

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Catholic Communities of

St. Mary's Holy Family and St. James

Parish Contact Information



Father Doug MacDonald, Pastor, 902-836-3609

Fr. Doug's weekly day off is Wednesday

Website: www.holyfamilystjames.ca

St. James Parish Contacts:

Parish Council Chair: Adrien Wedge 902-432-0229
Property and Finance Chair: Paul Brown 902-432-4704
Treasurer: Lorraine Mulligan 902-439-3107
Cemetery Committee: John MacIssac 902-439-0740
KENSINGTON & AREA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL: Betha Campbell bertha.campbell@gmail.com
Music Ministry: Carrie Rogers 902-439-1430
Prayer Ministry: Please call Debbie Gallant 902-836-5436
Liturgical Schedule: Lorraine Mulligan 902-439--3107

St. Mary's Holy Family Contacts:

Parish Council Chair: Mary Pendergast 902-888-9542
Property and Finance Chair: Kenny MacLellan 902-432-0541
Cemetery Committee: Gilbert Arsenault, Don Evan, Kenny MacLellan
KENSINGTON & AREA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL: Paula Aylward 902-439-3487 Lynn Croken lynncroken@hotmail.com
Music Ministry: Mary Pendergast 902-888-9542
Prayer Ministry: Please call Debbie Gallant 902-836-5436
Liturgical Schedule: Denise Jakubiak 902-303-0025
Pastoral Secretary: Joanne McCarvill 902-836-5029
To receive Bulletin via email please email smhfsj17@gmail.com

The Diocesan Misconduct Advisory Team has been established for action related to complaints of misconduct or sexual abuse. The Misconduct reporting telephone number is 902-892-1252.

Mass Intentions are welcome

For clarification, as directed by the Diocese, the offering for a Mass stipend is \$10.00. This is the standard amount set for Mass intentions throughout the Diocese. You can email your request, use one of the Mass cards available on the ushers table or make arrangements directly with Fr. Doug by calling 902-836-3609.

Weekday Masses February 23-27, 2026, Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 9am – Holy Family

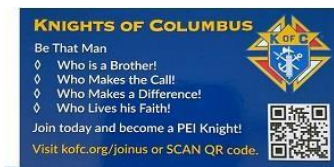
Sunday March 1, 2026, Mass Intentions:

9:00am Holy Family – Marvin MacKinnon

10:30am St. James –

Weekday Mass is cancelled if there is a funeral.

Confessions before/after weekday Mass or by appointment.



Knights meet at Holy Family Church on the **first Monday** of the month at 7:00pm with Mass at 6:30pm.



CWL meets at Holy Family Church on the **second Tuesday** of the month at 7:00pm with Mass at 6:30pm
All women 18+ welcome.

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Lector: Confirmation Candidates (rescheduled from Feb. 22)

Eucharistic Minister: Audrey Glover

Welcoming Ministry: Confirmation Candidates

Ushers: Confirmation Candidates

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Lector: Edna Ferrish-Clark

Eucharistic Minister: Marion Curley

Welcoming Ministry: CWL

Usher: Kenny MacLellan

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS

ST. JAMES PARISH: \$500.00

ST. MARY'S HOLY FAMILY PARISH: \$1,070.00 cash \$25.00 direct deposit



Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

If you would like to send your donation by E transfer, please

Email: smhfsj17@gmail.com

Bulletin announcements are to be sent to smhfsj17@gmail.com or phone Joanne at 902-836-5029. Announcements are due no later than Wednesdays at Noon.

Parish and Community News

February 23, 7:00PM Holy Family	Kensington & Area Christian Council meeting
February 26, 6:30PM Holy Family	To establish a joint Parish OutReach Program – All Parishioners Welcome
March 1, 9:00AM Holy Family	Confirmation 'Mass as Class'
March 2, 6:30PM Holy Family	Mass followed by KofC at 7PM

World Day of Prayer 2026-Kensington

Please join us for the World Day of Prayer 2026 at the Presbyterian Church in Kensington on Friday, March 6 at 10:30am. Storm Date: Friday, March 13 at 10:30am. Information about the World Day of Prayer 2026 is identified in the News from the Diocese – there will also be a

service at 2:00pm at Holy Redeemer Church, Charlottetown on Friday, March 6, 2026.

An Outreach Committee meeting will be held at St. Mary's – Holy Family Church on Thursday, February 26th at 6:30pm to investigate whether there is interest from parishioners of St. Mary's – Holy Family and St. James Parishes to distribute Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in and to offer home visits to those unable to attend Masses and activities that take place throughout the year. Interested persons are invited to attend a short meeting to brain-storm possibilities of an Outreach Committee beginning for our parishes.

Annual Meeting St. Mary's Holy Family Parish will be holding its Annual Parish meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2026, following the 9:00am Mass. This meeting will highlight the financial and Pastoral happenings of the parish for the 2025 year. Financial Statements will be available at the meeting. All parishioners are invited to stay in the church following the Sunday morning Mass March 15th for this meeting.

St. Mary's Holy Family Cemetery policy and site map are now available on the website under the section 'Our Parish'. You are encouraged to check it out at www.holyfamilystjames.ca

News from the Diocese

Lenten Faith Formation "Catholicism" by Bishop Robert Barron Join us this Lent for an inspiring journey through the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith. Each session is held on Tuesday at 7:00 PM at Holy Redeemer Church and will last approximately 90 minutes. Dates and session topics are as follows: **Feb 24 Happy Are We** (The Teachings of Jesus); **March 03 The Mystery of God** (Holy Trinity); **March 10 Mary, the Mother of God**; **March 24 St. Peter and St. Paul**. All are welcome to join us as we grow together this Lenten season!

This Lent, PEI Life Association is holding its annual baby bottle campaign, **Change4LIFE**, from **Feb 18th to Mar 29th**, to promote **LIFE** on PEI. Join us in helping advance the beauty of **LIFE** on PEI. **Change4LIFE** is one of many ways that **PEI Life** aims to help the most vulnerable on PEI and make changes for **LIFE!** There are two ways to support: **In-person** by taking a bottle from the back of the church; choose a bottle, sign up bottle number and your name, fill the bottle, and return it on **Sunday, Mar 29th**, Palm Sunday or as an **Online option** at: www.PEILIFE.org. Questions: Call Pat at 902-894-5473 or email office@peilife.org

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada's 2026 Share Lent campaign On Track for Justice, is now launched. Together, let's support the work with communities in the Global South who are working for Justice, peace and dignity, **by donating** to the Share Lent collection on March 22, or online at devp.org/give and reading the **mini-magazine** and following the **Solidarity Calendar**.

Theology on Tap Join us for our next event with our guest Dr. Doug Al-Maini from St. Francis Xavier University, with a talk on Greek mysticism leading into the Christian era. 7:00 on March 12th at the Salvador Dali Cafe.

Navigating and Surviving Eldercare Workshop, Tuesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. - As parents, grandparents, neighbours, and parishioners age, many of us find ourselves asking hard questions. What kinds of support and advocacy are needed? How do we respond well? What role do families and faith communities play? This workshop, led by **Mr. Patrick Cassidy, KC**, draws on both his professional expertise and personal experience to address the challenges of navigating and surviving eldercare with compassion and care. The workshop is available by zoom or on campus at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. Cost is \$25, Free for students. For more information or to register, contact **Lydia** at lydia.hood@asttheology.ns.ca.

On behalf of Rev. James Willick, our new Diocesan Administrator, we would like to share the following statement by the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic

Bishops (CCCB) in Support of Bill C-218: "An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)." The CCCB supports Bill C-218, which seeks to stop "MAiD" for mental illness alone, and encourages the Catholic faithful, in communion with their local Bishop, and all people of goodwill, to express their support for the same. We further call on the government to allow free conscience voting on this matter, given its profound moral and social implications. Human life is a gift that must be protected and valued at every stage and in every circumstance. As Canada's Bishops have consistently affirmed, euthanasia and assisted suicide – whether for the sick, the dying, persons with disabilities, or those with mental illness – are always morally unacceptable. As Christians, our response to persons living with mental illness should be modelled after the powerful witness of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), who, rather than abandoning his neighbour in need, responded personally with charity, compassion, care, and self-sacrifice, acting as a bearer of God's love and as a sign of hope. For additional details, you may access the media release and CCCB writings on euthanasia and assisted suicide at: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide/>.

The second period of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), called the Catechumenate, will soon end with the Rite of Election. The Rite of Election includes the enrollment of the names of all the Catechumens seeking to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at the Easter Vigil. As we are without a bishop, our Diocesan Administrator, **Rev. James Willick**, will officially elect the catechumens based on testimony from godparents and catechists. The Rite involves affirming the intention of the catechumens, the enrollment of names in the Book of the Elect, and Father Jim declaring them the Elect. **The Rite of Election will be held at St. Dunstan's Basilica Cathedral on February 22, 2026, at the 10:00 am Mass.** Following this, the Elect enter a period of purification and enlightenment in preparation for receiving the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. This year, the Easter Vigil will take place on Saturday, April 4.

Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre invites you to visit their new website, <https://hopepei.com/>. Check out their Facebook and Instagram pages as well, at https://fb.watch/F3al_SWVju/ and <https://www.instagram.com/>

Reflection

First Sunday of Lent February 22, 2026

Fr. Doug shares an excerpt with us this week from "I Have Given them Your Word":

As we begin the season of Lent, these readings from Genesis, Paul, and Matthew direct us to reflect on the power of sin and grace in our lives. In the reading from Genesis, sin enters the world as humanity attempts to be like God in God's knowledge of good and evil. Paul tells us that, since Christ's coming, the knowledge we have of good and evil is this: we live in a world broken by sin, and a world touched by the graciousness of God. This challenges us to recognize around us the power of good and evil and to become aware of our solidarity in both.

We influence one another continually toward good or toward evil. On the personal level, we touch one another's lives in ways which enable others to become their best selves or less than they could be. The breakdown of relationships, which is the power of sin, can spread and be fueled by the smallest words and actions in a marriage, a family, a church community, an office or a neighbourhood.