



St. Mary Magdalene Parish

St. Columba †
Fredericton Junction

Sts. John & Paul †
New Maryland

St. Dunstan's
Fredericton

Father Suresh Savariraj, HGN

Father Peter Osborne

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September 4th, 2022 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Mary Magdalene Parish Faith Formation Update - Online Registration is Now Open!

Help us prepare for the fall of 2022. Families with children in kindergarten to grade 7 are invited to register for our Family Faith Formation program beginning in September. Family Faith Formation will be offered at St. Dunstan's, Sts. John & Paul and St. Columba Churches. When registering please be sure to indicate which church site you plan to attend. Families with children entering grade 2 in the fall will receive Sacrament Preparation for 1st Eucharist throughout the year. To register please visit <https://www.stmarymagdaleneparish.ca/faith-formation-1>. Please note that the online form works best sent from a laptop or computer.

Do you have or know a youth entering grade 8 this coming September?

Confirmation Preparation (2-year program) for youth entering grade 8 will begin in September. To help us plan we are asking all youth entering grade 8 wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to register online at <https://www.stmarymagdaleneparish.ca/faith-formation-1>. Please note that the online form works best sent from a laptop or computer.

If you have any questions about St. Mary Magdalene Parish Faith Formation programs, please contact Patty Cameron at 444-6018 or faithformation@stmarymagdeleparish.ca.

Please share with other families and youth that may not see this announcement.

"Development and Peace" is helping Caritas India respond to widespread flooding in India's Assam state. The situation is quite dire: hundreds of thousands have been displaced and the waterlogging of farmlands is threatening the food security of a region that was already badly impoverished by the pandemic. Fortunately, our partner (Development and Peace- Caritas India) is well placed to mount a robust response, about which we've just published [an article on our website](#)." Please read more at devp.org. Thanks kindly for your prayers and support. (Note from: Adah Ogbe, Regional Animator for D & P Maritimes & Atlantic).

Prayer for Parish Visioning Process

"Loving God, thank you for using our gifts for your purposes in our parish community. As we collaborate with you in this project give each of us open-mindedness, patience, strength, wisdom, a discerning spirit, lightness of spirit, and prayerfulness. Help us to live our experience with joy and gratitude and a confidence that you will surprise us with new directions we might take in living this with you as our guide and companion. Amen"

LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

Sts. John and Paul – LECTORS

Sept 4th Lorraine Bird
Sept 11th Fred & Mary Farrell

Sts. John and Paul – EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sept 4th Margaret Murray
Sept 11th Neyda Long

St. Columba – LECTORS

Sept 4th Bob and Pauline Mott
Sept 11th Shelley Knorr

St. Dunstan's – LECTORS

Saturday, 5 pm

Sept 3rd Jayne Nicki / Lilia Cozzarini
Sept 10th Veronica Saliendra / Verna Shaw

Sunday, 9 am

Sept 4th Esther Archibald/ Mary McMahon
Sept 11th Thelma Innes / Bob Scott

Sunday, 11:30 am

Sept 4th Carole Dilworth / Bea Sainz
Sept 11th Nadine LeBlanc / Ella Allen

St. Dunstan's – EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, 5 pm

Sept 3rd Patrick Tang / Linda Roach
Sept 10th Gracie Mersereau / Linda Roach

Sunday, 9 am

Sept 4th Marg Denning / Katie Crawford
Sept 11th Pauline Arnold / Esther Archibald

Sunday, 11:30 am

Sept 4th Bob Michaud / John Brennan
Sept 11th John Brennan / Claire Leach

You can **Live Stream Mass** through our Website on Sunday at 9 am. It will also be uploaded to the Homepage so you can view it at another time. Go to <https://www.stmarymagdalene-parish.ca> and click livestream.

Our Sacred Stories Disciples in the Making

September is a season of change. The long hazy, even lazy days of summer are coming to an end. The vacations are behind us and the more regular work schedule resumes. Schools and colleges and universities are opening their new year. The new season in many ways is a new stage in our life journey. For many, whether student or teachers or someone beginning new work, September launches us into unfamiliar territory. It will call us to take up the risks of something new and unfamiliar. September is also a season that demands a willingness to take a risk and make a commitment.

Luke's Gospel, (Luke 14:25-33) relates a story of Jesus in the midst of a large and enthusiastic crowd. They are would-be disciples. Are they really disciples? Can they be disciples? Are they ready for discipleship? Some are there simply because they are following the crowd. Others are curious, hoping to see one of the miracles or wonders they are told he does. Are they really hearing his message and buying into his mission – accepting the invitation to actively build God's reign in our world?

Jesus turns to them and expresses the message in radical terms: ``If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.`` What an outlandish statement! Who can accept this? But we can assume it gets the attention of those in the crowd.

To be a disciple calls for commitment, deep commitment. Some really want to enter into such discipleship. They hear what Jesus has said. They see what he has done. The message and the mission seem to be what they are searching for. But they do not yet understand all that is involved. They may not be fully convinced or committed, but they are willing to offer a tentative "yes", to take a chance.

Whether we recognize it or not this is where most, if not all of us are. We are disciples in the making. Our quest in life finds us on a journey with this Jesus and his message. But our "yes" is always less than perfect. Perhaps it will always be this way. We will always be in a state of becoming.

To hear the words we find in Luke's Gospel can be threatening. Who can make such a commitment? The radical demand that Luke describes is well beyond us and can be daunting and discouraging. What happens if we do not meet this demand of total and complete commitment to the message and mission? What happens if we do not fully respond to the baptismal call we have been given, if our Christian life is less than perfect, if our commitment is not so total? Can I take the risk?

Our Scriptures help us here. They tell the story of a God who loves us, a God of mercy, compassion and forgiveness. This is how God has repeatedly dealt with the chosen people of Israel. Prophet after prophet he sent to them. Throughout the New Testament, this is the God who is revealed in the person of Jesus, the God who has come to share our humanity.

Sure, we are less than perfect disciples. We are on a life journey of striving in our discipleship. We fall short. We often fail. We are ever in a state of becoming. Both as individual disciples and as church, we often discover we can't quite measure up. But we trust in the Jesus that we see in the Gospels who welcomes all and who reaches out to us when we are at our weakest and most inadequate.

We also recognize that God sees the strength that we actually do possess and the desire to make a commitment that we may not fully manage to live up to. That is just the way our God of love is, and for this God and for God's love we give thanks.

<u>28-Aug</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>St C</u>	<u>Sts J&P</u>	<u>St D</u>
Weekly, at Mass	\$3,737	\$0	\$560	\$3,177
Weekly, average PAD	\$3,681	\$50	\$951	\$2,680
YTD Offertories (Actual)	\$315,372	\$17,622	\$60,074	\$237,676
YTD Offertories (Budget)	\$377,265			
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$61,893)			
Poor & Needy	\$195	\$0	\$0	\$195
Building fund	\$85	\$60	\$0	\$25
Papal visit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cemeteries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$10	\$0	\$0	\$10
# PAD users	134	1	31	102
# Envelopes used	186	67	12	107
# Envelopes issued	727	71	66	590

Options for your offertory.

- Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) you can make your donations through a debit at your bank on a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly basis. There is a PAD form you can receive by contacting the office. You would have to fill out and return to the office along with a copy of a voided cheque. Form available at <https://stdun7.wixsite.com/stdunstansparish>
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) You can e-transfer your offertory at any time with this option, if you do online banking. Email office@stmarymagdalene.ca

New Parish Website: Our new website at <https://www.stmarymagdalene.ca> is up and running. The stdunstansparish.ca website and the stjohnandpaul.ca website will no longer be updated and will be shut down. For those on Pre-Authorized Debit or who send E-transfers, please change your banking to the new email address. For those who live stream Mass from our parish website, go into the new website at the above address and click the 'Link to Live Streaming'.

DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR THE INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND - Thank you for your contributions to this collection thus far in the amount of \$11,004. You can still contribute anytime. Envelopes are available at the ends of the pews at each church site or you can contribute on the diocesan website or email money transfer (<https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/donations>). The funds collected in our Diocese will be directed toward healing and reconciliation initiatives in the seven Indigenous Communities within our Diocese. For more information about this fund and how it is administered please see the bishop's letter on the Diocesan website.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in New Maryland has openings for students in Grades K-Grade 8 for the up-coming school year. For information please call 459-3518 or visit www.ladyofgrace.org <http://www.ladyofgrace.org>

Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation

O God, pour out your healing love on all who suffered in Canada's Residential Schools; on bodies, minds and spirits wounded through abuse; on hearts, wounded through separation; and on families wounded through trauma and anguish that still torment over the course of generations. Make us stewards – of one another's dignity, of one another's safety, of one another's lands, of one another's right to a cultural identity: as unique peoples, as gifts to the human family; and as your beloved children.