



ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

16 Smithville Crescent, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
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Pastor: esmith@jesuits.ca

Archdiocesan Webpage: rcsj.org

Father Earl Smith, SJ (Pastor)

Father Wayne Bolton, SJ (Associate Pastor)

Father William Browne, SJ (Superior of St. John's Jesuits; Assistant Priest in Residence)

Father Joe Schuck, SJ (Ministry at St. Bonaventure's College)

Father Joe Mroz, SJ (Archdiocesan Chaplain at Memorial University)

Brother Joe Frechette, SJ (Ministry at St. Bonaventure's College)

Maria R. Kelsey (Pastoral Assistant and Religious Education Coordinator)

2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 6, 2015

COME LORD JESUS. COME AND BE BORN IN OUR HEARTS.

Advent is a time of anticipation of Christmas when everyone is flush with activities in preparation of our encounter with the Living Christ-child. Therefore, we invite you to consider the list of possible ways to observe Advent, and select one or two or three that helps to make ready your heart for the gift of our Saviour.

Choose as you please but please choose 'something'. [smile]

Pray each day for someone you know who needs a gentle welcome to join us at St. Pius X for Christmas Mass.

Buy socks and/or underwear for the "guests" of The Gathering Place and place them in the parish provided boxes in the church.

Begin or renew family "Grace Before Meals".

Phone or visit a shut-in or someone you know who is lonely.

Participate in a Sacramental Reconciliation Service.

Read and think about the mystery of Jesus, the Son of God, becoming human for you, for humanity. It is proclaimed in the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1 and 2. Read a few verses or even a paragraph each day so that it can take root in your heart. Imagine yourself in these sacred stories.

Consciously pray for an end to war each night before going to sleep.

Challenge yourself to spend less time each day in whatever form of social media you prefer. Use that time to reach out to another person through an act of charity.

Explore ways that you might participate in our parish's commitment to bring a refugee family to St. John's.

Visit the Basilica of St. John the Baptist here in St. John's. Deepen your commitment to a life of mercy and forgiveness by symbolically walking through the Holy Doors for the Year of Mercy. Renew your commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, martyr of non-violent love.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS
FOR NEXT SUNDAY
December 13**

You could read/discuss/pray with your family, with friends or by yourself.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (R.6)

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:
YEAR OF MERCY BEGINS**

Archbishop Martin Currie has requested the city parishes refrain from celebrating Mass any time on **Tuesday, December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** Instead, he invites Catholic St. John's to join him with our priests at the **Basilica of St. John the Baptist** at **7 pm.** There will be a special +blessing of the **Year of Mercy Holy Door** at evening Mass. **Therefore, the 9:30 am and 7:30 pm Masses at St. Pius X Church are cancelled on Tuesday, December 8th.** Parishioners are encouraged to tell out-of-parish visitors about this change in our Mass schedule.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Advent is a customary time for **Reconciliation Services** throughout our Archdiocese.

St. Teresa's: Thursday, December 10 at 7 pm

St. Pius X: Tuesday, December 15 at 7 pm
No Evening Mass in this Parish

St. Patrick's: Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm

Basilica: Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm

There will be numerous confessors from other Parishes.

UPDATE: ASSISTED SUICIDE

Canada's federal government has asked Quebec to postpone implementation of its euthanasia law. Quebec had scheduled implementation of its euthanasia law for December 10.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) intervened in a court case launched by Physicians for Social Justice, asking the court for an injunction to stop the launch of the Quebec euthanasia law on December 10, 2015.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE NOTES**

Advent Dinner

The St. Pius X Council of the CWL of Canada is inviting all parishioners and friends to join us for an **Advent Dinner** on **Wednesday, December 9.** Doors open at 5:30 pm. **Prayer Service and Dinner** will begin at **6 pm.** **Tickets, \$25.,** can be purchased by contacting **Ruby Sharpe - 579-7275, Cecilia Fitzpatrick - 722-2648 or Parish Office - 754-0170.**

**CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE: TO REMEMBER
THOSE WHO DIED BY SUICIDE**

This annual Vigil will be held **Sunday, December 13, 3 pm** at **St. Patrick's Church, Patrick Street.** It is held to support family and friends during the difficult holiday season. Share in music, poems, prayers and candle lighting. Everyone is invited to bring a framed photograph of their loved one to be displayed during the vigil. Music by Shelley Neville, Peter Halley and Dan Dillon. All are welcome! Please feel free to bring along cookies/cake for tea following the Parking: Parking is available in Convent Square and Church Parking Lot on Patrick Street.

NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Basilica Museum will once again host the exhibit of **Nativities from Around the World,** until **December 23.** If you would like to donate or loan a favourite Nativity set, please come in or call **Rene Estrada** at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, **726-3660** or **restrada@rcsj.org** . If you would like to volunteer as a tour guide and interpreter, call **Anne Walsh** at **726-3660, ext 233,** or e-mail **awalsh@rcsj.org** .

PARISH SKATING PARTY

The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring the annual Parish Skating Party on **December 26** at **1 - 2 pm** in **Bussey Arena, 45 Bonaventure Avenue.**

The smell of the freshly Zambonied ice, the feel of new skates being laced up, the aroma of gourmet hot chocolate and Timbits. Do something good for the body and burn off approximately 750 calories of turkey! All parishioners and friends invited.

No hockey sticks, please. This is an annual tradition since St. Pius X was a boy!

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

Advent Wreath Making Activity

This *Sunday, December 6* you are invited to the *Parish Hall* immediately after the 11 am Mass (approximately *12 noon*) to pick up your materials to make your own Advent Wreath for your home.

Michael J. Ward Advent Brunch and Mitten Tree Donation

The *Advent Brunch*, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee, will be held *Sunday, December 13* in the *Parish Hall* following the 11 am Mass (approximately *12 noon*). Brunch will include sausages, french toast, beverage and desert. There will be no charge for the event but parishioners are asked to bring a donation of a new hat and mittens. Financial donations toward this cause will also be accepted. The contributions will be used by the ATTN Committee for distribution with the Christmas hampers.

CHRISTMAS NEWS

The ATTN Committee is now preparing for the Christmas Hampers. Last year we distributed approximately 120 hampers and we expect a similar number of requests this year. If you are considering financially supporting this activity, it would be very much appreciated. Please mark the envelope **CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATION**. *Please include your name, address and envelope number.*

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Christmas. Families are encouraged to help. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome. If you are interested in helping with this Ministry, contact the *Parish Office - 754-0170* or stpiusx@nl.rogers.com by *Friday, December 11*.

The Parish will be accepting donations of flowers and plants to decorate the Church for Christmas. Parishioners are invited to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Donations of flowers and plants are welcome. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection and marked **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**, or dropped off at the Parish Office. Envelopes for these donations are available from the tables at the Church and Chapel entrances.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKENDS OF

November 21 and 22: \$4,174.05

November 28 and 29: \$3,773.17

Thank you for your continued generous support

PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Cardinal Turkson says Pope Frances deliberately published his encyclical of loving concern for our planet home in June so that it would be part of the international dialogue leading up the U.N. Climate Change Conference being held in Paris, November 30th to December 11th. In paragraph 188 Pope Frances says the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. Yet, the Pope wants to encourage frank debate and dialogue in order to achieve a broad consensus in responding to these major problems facing humanity. Furthermore, he promotes prayer in support of conference aims and goals as expressed with the following words:

A Prayer for the Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we many protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this
earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
That we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and
destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

*Pope Frances,
Laudato Si'*

FR. EARL DREAMS

YEAR OF MERCY

Our banner for **Year of Mercy** is prominently displayed before us.

Its image requires further explanation. It represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion, the mystery of his Incarnation culminating in redemption. The logo has been designed so it can express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity. It does so with the love and with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so-called *mandoria* (shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colours progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker colour suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

St. John's, NL, Archdiocesan Sources

OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

Bob forgot his wedding anniversary and his wife was mad. She told him, "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0-200 in six seconds, and it better be there!" The next morning when his wife woke up, she looked out the window to find a gift wrapped box in the middle of the driveway. She opened it and found a brand new bathroom scale. Bob has been missing since Friday.

SAINTS SPEAK

In the same way lies (untruths) have gone out from people's hearts, penetrating throughout the world and destroying it, so will the truth begin in healing service within our hearts.

Light (Advent) candles wherever you can, you who can have them. They are a real symbol of what must be, if we want to live.

Alfred Delp, SJ, Martyr of Nazi Germany,
(Advent Meditation, Tegel Prison, December 1944)

The celebration of the Word made flesh, is also the celebration of all women and men who have incarnated the message of Jesus in their lives. We tell the stories of prophets, liberators, and martyrs of not so long ago, whose lives challenge us to hold to our commitment to God and to be open to the Spirit who frees us from the bondage of our addictions and fears. Remembering Jesus, we make him a part of our lives. Remembering those who have followed him unites us with them.

Elizabeth Meluck, OCD

(Peoples' Companion to the Breviary, Carmelites of Indianapolis, 1997, page 203)

A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

Congratulations to recently elected MHAs. Parishioner Bernard Davis has been elected to serve the people of Virginia Water – Pleasantville. Veteran politician Lorraine Michael is the MHA for St. John's East, the same district in which our parish is located. God +bless them both as they take up their duties. May they focus on providing good government and supportive legislation that truly favours all residents of our beloved province.

If I were but sure that I should live to see the coming of the Lord, it would be most joyful tidings in the world. O that I might see His kingdom come! It is the characteristic of His saints to love His appearing, and to look for that blessed hope. "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Richard Baxter

A Paris Climate Summer - Paris COP 21 **Multi faith Prayer Service Walk**, sponsored by the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice will be held **Sunday, December 6, 2 pm** beginning at the Basilica steps, on the steps of the Anglican Cathedral, on to the steps of Gower Street United Church and culminating at Harbor Side Park. Come and send positive energy to the Paris Talks.

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 6	8:30 am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	
		11:00 am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	
		12:00 pm	Advent Wreath Making Activity - Parish Hall		
		7:00 pm	Youth Mass - Church		
Mon.	Dec. 7	9:30 am	Mass	Thomas Doyle	
		1:00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel		
		7:30 pm	Mass	Catherine Conway	
Tues.	Dec. 8	9:30 am	NO MASS		
		7:00 pm	YEAR OF MERCY MASS - Basilica		
		7:30 pm	NO MASS		
Wed.	Dec. 9	9:30 am	Mass	Jack Barry	
		6:00 pm	CWL Advent Prayer Service and Dinner - Parish Hall		
Thurs.	Dec. 10	9:30 am	Mass	Hanton and Walsh Families	
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice - Church		
Fri.	Dec. 11	9:30 am	Mass	Thomas and Genevieve Burke; Harold and Victoria Smith	
Sat.	Dec. 12	9:30 am	Mass	Teresa Marshall	
		4:45 pm	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent	
Sun.	Dec 13	8:30 am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent	
		11:00 am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent	
		12:00 pm	Michael J. Ward Advent Brunch and Mitten Tree Donation - Parish Hall		
		7:00 pm	Youth Mass - Church		

WEBSITES: Three to recommend are:

www.jesuits.ca www.ignatianspirituality.com www.jesuitresources.org

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 3:30 - 4:20 pm
Tuesday: 6:40 - 7:20 pm

TIMES OF MASSES: Monday and Tuesday: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30 am
Saturday: 9:30 am and 4:45 pm; Sunday: 8:30 and 11 am

BAPTISMS: *Second Sunday* of the month. **Time:** 1 pm in the Church.
Please call the Parish Office (754-0170) **ONE MONTH** in advance
PRE-BAPTISMAL COURSE: *Call the Parish Office for more details.*

MARRIAGES: By appointment **SIX MONTHS** in advance
Marriage Preparation Course required

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 12 noon and 12:30 - 4:30 pm;
TELEPHONE: 754-0170 **FAX:** 754-1963 **E-MAIL:** stpiusx@nl.rogers.com

CHAIRPERSON OF PARISH COUNCIL: 726-7236
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: 747-5874 or 753-6997