4th Sunday of Advent (C) December 21/22, 2024

St. Paul's Parish, Havre Boucher
St. Lawrence Parish, Mulgrave
Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis Harbour
Fr. Allan MacPhie, Pastor Rectory: 902- 234-2387 / Church: 902-234-3505
Mary Williams, Religious Ed. Coordinator, Home: 902-234-3118, cell 902-870-2168, or Church 902-234 3118 Email: marywilliams@bellaliant.net Bulletin notices must be in no later than Thursday evening

This Sunday Readings

Micah 5:2-5a "You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judea, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule Israel,…"
Responsorial Psalm 80 R. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Hebrews 10:5-10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
Luke 1:39-45 "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated every Saturday, 1:00-2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church (unless it is cancelled for a funeral, etc.) and before Mass on Saturdays at St. Francis and St. Lawrence Churches. If you would like to receive Reconciliation at a different time, please phone Fr. Allan at 902-234-2387 to set up an appointment.

Masses: Tuesday, December 24, to Sunday, December 29, 2024

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	**Betty Kavanaugh**	**St. Francis**	**4:00 pm**
pro populo	**pro populo**	**St. Lawrence**	**6:00 pm**
E	**Elizabeth Breen**	**St. Paul's**	**7:00 pm**
Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)	**Donna Marie & Rita Munroe**	**St. Paul's**	**10:00 pm**
Thursday, December 26	**NO MASS**		
Friday, December 27	**NO MASS**		
Saturday, December 28	**Elaine Burns**	**St. Paul's**	**11:00 am**
Saturday, December 28	**Opal Leet**	**St. Francis**	**4:00 pm**
Saturday, December 28	**pro populo**	**St. Lawrence**	**6:00 pm**
Sunday, December 29	**Rick Fougere**	**St. Paul's**	**10:00 am**
Tuesday, December 31 (Mary, Mother of God)	**pro populo**	**St. Francis**	**4:00 pm**
Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (Mary, Mother of God)	**Marion Melong**	**St. Paul's**	**10:00 am**

Please Note: Christmas, Dec. 25 and **Mary, the Mother of God,** Jan. 1 are holy days of obligation. A faithful Catholic is obligated to celebrate Mass on these days (like all Sundays of the year) if physically able.

Pastor's Christmas Message: *As Christians we know that Christmas is not Black Friday sales and the greatest economic generator of the year. We know it is also not chiefly an opportunity for family and friends to gather for food and fellowship, beautiful as that may be. No, Christmas for believers in Christ is the celebration of God becoming one of us, a part of his own creation, so that the Christ will save us from sin and eternal death. May the joy of the new-born Christ be with you all this Christmas. - Fr. Allan*

Collection, Dec.15 , 2024	St. Francis	St. Lawrence	St. Paul's
Sunday Collection	**No Mass**	**No Mass**	**$2235.00**
Loose			**$36.00**
Pastor's Dues			**$140.00**
Christmas			**$70.00**
Missals			**$145.45**
Christmas Flowers			**$415.00**
Cemetery Donation IMO Eddy DeYoung			**$600.00 $50.00 Cemetery / $50.00 Luncheon**

Christmas Flowers at St. Paul's: anyone who would like to donate money for flowers in memory of a loved one(s) please write Christmas Flowers on an envelope and include name of person it is in memory of and who is making the donation, names will be attached to bulletins sometime in January if possible.

TAX RECEIPT DEADLINE FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR 2024: To receive a charitable donation receipt for the year 2024 from St. Paul's Parish, St. Lawrence Parish and St. Francis of Assisi Mission, for all donations including your Sunday offerings, special collections, donations IMO, etc., funds **must** be received by the Parish on or before December 31, 2024. Tax receipts for Income Tax purposes for the year 2024 will be issued on or before February 28, 2025. This is a requirement from the Revenue Canada Agency. Any funds received in the month of January 2025 will be recorded as a 2025 donation.

CHURCH ENVELOPES: St. Paul's Parish Church Envelopes for 2025 will be made available December 15th, 2024. For those parishioners who have contributed to your respective Parish using the 2024 church envelopes provided, your name will be shown on the 2025 box of envelopes. If your name does not appear on an envelope box, **please** take a box of envelopes that does not have a name on it (8 extra boxes) and for the first couple of weeks make sure your name and address are shown on your Sunday Offering envelopes. **PLEASE do not use your 2025 envelopes during the month of December 2024** or use your 2024 envelopes in the year 2025.

Every parishioner has both a duty and obligation to support their Parish. Sunday Offering envelopes are made specifically for the collection of monetary donations to your Parish for the purpose of collecting funds necessary for the operations of the Parish. The use of remittance envelopes is **crucial** to the financial succeed the operations of the church. With the exception of "Special Collections" and the "Diocesan Levy", the majority of funds collected stay in your Parish to pay for operating expenses (heat/electricity/insurance/mtce./repairs) of the church, glebe house , office expenses including wages and benefits, snow removal, religious education/administration, grounds and cemetery upkeep, just to name a few of the expenditures.

TAX RECEIPT FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR 2024: Please note that receipts **will not** be issued for the following: Religious Education registration fees Purchase of missals and Purchase of Angels for the St. Paul's Angel Tree Angels, "Forever in our Hearts ornaments".

The Havre Boucher Veterans' Association would like to thank the following who were involved and assisted in the Remembrance Day Ceremony held on Sunday, November 3, 2024: The Port Hawkesbury, Antigonish and Mulgrave Legions, R.C.M.P., Stora 719 Air Cadets, Havre Boucher Fire Department members, Fr. MacPhie, Altar servers and St. Paul's Church Choir, bugler and bagpipes, dignitaries who participated in this ceremony, the Havre Boucher & Area-Community Development and Recreation Association for the use of the community center, volunteers who worked at the luncheon, hall setup and cleanup and people who donated food and/or money towards the luncheon, the Kin Club of Antigonish and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish for their donation towards the ceremony and those involved in the production of the video. A special thank you to everyone who laid a wreath on behalf of those who have served our country and also a special thank you for those who attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony and took the time to remember. A total of 59 wreaths were laid. Our Remembrance Day Ceremony was very well attended with over 270 people in attendance and we received many favorable comments on the ceremony, the facility and the large turnout to remember our Veterans

Sanitary Policies for St. Paul, St. Lawrence, and St. Francis of Assisi Parishes: We strongly recommend the wearing of masks during cold, flu and COVID outbreaks; hand sanitizing and mask for Eucharistic Ministers at all times; bowing, not hand shaking, for the sign of peace; and being the last to receive Communion for those receiving on the tongue.

Conscience Protection of Nova Scotia Doctors: Imagine a healthcare system where death is considered a therapeutic treatment. *Imagine being a Christian doctor in that system.* Imagine being told by your medical regulator that you are abandoning your patient if you don't make arrangements for them to get an assessment for euthanasia. That healthcare system is in Nova Scotia today. The Nova Scotia medical regulator has a policy that forces physicians to refer patients for euthanasia and other controversial procedures. *Forty courageous Christian physicians* have told Nova Scotia's medical regulator that they cannot abide by this policy. When they are at their most vulnerable, people may choose euthanasia if they don't have suitable options to live. We need physicians who will go the extra mile to ensure their patients are connected with the support and services they need. Nova Scotia physicians are too important to patient care to be sacrificed for the sake of an unnecessary policy. Write Nova Scotia regulator today to tell them you want this policy to be changed**: https://bit.ly/NSRegulator24**.
(Copies of a draft letter to the Nova Scotia Government are also available at the Church entrance

Cemetery Rules: We remind everyone that our cemeteries are owned by the Church, the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish, and laws for cemeteries are made by the parishes. Cemetery plots are **not** owned by the families of the deceased. Therefore, no one is permitted to plant trees or bushes or flowers on a cemetery plot. No one is allowed to place statues on plots, or ornaments that interfere with mowing. Gravestones are to be installed only in consultation with cemetery representatives (Clem Munroe, St. Paul's; Jack Hoben, St. Lawrence; Dannie Grady St. Francis). And if there is already a grave stone (or stones on s double plot), no one is permitted to place another gravestone on the same plot to mark the burial of cremains in that plot. Please respect and follow our laws for the order and beauty of our cemeteries.
Cemetery Fees: Parishioners are reminded of the following policies passed by parish councils, and approved by the pastor regarding cemetery fees

St. Paul's: For Parishioners No cost. (A parishioner is a Catholic who lives within the boundaries of the parish, **or** who lives close and attends Mass here faithfully and supports the parish using church envelopes).

Non-parishioners $400.00 payable to St. Paul's Cemetery Fund for a new plot; $100.00 for burial of cremains in an existing plot.

St. Lawrence: **For parishioners and non-parishioners:** $200.00 payable to St. Lawrence Cemetery Fund, for burial in a new plot. There is no fee for burial of ashes in an existing plot. **$200, 00 payable to St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery Fund for burial in a new plot;** $100.00 for burial of cremains in an existing plot. **For Non-Parishioners** $300.00 for burial in a new plot; $100.00 for burial of cremains in an existing plot.

Merry Christmas !

For Pastor's Visits at St. Martha's Hospital: New privacy regulations at St. Martha's Hospital do not permit clergy to see a list of their parishioners who are patients in the hospital. Therefore, I will need to be informed by the family or patient **themselves if the patient wishes me to visit them in hospital. My usual day for visiting is Tuesday, so please inform me by** phone before Sunday Mass (234-2387, Glebe house) if someone wants me to visit them. ***~ Fr. Allan***

St. Lawrence Parish Choir will be singing Christmas Carols before mass on Christmas Eve. Please come join us at 5:00 pm

St. Francis Harbour we will once again be collecting non perishable items for the food bank, in support of less fortunate families in our area for Christmas. There will be a container at the entrance of the church where your items can be dropped off. Monetary donations can be made as well. Thank you!

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel: **St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the** wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly **hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen**

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