parish Event Planning Group:**  
*After Mass TODAY Sunday we will need a few helpers to put up wreaths and Christmas decora-*

**Chase the Ace**  
 Last weeks winner Geoff Furlong (Beaverbank) \$192.00 (20% of sales)  
 This weeks Jackpot will be \$2000 plus 30% of today's sales. **No Chase the Ace next Sunday December 25**. 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.**  
 Today sale in the hall with vintage dishes to dress-up your holiday table, knitted goods, wall pictures, Christmas decorations, new to you items. *We appreciate all your support.*

**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.) We are looking for a few volunteer to assist with the reception after the service, please see Michele O'Neill.

 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 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

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

**2017 Missals:** A limited supply of Saint Joseph Sunday Missals still remain, at the back of the Church. The Parish purchase price was \$4.15 each. Donations accepted!

**Dear Friends,**  
**The New Year is quickly approaching as we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent, and next week the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas). As of December 15th, we currently have an operating deficit of approximately \$1,7700. The next two Sundays' are critical to help us end our year in a better financial position. This year, the Solemnity of Christmas falls on Sunday and this presents us with a situation whereby we are able to enjoy celebrating our Lord's birth on Sunday. As a result we can take a little more time to relax and focus on family and friends in what is always a hectic and rushed time.**  
**We still however, need to be mindful that our parish relies each year on the separate Christmas offering. In your box of envelopes is a separate envelope marked Christmas offering and this is a budgeted offering on which the parish relies heavily each year. We have budgeted \$5,500 for the Christmas offering as in past years and we are asking you to be as generous as possible with your Christmas offering, understanding this would be a part of your regular giving if Christmas was not being celebrated on Sunday. God is always good to us so let us show our gratitude to God in a tangible way that will enable us to continue to gather as a worshipping community, and at the same time end our year in a better financial position. Thank you in advance for your generosity and faithful support of our parish all year. God Bless.**  
**Deacon Art**