

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 & by VISA and MASTERCARD, by calling 902-429-4170 or mailing to Saint Patrick's Restoration Society, 2263 Brunswick St., Halifax, NS B3K 2Y9

December 13, 2015 Annual General Meeting. At the AGM held last Sunday, members of the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society approved the new slate of directors of the Society. The members are:

Rick Butler
Pat Crowley
Colleen Doucette
Father Jean-Marc Laporte
Andrew Murphy
Merlin Nunn
Pat O'Neil
Carol Reiniger
Kay Ross
Bryson Wilson

Co-Chairs: Merlin Nunn and Rick Butler

Treasurer: Pat O'Neil

Secretary: Kay Ross

We welcome new members Colleen Doucette and Andrew Murphy. Thank you for joining the Board and offering your time and talent in the work of restoring Saint Patrick's Church. **With heavy hearts and much gratitude,** we announce that Ken MacInnis has resigned from the Board as he is now living in Quebec. Thank you, Ken, for your leadership and vision these past number of years that you have devoted to the Society. Your presence will be greatly missed but we look forward to keeping in touch.

The Annual Fundraising Dinner has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2016. The dinner will be held at the World Trade & Convention Centre. Pat Crowley and Greg Murphy will co-chair the Dinner Committee. More information to follow in the New Year.

Case for Support - Rising Up Again – The Campaign to Restore Saint Patrick's Church. The Society and Parish have decided to provide parishioners and friends with complete copies of the Case for Support. Copies will be included in the Christmas bulletin on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The copies of the Case for Support will replace the segments that were to be published in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.

4th Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015



St. Patrick's Church

2263 Brunswick St. ♦ Halifax DS ♦ B3K 2Y9
902-429-1300 ♦ st.pats@ns.sympatico.ca



Father Jean-Marc Laporte, SJ, Priest-in-Charge
phone 902-422-8841 or email: jmlaporte@jesuits.ca

Cheryl Delaney, Secretary

Mon-Fri. 9 am to 1 pm phone 902-429-1300

email st.pats@ns.sympatico.ca

Rick Butler, Parish Council Chair

email rc.butler@ns.sympatico.ca

Sr. Bernadette Cool, FoH, Religious Education Coordinator (part time) email: qubertcool@gmail.com

Website: www.stpatricks.halifax.ns.ca

Mass time Sundays: 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation by Appointment

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th)

Reader 1: Isaiah 9.2-4,6-7

Reader 2: Titus 2.11-14

Christmas Day (Dec. 25th)

Reader 1: Isaiah 52.7-10

Reader 2: Hebrews 1.1-6

Holy Family December 27th

Reader 1: Sirach 3.2-6,12-14

Reader 2: Colossians 3.12-21

Solemnity of Mary, January 1st

Reader 1: Numbers 6.22-27

Reader 2: Galatians 4.4-7

Jesuit Centre of Spirituality

2287 Brunswick St.—902-429-7344:

The Centre welcomes people of all faiths into their home for day retreats, workshops and programs. Individual spiritual direction is available.

Programs:

St. Ignatius' Rules for Discernment: How to Make Wise and Prayerful Decisions

So often we are faced with big and seemingly impossible decisions to make in our lives. How do we make such decisions in our lives: St. Ignatius reminds us that all created things are to help us, by living meaningful & fulfilling lives, to pursue the end for which we were created. To do this we need to make a sound prayerful decisions in our lives. These two evenings of meditation upon St. Ignatius' Rules for Discernment will reveal the spiritual gift he gave to us in helping us make prayerful decisions that are in harmony with God's will for us. Suggested offering \$25 per session, \$40. for both sessions. Thursday, Jan. 28 & Feb. 4 7-9pm Trevor Scott, S.J.

4th Sunday of Advent



Parish Financial Information			
<u>Sunday offerings</u>			
Dec. 6, 2015		Dec. 13, 2015	
ENV 48	\$ \$1,288.00	46 ENV	\$1,920.00
Loose	135.85	Loose	151.00
PAR (23)	370.00	PAR	370.00
Flowers	45.00	Flowers	350.00
Fuel	335.00		
Total	\$2,173.85	Total	\$2,791.00

Yesterday, a number of volunteers assembled to do a general clean-up of the Church and making wreaths. Many thanks for your help.

Decorating the Church for Christmas. Volunteers are asked to help out with decorating the church for Christmas after Mass today. Please see Michele O'Neill if you can help.

Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service (Affordable Housing Association of NS) will be held here at St. Patrick's Parish on December 22nd at 11:00 am. This service provides an opportunity for the community to remember and honour those who have died homeless. The service will start at 11:00 am and will be followed by a reception at the back of the church. All are welcome to attend.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society—St Patrick's Vincentians hosted a Christmas Tea for the residents of Gordon B. Isnor Manor the afternoon of December 9th. It was a wonderful expression of hospitality and outreach. Thank-you to Sister Cecelia and Colleen Doucette for co-ordinating this event and to other Society members who provided the food and helped in serving on the day. Over 60 residents took part in this wonderful testimony of the Christmas Season.

This past Wednesday, Vincentians delivered Christmas Food vouchers and gift certificates to the needy in our area 125 deliveries including 60 children receiving gifts. This effort was made possible in part by the generous support of parishioners through our Giving Tree.

Congratulations to all the children receiving their First Reconciliation last Sunday. In the New Year they will be preparing for the Sacrament of First Communion.

Message from Fr. Jean-Marc: our refugee appeal.

Dear Friends

Christmas approaches, and our Advent longing becomes sharper and more intense. We need Christ to come into our world, into our own hearts. **One of the issues which stands out at this time is that of the millions of refugees waiting for a place where they can settle**, either in a new country like Canada, or back in their own homes. What Canada is doing for them is very little when you survey the entire situation, but we are doing it with generous hearts.

The Archdiocese has encouraged parishes to be generous in sponsoring refugee families. We have been teaming up with St. George's, the parish across the street. A number of parishioners have generously volunteered to join the committee dealing with this. The minimum for one family is \$30,000, and **envelopes are ready at the back of the Church for you to make a donation.** Put down your envelope number, or your name and address, and you will get a tax receipt. More than half of that money is already at hand from St. George's and other sources, so let us do our share. If you would like to spread your donation over the next several months, please use the enclosed donation form. **As we consider what we want to give, let us remember that Mary and Joseph were in effect refugees, without a home in Bethlehem, and later they had to flee to Egypt. What we do to welcome refugees we do to welcome Jesus.**

To help this appeal along, I would like to announce that the Jesuits of Halifax will make a donation of \$1000, and if by January 10 the St. Pat's donation total exceeds \$2000 (not counting the Jesuit donation) the Jesuits of Halifax will donate another \$2000.

Advent blessings!
Fr. Jean-Marc

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 and mailing address, the name (s) of your loved one (s) and your donation.*** Then place the envelope in the collection basket. ***On Christmas Eve, the names of your loved one (s) will be posted in the Church entry.***

This 35 minute video called "Laudato Si' - A Canadian Response" features interviews with prominent Canadians like David Suzuki, Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver, Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians and Silver Donald Cameron, Environmental writer, as they reflect on the brilliance of the Papal Encyclical, "*Laudato Si' - On Care for our Common Home*". The video is punctuated with excerpts from the Encyclical so that the various themes that Pope Francis presents in his Encyclical are made available to the viewer without actually having to read the 192 page document. https://youtu.be/Bti86O_Tw5A

Holy Cross Cemetery Earlier this week over 60 headstones were knocked over, smashed, and in some cases completely destroyed by vandals during a night time intrusion by strangers into the cemetery. This destruction has impacted many families who have buried their loved ones and memorialized them with headstones providing family history. Many of the stones are historic and made of marble or sandstone which is more easily damaged than granite. Repairs and replacements will take many months of work. This work, with the assistance of others, will be spearheaded by the Holy Cross Cemetery Trust. More information will be available in the spring when firmer ground and favourable weather provide the stable environment necessary for this work to begin. It is hoped that those responsible will be found and prosecuted for their destruction. To that end the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth is offering a reward to anyone who can provide information leading to their conviction.

Tues. Dec 22nd @ 7:00 pm at Jesuit Centre

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule (Church)

Thurs. Dec. 24th

Carols commencing @7:30pm

Christmas Eve Mass at 8:00pm

Fri. Dec. 25

Christmas Day Mass @ 10am

Fri. Jan. 1 @ 10 am

Mother of God & New Year

Sun. Jan 3 @ 10 am

Epiphany of the Lord

Christmas Closure: St. Patrick's Parish office will be closed for the Christmas Season on Christmas Eve, December 24 at noon and reopen on Monday, January 4th to regular office hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. During this period messages will be checked.