

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

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:**

*Saturday 4:00 pm Holy Cross*  
*4:00 pm St. Rose of Lima*  
*Sunday 9:00 am St. Bernard*  
*11:00 am St. Rose of Lima*

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

**None this week due to the priest's retreat.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

St. Bernard - First Saturday of the month 10:00 am to 11:00 am  
St. Rose - Second Saturday of the month 10:00 am to 11:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK** - please contact Fr. Michael

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** may resume under certain restrictions please contact Fr. Michael for details.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Please contact either parish office.

May 8, 2022

**Dear parishioners:**

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!  
Happy Mother's Day!

For 50 days we will celebrate the love of God made known to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. May this Easter season be a time of grace and blessing for you and your loved ones.

**PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS:** Archbishop Dunn recently announced the pastoral appointments for 2022. Please pray for **Fr. Gerald David** who will be the new pastor of St. André Bessette Parish and for me as I move to new pastoral responsibilities in the Annapolis Valley. A full list of the appointments is attached.

**PRIESTS RETREAT:** The priests of the Archdiocese will be on retreat May 8 to 13. Please keep us in your prayers during this time of fraternity and prayer.

Please note there will be no weekday masses in the parish during the retreat.

**PARISH COMMUNICATION SURVEY:** The Parish Communication Team has created a survey to gather information about our parishioners' preferred methods of communication. The survey link is now available on our parish website: [standrebessette.net](http://standrebessette.net).

If you prefer a paper copy of the survey, it is available **this weekend** at the entrance of the church.

The Synod survey from the Archdiocese is also available on the website.

**RECONCILIATION FUND: June 4-5, 2022:** In recent years, the Archdiocese has held a diocesan Mission Collection in June. This year, the Mission Collection is being replaced with a Reconciliation Fund Collection to be held the weekend of June 4-5.

In October 2021 the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), made a financial pledge of \$30 million to develop programs and initiatives that would promote healing, reconciliation, and education in the relationship between Indigenous communities and the Church. Dioceses across Canada, including ourselves, have made commitments to this pledge. Above and beyond this pledge, we will take up a Reconciliation Fund Collection across our diocese.

The goal of the collection is to support Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia as part of the Archdiocese's ongoing response to the recommendations to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Archbishop Dunn is working with local Mi'kmaq leadership to discern the best way these funds can be used locally in our efforts to bring about healing and reconciliation.

Please make note of this special collection. Parishioners will start to receive Reconciliation Fund Collection material in mail near the end of May.

Questions about this collection can be directed to Christine Spears at 902-429-9800 ext 312 or [cspears@halifaxarmouth.org](mailto:cspears@halifaxarmouth.org)

**Father Duncan MacMaster's 50th anniversary of his Ordination:** Father Duncan is inviting all those he has had the pleasure of serving over the past 50 years to come celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination. This event will be held on Saturday May 21st starting with mass at 4:00 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church, Fall River. Everyone is invited to then proceed to the LWF hall where there will be a reception and kitchen party.

Father Duncan has sent out a special request that you please bring your children to be part of the celebration and party.

Any well wishes, words of congratulations etc. that you may wish to share can be sent to [fatherduncan50thyear@gmail.com](mailto:fatherduncan50thyear@gmail.com) to be read during the celebration.

**HEALTH GUIDELINES:** Public health strongly encourages masking indoors and ongoing adherence to the spirit of public health guidelines. Therefore, while masks are not required in the church you are strongly encouraged to wear them.

We continue to restrict access to some seats in the churches to provide adequate spacing among the congregation. We want to remind parishioners that public health advises people who have COVID19 symptoms to stay at home or confirm a negative COVID19 rapid test or PCR test. We continue to care for one another by modifying our behaviour to reduce risk of spreading COVID19.

**LIVE STREAM MASS 11:00 AM SUNDAY:** The livestream mass may be found on Facebook at St. André Bessette Parish or go to our new parish website [standrebessette.net](http://standrebessette.net). and click on the live mass link/box.

*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	Lenny Metham	Amanda Lindsay
Linda Cannon	Pat McCarvill	Greg Lee
Dianne Coffin	David Lewis	Tony Chesal
Vida Hanrahan	Paige Ballam	Joan Fraser
Dibin Brimcombe	Joe MacLean	Joan King

*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***

Let us continue to pray for one another and to find ways to care for one another.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Fr. Michael

## HOMILY FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 2022

As the Coronavirus pandemic has developed, we have been listening to many voices coming at us almost every day. Some come from medical experts, some from media people, some from politicians, some from our family and friends. To which voice do we pay attention? Maybe the question is how do I listen, how do I judge the voice that speaks to me?

Jesus in the gospel today calls us together as the Good Shepherd. He overcomes the barriers we place between us by becoming the sheepgate, the way to gather together through him and with him. Gathering in person is something that we have sorely missed the past two plus years and still struggle with as restrictions have been lifted.

Jesus used the image of shepherd because shepherds were very familiar to the people of his time. At that time one of the most difficult jobs for the shepherds was to protect the sheep at night. They gathered the various flocks in one place to jointly keep them safe overnight. One shepherd would lay down to sleep over the entrance to the flock to be the guard. In a real way, the shepherd would literally lay down his life for the sheep. The next morning, each shepherd would call his flock and they would recognize his voice because they knew who cared for them and they would follow him to the pastures.

Today is Mother's Day. Our thoughts today turn to our mothers or those who have been mothers to us. Mothers and shepherds have much in common in the love and protection they give to those in their care. So I thought I should tell a mother story today.

There was an article in National Geographic several years ago that provided a penetrating picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park in the US, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had

gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had singed her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

Jesus is that mother hen that shepherd for us, the shepherd who gives his life and knows his sheep. He loves us and has given his life for us. We need also to recognize his voice and follow.

Jesus leads us out as his flock to create the world. But he is more than just a shepherd, because he is actually the gate. He is the way to enter a new space, the space where we do what he calls us to do. He knows each of us. He cares for us personally. It is Jesus' voice which calls us to greater concern for each other and for building a community of trusting relationships so all can benefit. As Jesus knows and cares for us, so should we know and care for each other. That is the space he wants us in. We need to create that space even in the midst of a time when we are trying to figure out how to go forward with our lives.

This pandemic has reminded us how interdependent we really are. Restrictions from various forms of human contact over more than two years have taught us this. We are seeing and hearing the fragility, the fear and the courage of others. Is the voice of Jesus our shepherd in those? If we can listen and learn, maybe we can end up becoming our best selves as we go forward together.

During this time let us enter more into prayer and reflecting on scripture to listen to the voice of Jesus, our shepherd. Let us then commit ourselves to create the community he calls us to become. Even during these difficult days we can find ways to learn from and support others in our community while we await the time when we can do even more. Going forward, we will be different, we will be better and we will be loved sheep.

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*