

Saint André Bessette Parish
Fall River - Enfield - Middle Musquodoboit
“An Incense Free Parish”

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

There are no in person masses at this time.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

There are no weekday masses at this time.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CELEBRATION OF A SACRAMENT PLEASE CONTACT FR. MICHAEL.

January 16, 2022

Dear Parishioners:

Welcome back to Ordinary Time!

While the special feasts of the church enjoy greater observance and celebration it is in Ordinary Time that we live out the faith in our everyday lives. These are far from ordinary times, yet we strive to live the gospel during the pandemic.

Early in January Nova Scotia Health extended the pandemic restrictions announced last December until January 31. We will continue to live stream mass until numbers for gathering in person increase.

I realize that there is a toll on people from not being regularly able to receive sacraments, especially the Eucharist. I invite you to see this as a time when we emphasize care of one another and find other ways to pray personally and in your families.

ST. ROSE OFFICE: Reconstruction from damage done by the flood last November to the rectory is underway. Please call the office number during office hours and Kathleen will respond as well as we can until repairs are complete.

LIVE STREAM MASS 11:00 AM SUNDAY - continues to be available during the current restrictions.

The livestream mass may be found on Facebook at St. André Bessette Parish or go to our parish website strosefallriver.com and click on the live mass link/box.

OFFICE PRACTICES: Masks are required for visiting a parish office. You are asked to use hand sanitizer when arriving and leaving the office.

***Let us pray for one another.
Oremus pro invicem.
Prions les uns pour les autres.***

It is important for us to keep each other in prayer.

Parish Prayer List

Please pray daily for all those who have asked for prayers from our Parish family, especially the following:

Vivian Kohout
Amanda Lindsay
Pat McCarvill
David Lewis
Paige Ballam

Lenny Metham
Linda Cannon
Greg Lee
Tony Chesal

Deacon Dan Bowden
Susan Hutt
Dianne Coffin
Vida Hanrahan

If you or someone you know wishes to be remembered in prayer please contact Anne Marie Frame at 902-883-2703, and she will add you to the list.

(Please have the permission of the person before asking to have them added to the list and remember to contact Anne Marie to remove the person from the list when the need for prayers ceases. Thank you.)

***“O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.” Psalm 30: 2***

FINANCES: Thank you to those who continue to support the church financially. To those of you who may wish to know how to donate to the church during the pandemic please read the following four ways.

- 1) Pre-authorized debit/deposit - If this is in place it will continue.
- 2) Snail mail - Mail your donations to either church office.
- 3) Locked boxes have been placed outside the two parish offices. We make the following request of those who use these boxes:

Do not use cash. Cheques give security in the event of theft.

Donations should be in church envelopes to ensure proper credit.

These boxes will be emptied regularly at both church offices to ensure the safety of each contribution placed there.

- 4) E-transfer: Saint André Bessette Parish is now set up to accept electronic fund transfer (e-Transfer) donations using online banking.

Our email address for e-Transfers is: stbernardsenfield@gmail.com

(Our "Company Name" attached to this email is SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE PARISH)

A security question will not be required as the funds are deposited directly into the Parish account, and an email is sent to the parish office confirming an e-transfer has been deposited.

To assure your donation is included on your annual tax receipt, please **write your name and envelope number** in the comment box before sending your e-transfer.

During this time of pandemic let us continue to pray for one another, find ways to care for one another, and do the best we can during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike

Johnny Carson, long time host of the *Tonight Show*, was interviewing an eight-year-old boy one night. The child was asked to appear on the *Late Show* because he had rescued two friends from a coal mine outside his hometown in West Virginia. As Johnny questioned him, it became apparent that the boy was a Christian so Johnny asked him if he attended Sunday School. When the boy said he did, Johnny inquired, “What are you learning in Sunday School?” “Last week,” the boy replied, “our lesson was about how Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine.” The audience burst into laughter and applause. Keeping a straight face, Johnny asked, “And what did you learn from that story?” The boy squirmed in his chair. It was apparent he hadn’t thought about this. But then he lifted up his face and said, “If you’re going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus and Mary!” — And that is precisely the message of today’s Gospel: make sure you invite Jesus and Mary wherever you live and wherever you go – they are the only ones you’ll ever need. In other words, today’s Gospel lesson is about the sufficiency of Jesus in our lives and the power of Jesus’ Mother’s intercession.

According to Jewish customs, a wedding feast would last for seven days. A large number of guests would be invited for the wedding and it was expected the hosts would lavish the guests with hospitality. Any deficiency in the hospitality would be an indelible disgrace. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was present at the wedding in Cana. Jesus and his disciples were also present. At the wedding the wine ran out. The wedding party had no wine, they could be embarrassed, but they had Jesus and Jesus is never an embarrassment to anyone. Mary, as a matter of fact, brings this to the attention of Jesus: “They have no wine.” Jesus’ response appears strange: “Woman why turn to me? My hour has not yet come.” Yet he accedes to her request. He asks the servants to fill the jars with water and after they were filled he asks the servants to draw some out and take it to the steward. Jesus had changed the water not by any incantation or any show but by his sheer will. What God does in nature under a slow process –changing of water into wine in the vineyard, He did it in an instant at the wedding at Cana.

One of the signs of the Messianic times according to the Hebrew Scriptures is an abundance of wine. The changing of water into wine at Cana signified that the Messianic times had arrived. When Jesus changed the water into wine at Cana, there was an abundance of wine –almost 600 liters! When God gives he is not stingy, he gives in abundance! The wine that Jesus provided was the best wine, not the ordinary variety that people supply when the guests have plenty to drink. Jesus gives the best and it comes at the end! The best is yet to come in our lives, when we have Jesus with us!

What messages does this gospel have for our lives:

1. **We need to “invite Jesus and Mary to remain with us in our homes.”** St. John Vianney suggested this as the solution for many of our family problems. He used to encourage parents to create an atmosphere of prayer, Bible-reading, mutual love, mutual respect, and sacrificial service at home, so that the presence of Jesus and Mary might be perpetually enhanced and experienced in the family.

2. **We need to obey the command of Mary, “Do whatever He tells you.”** These words of Mary are a prerequisite for meaningful life in our families. The Scriptures tells us how to do the will of God and effect changes in our daily lives.
3. **4) Just as Jesus filled the empty water jars with wine, we need to fill the empty hearts around us with love.** By the sign of Cana, Jesus challenges us to enrich the empty lives of those around us with the new wine of love, mercy, concern and care.
4. **We need to appreciate the miracle of the Real Presence of the Lord on the altar.** The same Jesus, Who transformed water into wine at Cana, transforms our gifts of bread and wine into Jesus’ own Body and Blood, under the appearances of consecrated bread and wine, in order to give us spiritual nourishment. If our families have lost the savour of mutual love, let us renew them at the altar with the invigorating power of the Holy Spirit.

Our families are the place where water is changed into wine, by the grace of God and our openness to the ways of God and living them. We always need to bring Jesus and Mary to the wedding!

Saint André Bessette Parish

Fall River - Enfield - Middle Musquodoboit

Rev. Michael J. Walsh, J.C.L. Pastor

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"Put yourself in God's hands; He abandons no one." St. Andre Bessette