



Immaculate Conception Parish

With the Churches of :

Immaculate Conception Church, Truro; St. Michael's Church, Brule;
St Kateri, Indian Brook; Sacred Heart, Millbrook;
St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie

February 4th , 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And Jesus went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Mark 1 : 38-39

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Saint Vincent De Paul Society

Help Line: 902-897-0222

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Veritas Books and Gifts: Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (or by appointment)

Address:

669 Prince Street, Truro,
NS B2N 1G5

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Monday, 7:00 pm -† Mary Canning

Tuesday, 12:15 pm - ; † William Hanlon; Special Intention

Wednesday, 7:00 pm- † Greg Glasgow; Dianne Dionne

Thursday, 7:00 pm - † Kathleen Akerman

Friday, 12:15 pm -† Hugh MacPherson;
†Catherine MacPherson

Saturday, 4:00 pm - † Kathleen Coleman

Sunday, 9:00 am - † Ron Vautour

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday

4:00pm - Immaculate Conception, Truro

4:00pm - St. Michael's, Brule

Sunday

9:00am - Immaculate Conception, Truro

10:00am - St. Kateri, Indian Brook

11:30am - Sacred Heart, Millbrook

11:30am - St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament : Thursdays after the 7:00 pm Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 30 mins prior to weekday Masses or by appointment

Holy Rosary : In prayerful support of all our ministries, the rosary will be offered before every Sunday 9:00 am Mass, from 8:20 -8:40 am. Everyone is invited to join us.

Baptism Preparation : If you plan to celebrate the Baptism of your child this coming year, we invite all parents and godparents to attend the Baptism Preparation session on Friday, March 22nd, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Kinsella Room. Please pre-register as you'll be required to watch videos prior to the session.

COLLECTION UPDATE

Previous Week's Collection was \$4,116.30 : ICC = \$2,859.30; St. Michael's = \$225.00; Sacred Heart = \$413.95; St. Bridget's = \$520.05; St. Kateri = \$98.00 and Capital Campaign = \$105.00

WEEKLY EVENTS:

45'S Card Play: Card Play Sunday resumes on ***Sunday Evenings*** at 7:00 pm, in Campbell Hall on Sunday 7th, January. Come join us and bring a friend!

Bible Study: Bible Study has recommenced. Come join us in Kinsella I & II, ***Thursdays*** at ***10:00 am*** for 1 hour. We are studying Romans I & II; No previous Bible knowledge is required. All are welcome! Contact **Tony Harvey** at **902-977-0808** for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The ICLA is looking for volunteers to help with the Altar Linens. There is not much to it, and Olga Langille is willing to work with the volunteers to show you how it's done! Both men and women are welcome! Anyone interested in giving a bit of their time to help with this, please call Olga at **902-890-4466**.

CONFORMANCE:

The archbishop of our diocese, Most Reverend Brian Dunn has reached out to all parishes regarding changes in the celebration of our liturgy. As the "moderator, promoter, and guardian" of the liturgical life of the diocese he is looking to review our liturgy and ensure that appropriate 'norms' are being followed as we celebrate the Eucharist. The main reason for addressing these 'norms' is to ensure consistency throughout the Archdiocese, enabling parishioners to be comfortable and confident that all Masses will be celebrated in the same manner, no matter which church you choose to attend.

What does this mean for Immaculate Conception and our family of churches?

Beginning in the Lenten season we will introduce these minor changes to our current practices. To help, these changes will be implemented with an explanation and appropriate prompts during the Mass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Parish Life Survey: Our goal is to understand our parishioners' experience of worship and parish community life, and to identify the strengths, needs, and opportunities for growth in our parish, so we can better serve our God and our parishioners.

This survey has three sections. Part 1 asks about your experience of worship. Part 2 focuses on how the parish supports you in your faith journey. Part 3 asks about parish ministry and how we reach out beyond our community. Additionally, you'll have an opportunity to indicate in which areas of ministry you would be interested in participating, either as an attendee or volunteer.

Over three weekends (six overall) each church will be handing out a paper copy of the Survey to complete following Mass according to the schedule below.

PART 3 February 3 and 4 at Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart Churches
February 10 and 11 at St Michael, St Kateri and St Bridget Churches

The complete Survey is also available online for those who prefer.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICParishSurvey>

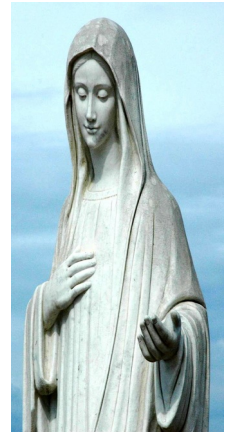
SVDP: Once again, our St. Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas mission was to assist less fortunate families with groceries and gifts. For years we have been inspired by the willingness of our parishioners to participate in our Christmas Index Program by purchasing gifts for family members and donating to our coffers to provide groceries. This year was no exception! We were able to meet our goal of helping **34 families** experience a bountiful holiday season. In total, we together, assisted **44 parents** and **68 children**. Thank you for your participation and your kindness. May God bless us all and take us safely through 2024!



(Feb 10) Valentine Social: Hosted by the ICLA after the 4:00 pm Mass on **Saturday, February 10th** in Campbell Hall. Please drop by and join us for a coffee/tea and a sweet!

(Feb 11) ICLA: The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 11th at 2:00 pm**. We have some outstanding dues, so we encourage you to please turn in your dues in order to remain a member in good standing. You can pass them to any of the Executive: **Olga, Angie** or **Della**, or hand them in at the next meeting. The dues are \$20.00, and can be paid by either cash or cheque. Thank you.

(May 18) Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Father Mark Cherry. Are you being called to Journey to Medjugorje where it's said heaven touches earth, where the birds sing day and night, and the sun shines brighter than anywhere else. Where the peace surpasses any other peace that we may know until we rest in the Heavenly Kingdom. Where every person is moving in the same direction as they too have been called by our Blessed Mother to come and journey, laying it all down at the foot of Her Sons Cross...the Cross He took on for each one of us His beloved Children...come and journey...come and be healed...come and rest in The Sacred Heart of Jesus as we journey together. **May 18th to May 30th, 2024**. Package Price is **\$3499.00** Canadian per person, tax included. A **\$600 non refundable deposit** due by **January 24th, 2024**. For further details see the diocesan Event Listing titled **Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** by clicking here or by contacting **Rhonda-Lynn Clarke** at **(902) 448-3660**.



Prayer Chain: Did you know our Parish has a Prayer Chain? A small group of dedicated women who are committed to praying for people's needs. If you would be interested in this Ministry or have a prayer request, please call **Judy Ballard** at **902-897-7007**.

Adult Faith Formation:



(16 Feb) Alpha, an **11 week** exploration of faith is commencing **Friday** evenings on **February 16th**, from **6:30 - 8:30 pm**. We commence with a meal at **6:30 pm** and afterwards through video and small discussion groups we explore questions such as "How can I have faith?", "How does God guide us?". There are no fees involved and pre-registration is ongoing until **February 12th**. Registration forms are available at the entrances to the Churches. Online registration is also available at : <https://icctruro.org/alpha-registration/>

Introduction to this Sunday's Liturgy:

Christmas is over but remaining with us always is the greatest Christmas gift ever—the Son of God. Moses told the people that one day God would send a prophet from among their descendants who would speak God's word with authority. We believe that this promise is fulfilled in Jesus, who in the Gospel speaks God's word with such authority that even the unclean spirits obey him! We may be anxious about many things, to use Saint Paul's words, but let the knowledge that God is with us and that He alone can dispel the darkness in our lives and give us hope.

Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday, February 14th marks the beginning of Lent, an unusual and sweet Valentine's gift of invitation for our family and friends. It is a season of reflection on one's transgressions, fasting, abstinence from meat, and repentance; all of which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance. The ashes symbolize our penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. Please join us at any of the scheduled celebrations.



Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:

12:00 pm at St Bridget
4:00 pm at St Michael
4 pm at Sacred Heart
6 pm at St Kateri

Family Faith Formation:

Winners! - Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest - Congratulations to **Lily MacCharles** and **Sophie MacCharles**. Thank you so much for your participation and beautiful posters!

First Holy Reconciliation/Eucharist Parent Info Meeting - Sunday, 4 February (this Sunday)

Classes Levels 1-5 and Parents session this weekend - 4 February - Usually gather bi-weekly from 10:15 - 11:30 am (but not always depending on the Church season). Schedules are hanging on the white, double doors down the stairs to the right of Veritas. Home Lessons are also available. *A parent is strongly encouraged to attend with their child as the Program is designed for the family. If a parent is unable to attend, please send your child(ren) with an adult with whom your child is comfortable.*

"Because FAITH is best taught and lived out in the family, the Church calls parents to be the first and foremost educators of their children."

Mass Activity Booklet - Pick one up for your child on your way into Mass. Crayons provided too (please return the crayons after Mass). A booklet designed to help children grow deeper in their understanding of prayer and the Mass.

Youth Night (Levels 7-12)

Monday Nights - 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Weekly. All Youth are welcome to attend! Currently journeying through the Alpha for Youth Series. *The Holy Spirit Retreat continues ...*

THANK YOU ... to several youth who have expressed interest and have become involved with Children's Liturgy!!! You are a gift to the children and to the Parish. Anyone else (of any age) interested in this ministry, please come forward by contacting Ann or the Parish Office. The Church needs you!

Lenten Family Gathering - more information coming soon. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this event, please reach out to Ann via email or call the Church Office.