



ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Pastor: esmith@jesuits.ca

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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)

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 13, 2015

12 CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

1. **Faith** Father God, it is by Your graces we have been saved, and through our faith - this is not from ourselves, but a gift from you - not by our works. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)
2. **Hope** May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. (*Romans 15:4*)
3. **Love** Help us to love because You first loved us. (*1 John 4:19*)
4. **Forgiveness** Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. (*1 John 1:9*)
5. **Mercy** Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. (*Luke 6:36*)
6. **Kindness** Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, You forgave us. (*Ephesians 4:32*)
7. **Generosity** Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! (*2 Corinthians 9:11*)
8. **Compassion** Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. (*1 Peter 3:8*)
9. **Joy** Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (*Romans 12:12*)
10. **Salvation** Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to You. (*John 14:6*)
11. **Obedience** Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. (*James 1:22-25*)
12. **Life** Thank you for coming, that we might have life and have it to the full. (*John 10:10*)

SOURCE: Internet

**SCRIPTURE READINGS
FOR NEXT SUNDAY
December 20**

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

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a
Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Psalm: 80
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

**MATERCARE INTERNATIONAL (MCI)
AND THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY**

Pope Francis said in a proclamation titled "*Misericordiae Vultus*" ("*The Face of Mercy*") he wants the year, to be a time for Catholics to contemplate just how merciful God has been to them and in return to answer the call to provide compassion, the "balm of Mercy" to others.

MCI, is strengthening its efforts to provide essential obstetrical care at its maternity hospital in the the County (Province) of Isiolo, Kenya for which it recently received an award of excellence for the quality care provided, from the county's ministry of health. MCI is also most grateful for the generous donation of \$1,500 which formed part of a bequest made to the parish by a parishioner for charitable work.

Pope Francis asked that every diocese in the world designate a "Door of Mercy" at their cathedral or another special church or shrine. Please help MCI's door of mercy to be one to a hospital that serves the needs of poor mothers.

As health professionals, we can also practice repentance, review our actions and past wrongs, commit to change, and be transformed by God's mercy.

Dr. Robert Walley

DONATIONS

Christmas is the time of year many parishioners consider which charities they wish to support. As most of you know the parish does support both local and international charities.

Donations received before December 31, 2015 will be issued an income tax receipt for the 2015 tax year which can be used to reduce your taxes.

Donations may be directed towards any parish charity of your choice.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE NOTES**

Many thanks to those parishioners who donated to the CWL Christmas pajamas drive. These have been distributed to many grateful recipients. Thank you very much for your generosity.

**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 Service. Parking is available in Convent Square and Church Parking Lot on Patrick Street.

JESUIT VOLUNTEERS CANADA

Interested in spending a year or so living in a Catholic community and working with the poor? Over 20? Consider joining ***Jesuit Volunteers Canada***. Current missions include Toronto, Regina, and Anishinabe Spiritual Centre.

For more information visit www.jesuitvolunteers.ca or speak to a ***Jesuit - Father Joe Mroz, SJ - ej_mroz@yahoo.ca***.

If you are a student, staff, or faculty at the College of the North Atlantic, this is for you. CNA approached the chaplains at MUN to see if we could spend some time at CNA and we jumped at the chance! Details aren't worked out yet. In the meantime, your Catholic Chaplain is me, Father Joseph Mroz, SJ. I live at St. Pius X Parish with my brother Jesuits. My phone number is ***743-0458***, and my email is **ej_mroz@yahoo.ca**. I've started a facebook group called ***CNA Catholic Community***. Let's get something great going!

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
FOR THE WEEKENDS OF**

November 28 and 29: \$3,773.17

December 5 and 6: \$4,547.04

Thank you for your continued generous support.

**ATTENTION:
PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS**

Next *Sunday, December 20*, will be the last Sunday before Christmas holidays for our *Liturgy of the Word and Sacramental programs*. All our programs will resume on Sunday, January 10, 2016.

However, **DeMello** will still be here for our children at all Sunday, 11 am Masses as well as Christmas Eve Mass at 7 pm, Christmas Day Mass at 11 am and New Year's Day Mass at 11 am.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

**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 gift cards.

CHRISTMAS NEWS

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Christmas on *December 20 at 12 noon*. 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.

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.

SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR

We are collecting new *adult-size socks and underwear, especially large sized*, for the guests of *The Gathering Place*. You can place these donations in the box on the table at the *Church entrance*.

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*.

Come one and all, enjoy the free gourmet hot chocolate and possibly gourmet Timbits while your toes and fingers tingle with delight and frostbite. Get some exercise, and rest your thumbs from playing video games. Friends and parishioners all invited, all free. We'll even tie up your skates for you!

**UPDATE:
SYRIAN REFUGEE RELIEF COMMITTEE**

We have now reached the point where we have initiated the search for a potential refugee family for the parish to co-sponsor with the Association for New Canadians. Once a family has been identified, we will inform you about our need for volunteers and further financial support. We will also be contacting parishioners who have already volunteered.

Please continue to pray for all refugees, for all who are trying to alleviate their suffering, and for our parish as we move forward to bring a family to our community.

**REST IN PEACE
FATHER DON BEAUDOIS, SJ**

Father Don Beaudois, SJ passed away on *Tuesday, December 6, 2015* at Rene Goupil House in Pickering, Ontario. Father Don served here, first as assistant pastor and chaplain at the Health Sciences Complex. He then served as pastor.

Father Don was known for his care for the sick, and also for starting our Liturgy of the Word and Sacramental Preparation Programs for our children and youth, with Brian McDonald. Our families are now benefitting from the programs

There will be a Mass in his memory on *Thursday, December 17, 9:30 am* in the *Church*. All are welcome.

Copies of his obituary are available from the tables at the Church and Chapel entrances.

MUN CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Our daily Mass continues until December 18 and our Sunday evening Mass ends on December 13. We will resume Sunday evening 7 pm Mass on January 10.

FR. EARL DREAMS

On the evening of December 8th Archbishop, Martin Currie, celebrated the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception* alongside Catholic Newfoundland. This was indeed a wondrous occasion at our famed Basilica as the Holy Door was +blessed as a symbolic passageway leading to our reception of *Year of Mercy* graces.

God's true identity is beyond anything we limited human beings might say of God. Yet, with our knowledge God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have heart-felt knowledge of God as the Merciful One.

God is merciful as self-giving life. All life is a gift from one source who is God. Love cannot be earned. It is (never) deserved. Love is its own reward. God therefore loves us, no matter what are our life circumstances. God give us the means to grow and be transformed into our better selves. Yet, we, God's chosen and beloved people don't 'get it'.

It takes us a life time to learn the lessons of God's merciful Son, Jesus. We are slow to process our hurts and pains and often suffer unnecessarily, and for a long time. It is not easy and often impossible to reflect God's merciful likeness as Jesus invites us when we pray the *Our Father*. "It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension."

Pope Francis, Homily, March 2013

Today's story is one model of forgiveness that exceeds our wildest imaginings for what God know knows is possible for us as instruments of mercy. It can be read as a 'too good to be true' example of human mercy and forgiveness. Yet, to be merciful is what characterizes us Christians as uniquely chosen servants of God's merciful action in this world.

DAKOTA MERCY

Novelist Ella Cara Deloria tells a story that beautifully depicts how the cross became an experience of salvation for a tribe of Dakota Indians. When one of the young males in the tribe is murdered, the infuriated kinsfolk gather to decide how to settle the ordeal. The elder in the tribe listens quietly to the angry debate. Eventually he speaks difficult words of wisdom. He tells them that he understands their rage and their desire to kill the murderer. "However," he suggests, "there is a better way—and that the fire of hate may not burn on in his heart or in ours, we shall take that better way."

The elder tells the relatives to go home and bring their most prized possession as a gift for the murderer. In giving him these gifts they are to make him their relative in place of the one who has been killed. "Was the dead man your brother? Then this man shall be your brother. Was he your uncle? Or, your cousin? As for me," the elder says "the dead was my nephew. Therefore, his slayer shall be my nephew. From now on he shall be one of us. We shall regard him as though he were our dead kinsman returned to us." And so the tribe learned that although it is easy to fight violence with violence, it is nobler to forgive.

FATHER EARL DREAMS

(Continued)

The slayer was brought into the tipi, presented the gifts, offered the peace pipe, and told that from this day on the love and compassion they once had for their dead brother would now be his. Tears flowed from the murderer's eyes. A great silence fell upon the community. Words were not needed. Both he and his tribe were experiencing salvation. This story is an example of the foolishness of God that is wiser than human beings.

"Abide" by Macrina Wiederkehr Pg. 173

SAINTS SPEAK

I have been asked what God is doing in heaven. I answer; He has been giving his Son birth eternally, is giving him birth now and will go on giving him birth forever. The Father being in labor, as a woman giving birth to a child, in every virtuous soul.

Meister Eckhart

OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

Keeping a sense of humour in living the Christian life is a sure sign of the Spirit's work.

Every evening I turn my worries over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

Mary C. Crowley

I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.

Mother Teresa

Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.

Oscar Wilde

If someone cried in heaven, everyone would laugh for they would know you were just kidding.

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

Our parish *Advent Reconciliation Service* is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15th**, at **7:00 pm**

Signed copies of The Story of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist by Susan Chalker Browne now available at the Chapel entrance and at the Parish Office. All author royalties being donated to the Basilica Heritage Foundation. Makes a great Christmas present!

Advent Retreat *Come, Lord Jesus* will be held **Saturday, December 19** at the *Episcopal Library and Museum* at the *Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre* from **9 am - 12 noon**. *Facilitator* will be **Anne Walsh**.

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------------|---|---|
| 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 - Parish Hall | |
| | | 7:00 pm | Youth Mass - Church | |
| Mon. | Dec. 14 | 9:30 am | Mass | Greeley, Tilley and Pottle Families |
| | | 1:00 pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel | |
| | | 7:30 pm | Mass | George and Veronica Mills and Family |
| Tues. | Dec. 15 | 9:30 am | Mass | Carolyn Churchill |
| | | 7:00 pm | Reconciliation Service - Church | |
| Wed. | Dec. 16 | 9:30 am | Mass | Ron Dawson |
| Thurs. | Dec. 17 | 9:30 am | Mass | Father Don Beaudois, SJ |
| | | 7:30 pm | Choir Practice - Church | |
| Fri. | Dec. 18 | 9:30 am | Mass | Mary Furey, Sister Rosalita Furey and Ed Bruce |
| Sat. | Dec. 19 | 9:30 am | Mass | Theresa and Fred Thorne |
| | | 4:45 pm | Mass | 4 th Sunday of Advent |
| Sun. | Dec. 20 | 8:30 am | Mass | 4 th Sunday of Advent |
| | | 11:00 am | Mass | 4 th Sunday of Advent |
| | | 7:00 pm | Youth Mass resumes January 10, 2015 | |

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