



Star of the Sea

STELLA MARIS PARISH NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Journey



Father Rob Reflects...

This edition of our parish newsletter is called, *Celebrating the Journey*, and what a journey it has been!

Five years ago, our parish came into being through the amalgamation of four distinct communities of faith. Each church brought with it a rich history, beloved traditions, and deeply rooted relationships.

Five years on, we have become a parish that worships together in spirit and truth. Our liturgies have become places of vibrant praise and reverent encounter with the Lord. We serve one another and the wider community with open hands and compassionate hearts. And slowly but surely, bonds of friendship and unity are forming as we discover what it means to be one family of faith.

Our parish name reflects our desire to be a safe harbour for the weary, a guiding light for those navigating rough waters, and a place of hope for those searching for Christ. Under the patronage of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, we are becoming that very place for more and more people every day.

In this special edition of the newsletter, you'll hear from Clarissa Sit, whose life was touched and transformed by Stella Maris. You'll read about the work of the Pastoral Council as we plan for the future, and you'll see signs of the Holy Spirit at work in our ministries, events, and outreach.

As we celebrate this five-year milestone, let us give thanks for how far we've come and look ahead with great hope. The journey isn't over—it's just beginning. May we continue to walk together in faith, united in love, and open to all that God desires to do in us and through us.

Here's to the next chapter of the journey. Stella Maris, pray for us!

Fr. Rob Elford

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Mass Times

Saturday Mass: 4pm
Sunday Mass: 8am & 10am
Tuesday: 7pm
Wed/Thurs/Friday: 9am
First Saturday: 9am





Journeying With Him

Written by Simon Lee

Hello Stella Maris! My name is Simon Lee and I am the chair of the Stella Maris Pastoral Council, which is a council of lay members from the parish concerned with fostering pastoral activity in our faith community. In particular, we work on creating and implementing strategic, longer term pastoral plans focused on the formation, mission and build up of the community of faith at Stella Maris within a 3-5 year timeframe. Through prayer we open ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, striving to listen to His promptings about the pastoral life of Stella Maris and seeking to discern the plans that He has for all of us in this parish.

The theme for this month, "Celebrating the Journey," encourages each one of us to reflect on the five year anniversary of the creation of our parish and see how the Holy Spirit has touched our hearts and moved us to combine our former communities into the one community of faith, hope and love that Stella Maris has become. As our pastor often reminds us, Jesus didn't promise us that life would be easy, but that He would send the Holy Spirit to journey with us as we take up our cross each day and follow Him. I believe the proof of this promise is the vibrant parish life that we have created together.

Our individual journeys as missionary disciples can only make progress when we each have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which comes from living a life of consistent, honest prayer and receiving grace through participation in the Sacraments and performing humble service for others. As we all work together to implement the goals of our pastoral plan, we will come to experience all the ways in which our journey together will make us alive in our faith and deepen our love of Jesus Christ in our hearts, continuing the transformation of our parish and our community. We are really excited by what the Holy Spirit has planned for us all in the years ahead - we hope you are too!

You can email the Stella Maris Pastoral Council anytime at pastoralcouncil@stellamarishalifax.com - we'd love to hear from you.

WANT MORE TO READ?

Check out *A New Way to be Church: Parish Renewal from the Outside In* by Jack Jezreel

Lives Transformed: Clarissa's Story

My family and I started attending Mass at Stella Maris last Easter. Joining the Parish has been absolutely transformative for us; our boys were quickly swept up into the youth group, my husband and I got involved with the OCIA classes, and we always look forward to Adult Faith Formation, Eventide and any special events in the Parish.

Stella Maris has even helped me weave my personal development with community. I have walked the path to discipleship with an incredibly supportive book study group, who have encouraged and guided me through a daily Advent devotional, "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory", and a book on Lenten reflections. It is no coincidence that this past Advent and this Lent have been my most intentional and meaningful seasons of preparation yet.

Beyond our spiritual growth and our newfound sense of community, we have also been blessed with the opportunity to serve. My husband and I serve on the rotation of Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, and our boys help out with the AV. Stella Maris is a blessing for us all!



Stepping Out

AN INVITATION FOR YOU:

STELLA MARIS PARISH EASTER MISSION

"Be, Grow, Go" - Living as Disciples of Christ

DATES & TIMES:

- **June 3rd & 4th:** Presentation at 7pm, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions.
- **June 5th:** Mass at 7pm.

We're excited to invite you to our Parish Easter Mission taking place on June 3rd, 4th, and 5th at 7:00pm each evening. This three-night gathering is an opportunity for us to come together as a faith community to reflect, pray, and be renewed in our mission as disciples of Christ.

Centered on our Parish Pastoral Plan - Be, Grow, Go - each evening, Fr. Rob will explore how we are called to BE disciples, GROW as disciples and GO spread the Good News. The format will be the same as the recent Lenten mission: 45 min presentation followed by 45 minutes of Eucharistic Adoration. On the third night we will gather for Mass as we consider how this pastoral plan can shape our parish life and our personal journey of faith.

Mark your calendars and join us as we walk together in Easter joy and discipleship. All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend! Let's discover where Christ is leading us next.

The Bulletin

HALL RENOVATION

The church hall will be undergoing renovations starting June 2nd. These renovations include creating additional meeting rooms, and modernizing the hall and bathrooms. The duration will be approximately 6 weeks. We look forward to using the new, refreshed space for all our parish ministries!

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT: Multicultural Coffee Social - June 1st @ 11AM

The Immigrant Support Committee invites everyone to a Multicultural Coffee Social on Sunday June 1st, after the 10am mass in the church hall. All parishioners are welcome to bring your favourite traditional treats. These should be dropped off in the hall prior to the 10am mass. Please email "newcomers@stellamarishalifax.com" before Monday May 26th if you can help prepare coffee/tea and lay out food, or help with clean up between 9am-12pm Sunday June 1st. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

COLUMBARIUM

If you are interested in purchasing a niche, please call our Parish Manager Joanne at 902-477-3530 ext. 3.

JUNE PILGRIMAGE

As part of the Jubilee year, we will be undertaking a Parish Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Basilica (5221 Spring Garden Rd) on June 14th at 9am. After, we will be celebrating Mass at the Basilica at 12 noon. We look forward to journeying together as a Parish!

EVENTIDE: May 27th @ 7PM

Eventide will be held on May 27th at 7pm. Please join us and consider inviting a friend.

PLEASE SUBMIT BULLETIN ITEMS FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE BY MAY 20TH, 2025

PARISH RESOURCES

Funeral Information and Bookings: funerals@stellamarishalifax.com

Immigrant Support Committee: newcomers@stellamarishalifax.com

Community Outreach: outreach@stellamarishalifax.com

Home Communion: homecommunion@stellamarishalifax.com

Responsible Ministry: office@stellamarishalifax.com

St. Vincent de Paul: 902-479-0630

Giving: e-transfer to the Parish at: giving@stellamarishalifax.com

MEET THE TEAM!

Fr. Rob Elford, Pastor:

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GET CONNECTED

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[WANT TO RECEIVE TEXTS ABOUT PARISH UPDATES?](#)

Text "hi" to +1 (833) 230-3288 and add us to your contacts!

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