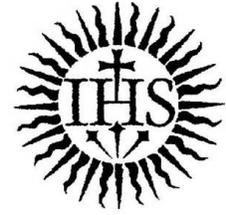




ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Archdiocesan Webpage: rcsj.org

Father Earl Smith, SJ (Pastor and Superior of St. John's Jesuits)

Father Wayne Bolton, S.J. (Associate Pastor)

Father William Browne, S.J. (Assistant Priest in Residence)

Father Joseph Schuck, S.J. (Ministry at St. Bonaventure's College)

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

Father Gregory Carruthers, S.J.

(Spiritual Formation in the Archdiocese of St. John's)

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

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

**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 4, 2016**

BEGINNING ADVENT GETTING IN TOUCH WITH MYSELF**

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

**Source: ignatianspirituality.com

**SCRIPTURE READINGS
FOR NEXT SUNDAY
December 11**

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

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Psalm: 146
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

SAINTS SPEAK

No soul can be really at rest until it has given up all dependence on everything else and has been forced to depend on the Lord alone. As long as our expectation is from other things, nothing but disappointment awaits us. Feelings may change, and will change with our changing circumstances; doctrines and dogmas may be upset; Christian work may come to naught; prayers may seem to lose their fervency; promises may seem to fail; everything that we have believed in or depended upon may seem to be swept away, and only God is left, just God, the bare God, if I may be allowed the expression; simply and only God.

Hannah Whitall Smith, 1832-1911, American born Christian Quaker (also lived in Britain)

“Prayer for the World,”

It voices (our) humanity’s deep need for God’s redemption as imaged in creation.

“Let the rain come down and wash away the ancient grudges,

The bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

Then, let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.

So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender, or skin colour.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.

So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbours.

And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbours.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.” Amen

Rabbi Harold Kushner, b. 1935, is an acclaimed author of spiritual books



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE NOTES**

Resolutions

At the National Convention of the CWL, several resolutions were introduced. We continue this week with Home Care.

Whereas food and drug products approved by Health Canada do not have adequate warning labels regarding all inactive substances and additives, such as coloring agents and excipients, which may cause adverse reactions; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of the CWL of Canada in its 96th Annual National Convention assembled, urge the federal government to require detailed warning labels on food and drug products containing all inactive substances and additives that may cause adverse reactions; to require that patient information sheets accompanying pharmaceuticals include a list of all inactive substances and potential adverse reactions; to engage in a program of public education focusing on the possible adverse effects of all inactive substances and additives.

Action: Write to Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister; Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health; and Hon. Nick Whalen, Federal Minister.

Advent Dinner

Parishioners are reminded that the *Advent Dinner and Prayer Service* will be held *Wednesday, December 7, 2016. Tickets, \$20.*, can be purchased by contacting *Cecilia Fitzpatrick - 722-2648* or the *Parish Office - 754-0170*.

Deadline for tickets is Monday, December 5, 2016.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Prayerful best wishes to *Michael and Patricia Martin* who recently celebrated their *60th wedding anniversary*.

OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

At a senior citizens' function, I watched an older fellow ease his wife ahead of him in line. "*You ask for the tickets, dear.*" he told her. "*You look older than I do.*" Seeming to ignore his uncomplimentary remark, she stepped up to the counter. "*I'd like two tickets, please,*" she said loudly, "*One for me, and one for my father.*"

Laughter Still Is The Best Medicine, Readers' Digest, page 28

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Advent Brunch

Due to a variety of reasons, we are cancelling our regular *Advent Brunch* for this season. *But* we will have a special Brunch early in the New Year.

Advent Prayer - Taste and See

Everyone is invited to come to (or "taste and see") two Advent Prayer sessions, such as Saint Ignatius Loyola would have offered.

The Visitation:

Monday, December 5 at 3:30 pm OR 8 pm, immediately following Mass;

The Nativity:

Tuesday, December 13 at 3:30 pm OR 8 pm, immediately following Mass.

All sessions will be held in the Chapel.

CHRISTMAS NEWS

Volunteers Needed

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 9, 2016**.

AWAY IN A MANGER -- NATIVITY SCENES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This will be held at the *Basilica Museum* (immediately west of the Basilica), from **December 3 - 23, 2016**. The exhibit is open every day from **1 - 4 pm**, and evenings by request. Please call to book a visit if you are bringing a large group. Admission is a gift for a needy child - (you can leave gifts under our tree).

For more information call **Rene Estrada - 726-3660, ext. 223** or restrada@rcsj.org or **Anne Walsh - 726-3660, ext 233** or awalsh@rcsj.org

24 HOUR ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

It will take place from **9:30 am** on **December 8 to 10 am** on **December 9, 2016** at **Mary Queen of the World Church (Topsail Road)**.

MARIA'S MUSINGS

Have you ever been with a friend or loved one, who is suffering, dying and in pain?

Sometimes the first reaction to such a situation is -*That is never going to happen to me. I will end my life when I decide to. I am not going to put others through the burden of caring for me.*

Our church teaches that all life is a gift from God, affirming its inherent dignity from conception to natural death. It values all life, whether young or old, dependent or independent, aware or unaware of one's surroundings, sick or healthy. It also encourages us to find meaning and purpose in all life experiences, including suffering which comes to all of us. Our dignity and worth comes from being made in the image and likeness of God.

The bishops of Atlantic Canada have recently published *A Pastoral Reflection on Medical Assistance in Dying*. It looks at both the personal and the pastoral concerns arising from this federal legislation. It outlines the teachings of the church, the importance of "accompanying" persons who are seriously ill and making end-of-life decisions. It stresses the value and need for palliative care as well as the need for all of us to have family conversations about quality end-of-life care that reflects our values and affirms our belief in the resurrection.

Copies of this pastoral letter (gold in color) are available at tables at the Church and Chapel entrances. Please pick up a copy and prayerfully read it. You can also find a copy on our Parish's webpage.

2016 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council has released a prayer** of thanksgiving for families to mark the 2016 National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. The Aboriginal Council and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have promoted the annual National Day of Prayer since 2002. It is celebrated on December 12, the memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whom Pope Pius XII proclaimed patroness of the Americas in 1946. The devotion dates to 1531 when the Blessed Mother appeared as an Aztec princess to a humble Aboriginal peasant, Saint Juan Diego, at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac, which eventually became part of Villa de Guadalupe, a suburb of Mexico City.

****This prayer will be made available next week.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

November 19 and 20: \$4,108.45

November 26 and 27: \$3,625.25

Thank you for your continued generous support.

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 4	8:30 am 11:00 am 7:00 pm	Mass Mass MUN Roman Catholic Chaplaincy Mass - St. John's College Chapel	2 nd Sunday of Advent 2 nd Sunday of Advent
Mon.	Dec. 5	9:30 am 1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel Mass	James Martin and Judy Martin Crotty Alec and Catherine Henley
Tues.	Dec. 6	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Mass	Angela Cantwell-Peters Michael and Mary Martin
Wed.	Dec. 7	9:30 am 5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Mass CWL Advent Prayer Service and Dinner - Parish Hall Parish Council Meeting - Church Library	William, Mary and Robert Bursey
Thurs.	Dec. 8	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Choir Practice - Church	Thomas Doyle
Fri.	Dec. 9	9:30 am	Mass	Barry Family
Sat.	Dec. 10	9:30 am 4:45 pm	Mass Mass	Hanton and Walsh Families 3 rd Sunday of Advent
Sun.	Dec. 11	8:30 am 11:00 am 7:00 pm	Mass Mass MUN Roman Catholic Chaplaincy Mass - St. John's College Chapel	3 rd Sunday of Advent 3 rd Sunday of Advent

This will be the last Mass at St. John's College until the New Year

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
A copy of the child's birth certificate must be provided before the baptism
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 **E-MAIL:** stpiusx@nl.rogers.com

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