



ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

16 Smithville Crescent, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
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Webpage: www.spx.ca

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)

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 20, 2015

ARCHBISHOP CURRIE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - 2015



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

As Christmastime approaches, airline flights are overbooked and airports and ferry terminals are packed with people trying to get home. Newfoundlanders, in particular, seem to feel that "homing instinct" very strongly. Why is this? The answer is actually very simple—it's because the heart of Christmas is love. The love that draws us to home, friends and family is an echo of God's love. The only reason that there is a Christmas is because of God's love. God loved humankind so much that God sent Jesus into the world to show us how to live in right relationship with one another and with all of creation. The only answer to that kind of love is to say "thank you." With grateful hearts, because God first loved us, we love God back

Love is a decision, and it takes hard work and commitment. We love God back by loving our sisters and brothers, especially those who are most in need, or those who sometimes seem invisible. It gives me great joy, as Christmas draws near, to wander through the exhibit of Nativity scenes in our Episcopal Library and Museum. Visitors leave gifts under the tree there, and we share these with the inner city food bank at Emmaus House. All over our Archdiocese, in dozens of parishes, thousands of people are doing the same thing, trying to make Christmas a little brighter for people who have a little less than we do. My friends, this is what love looks like in action. When I see how many people give of themselves to serve a nourishing and joy-filled Christmas dinner at one of our downtown churches, I see the witness of people who know what love is all about

As Christmas approaches, I watch the arrival of the first Syrian refugees to Canada on the TV and on the internet. As we welcome these strangers to our shore, let us give thanks to God, who has offered us this opportunity—and so many others—to practice love. Two thousand years ago, there was no room in the inn. This Christmas, may there be room in our hearts to welcome Christ, however He chooses to come

I wish each and every one of you a Christmas filled with joy and gratitude.

In Christ, I remain,

Most Reverend Martin W, Currie, DD
Archbishop of St. John's

**SCRIPTURE READINGS
FOR NEXT SUNDAY
December 27**

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

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Psalm: 128
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

**UPDATE:
SYRIAN REFUGEE RELIEF COMMITTEE**

We have initiated the search for a Refugee Family who we will co-sponsor with the Association for New Canadians. If you wish to help in any way, including volunteering or making a financial contribution, please contact the Parish Office - 754-0170 or email stpiusx@nl.rogers.com . Please pray for all refugee families this Christmas.

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.

PARISH SKATING PARTY

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

Everyone invited (sorry, no hockey sticks). Come for the free hot chocolate, the Timbits, and the smiles. Get a head start on your resolution to exercise more!

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S
MASS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
(Family Mass with children)

Please note change in time of this Mass

11:00 pm Christmas Midnight Mass
(Adult Liturgy)

Christmas Day Friday, December 25

8:30 am and 11:00 am

New Year's Eve Thursday, December 31

4:45 pm Mass Mary, Mother of God

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day Friday, January 1

11:00 am Mary, Mother of God

There will be ***NO 8:30 am Mass*** on New Year's Day

PARKING

There will be security in the parking lot Christmas Eve and your cooperation is requested to keep the fire and ambulance lanes open. Overflow parking is available at Gonzaga High School and the parking lot of Rennie's River Elementary (Elizabeth Avenue). Please **DO NOT** park in St. Patrick's Mercy Home lot. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PARISH OFFICE - HOLIDAY HOURS

The following is the schedule for the Parish Office during the Holiday Season:

Monday, December 21 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Tuesday, December 22 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday, December 23 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday, December 24 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday, December 25 - Monday, December 28

CLOSED

Tuesday, December 29 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday, December 30 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, December 31 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday, January 1 - Sunday, January 3

CLOSED

Monday, January 4 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 5 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
FOR THE WEEKENDS OF**

December 5 and 6: \$4,547.04

December 12 and 13: \$

Thank you for your continued generous support.

**ATTENTION:
PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS**

This Sunday, December 20 is the last Sunday for our Liturgy of the Word and sacramental preparation programs for 2015. 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.

MUN CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Share Christmas with an International Student - Hosts Wanted!

Memorial University's International Student Advising Office invites you to participate in the annual Holiday Hosting program. Over the past few years, local families have invited MUN international students to visit their home for dinner over Christmas. Interested hosts in the community welcomed international students and shared their traditional Christmas celebrations and a meal, allowing both hosts and students to celebrate together and experience a multicultural holiday.

We are seeking hosts who could welcome one or two students into their home on or around Christmas Day. You will be sent a few questions and hosts will be matched with interested students. To participate, please contact zaren@mun.ca

Chaplaincy is very international at MUN. I have students attending Mass or coming to my office from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Peru, El Salvador, Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Congo, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mexico, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. CCO also has several students from China doing faith studies with them.

We resume on January 5, 2016 with our next Sunday 7 pm Mass on January 10, 2016.

OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

A man was taking it easy, laying on the grass and looking up at the clouds. He was identifying shapes when he decided to talk to God.

*"God", he said, "how long is a million years?"
God answered, "In my frame of reference, it's about a minute."*

*The man asked, "God, how much is a million dollars?"
God answered, "To me, it's a penny."*

*The man then asked, "God, can I have a penny?"
God answered, "In a minute."*

FR. EARL DREAMS

Today we read our Archbishop's Christmas Message. I've got a simple and sincere message to offer you parishioners of St. Pius X, too. It is based on St. Paul's letter to the Christian Community at Phillippi. He is inspired to live the Gospel with hope for the (eventual) renewal and rebirth of God's Kingdom on earth! I feel the same way about all of you. There is no place on God's earth besides our parish I'd rather be these days of late Advent and later, Christmas Season.

I am, like Paul, filled with gratitude and joy to be in parish leadership and thank you (tons) for your support. My truth includes great satisfaction to be a resident of St. John's. Living here is very challenging for reasons to be made known elsewhere and at another time. Yet, God is alive and I am enlivened. Let's continue to contribute to the making of a Christian community that is beautiful, giving, welcoming and service orientated, especially with a focus on God's poor. +May God-with-us, Emmanuel be praised!

SAINTS SPEAK

Let's lovingly incline our will towards God and creation this and every day.

*Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed.
Even if sickness distracts thoughts,
all that is needed is the will to love.*

St. Teresa of Avila, *The Way of Perfection*

Perhaps any number of us might ask the Lord for the gift of child-like wonder this Christmas?

Several years before his death in '72, a remarkable rabbi, Abraham Joshua Heschel, suffered a near-fatal heart attack from which he never fully recovered. A dear friend visiting him then found him woefully weak. Just about able to whisper, Heschel said to him: "Sam, when I regained conscientiousness, my first feeling was not of despair or anger. I felt only gratitude to God for my life, for every moment I have lived. I was ready to depart. 'Take me, O Lord,' I thought, 'I have seen so many miracles in my lifetime. "Exhausted by the effort, Heschel paused then added: "That is what I meant when I wrote [in the preface to his book of Yiddish poems]: 'I did not ask for success; I asked for wonder. And you gave it to me.'"

Walter J. Burghardt, SJ, *Still Proclaiming Your Wonders*, p. 168, (1)

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 20	8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent 4 th Sunday of Advent
Mon.	Dec. 21	9:30 am 1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel Mass	Fitzpatrick and Cooper Families Michael and Mary Martin
Tues.	Dec. 22	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Mass	Edward and Iris Kendall William and Madeline Scott
Wed.	Dec. 23	9:30 am	Mass	Leo, Frances, and John Parrell
Thurs.	Dec. 24	9:30 am 7:00 pm 11:00 pm	Mass Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass	Evangeline Barry
Fri.	Dec. 25	8:30 am 11:00 am	Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass	
Sat.	Dec. 26	9:30 am 4:45 pm	Mass Mass	William and Eleanor Manning HOLY FAMILY
Sun.	Dec. 27	8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass Mass	HOLY FAMILY HOLY FAMILY

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