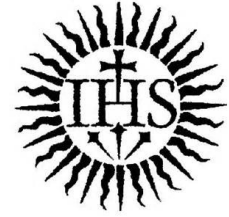




ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

16 Smithville Crescent, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
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Webpage: www.spx.ca
Pastor: earlsmithsj@gmail.com
Archdiocesan Webpage: rcsj.org

Fr. Earl Smith, SJ (Pastor and Superior of St. John's Jesuits)
Fr. Wayne Bolton, S.J. (Associate Pastor)
Fr. William Browne, S.J. (Assistant Priest in Residence)
Fr. Joseph Schuck, S.J. (Ministry at St. Bonaventure's College)
Father Joe Mroz, SJ (Archdiocesan Chaplain at Memorial University)
Br. Joe Frechette, SJ (Ministry at St. Bonaventure's College)
Raj Vijayakumar, SJ (Ministry at St. Bonaventure's College)
Maria R. Kelsey (Pastoral Assistant and Religious Education Coordinator)

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2017

ADVENT AGAIN - TIME FOR PRACTICING HOPE

The thing about the Christian year is that it keeps coming around. Over and over again, we get to try our hearts and minds and hands at *Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time*. We get to dust off the liturgies and speak or sing them again. We get to try old prayers in new ways—or try new prayers on old themes. We get to pick up our symbols and phrases and turn them slowly and look at them and listen to them repeatedly and allow their many layers and nuances to speak to us.

This is called *spiritual practice*. So, yes, it's *Advent* again. But that is how it should be. We have a season ahead of us in which to rehearse and reenact the sacred story of God is on the way! God will soon be with us in the most extraordinary way! Hope is coming; love is coming. A shining realm of peace and wholeness is truly coming.

We have a season in which to give our faith a workout, in which to exercise our hope muscles. Some years make that exercise more difficult than others. But it's *Advent* now, and, as people of faith, we are called upon to exercise our hope.

If hope isn't created for times such as these—when countries are divided, when civil war annihilates whole communities and sends refugees fleeing, when hungry children are ignored because they are of no interest to powerful entities, when human beings are trafficked by the thousands to be used for sex or cheap labor, when industry and wealth win over the health of the planet and all its creatures and the global community—if hope isn't created for times such as these, then why have hope at all?

So let's try *Advent* once again. Let's practice a hopeful way of being in the world.

- ★ Sing the songs
- ★ Ring the bells
- ★ Put up the decorations
- ★ Tell the stories
- ★ Give lots and lots to all sorts of worthy charities
- ★ Open your home to those who need welcome; pretend that each one of them is the baby Jesus, born on the road and needing help

CONTINUED INSIDE FRONT COVER ----->



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NOTES

Continued from Front Cover

- ★ Use your creative gifts: to write, bake, paint, act, make quilts or sound financial plans
- ★ Go to church
- ★ Go to the neighborhood hang-out or the family party
- ★ Pay attention to the kids and welcome their very selves
- ★ Don't leave pets out in the snow
- ★ Don't give up prayer because life feels raw and scary
- ★ Don't hurry through Advent because you're not terribly good at living it; just let it live in the real life you have
- ★ Don't forget that God loves you
- ★ And please don't forget that God loves everybody else too

He cares for us all. Together, we wait for the holy child.

SOURCE: www.ignatianspirituality.com

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY December 10, 2017

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

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Psalm: 85
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

FR. EARL DREAMS

Parish Council members in St. John's East zone met this past week with **Mr. Peter Whittle** in our Parish Hall for some positive constructive conversation. Our task was to edit an inventory that will evaluate the Pastoral strengths and challenges we face in anticipation of our shared future with neighboring parishes. Representative persons currently engaged in our parish's ministries will soon be invited to participate in this process. Indeed, any interested parishioner could participate in this initiative if so desired. The work we did last year with our parish renewal and our four key directives will be a great help as we complete our inventory. Another inventory focused on the questions related to our parish's physical plant and finances will soon be ready for a final edit and distribution. Please do not hesitate to approach me with your ongoing concerns and questions related to the *Archdiocesan Strategic Planning*.

Resolution Passed at the CWL Convention 2017

We all know that car and booster seats are mandatory by law in an effort to increase children's safety in cars. Unfortunately these and other child safety items are taxed by government. This added cost can mean an extra financial burden on families and may even pose a barrier to safety.

The Federal Government has the authority to identify certain goods and services as being GST zero rated. We are sending letters to government to request that they grant "*zero rated status to all child safety products as regulated by the Canada Consumer Products Safety Act*".

We ask that you support us in this effort by writing to the Federal Government on this issue.

Advent Dinner

All parishioners are invited to attend the *Advent Dinner and Prayer Service on Thursday, December 14, 2017 (5:30 for 6 pm)* in the *Parish Hall*.

Tickets, \$25.00, can be purchased by contacting *Cecilia Fitzpatrick - 722-2648* or the *Parish Office - 754-0170*.

Deadline for tickets is Monday, December 11, 2017.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Christmas Hamper Donations

Our Parish is now preparing for the Christmas Hampers. Last year we distributed approximately 130 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 an envelope **CHRISTMAS HAMPER**. *Please include your name, address and envelope number.*

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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. *Please include your name, address and envelope number.*

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Michael J. Ward Advent Brunch

Due to the uncertainty attached to the upcoming **Sunday, December 3, 2017** (weather, the Santa Claus Parade and scheduling issues with following Sundays) we are unable to host this annual Brunch this year. We regret this but we will be having an **Epiphany Brunch** on **Sunday, January 7, 2018** in the **Parish Hall** immediately following the 11 am Mass at **12 noon**.

Advent Giving - Socks and Underwear

In previous years, we have suggested two or three options for **Advent Giving**. This year we hope to concentrate on one suggestion - **new socks and underwear** for **guests** of **The Gathering Place**. When making a donation of used clothing, it is understandable that these items are not given, but they are desperately needed.

You can place these **new** items in **special gift boxes** at the **Church and Chapel entrances** or place a monetary donation in the collection marked **SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR**. **Please include your name, address and envelope number.**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, December 6, 2017** at **8 pm** in the **Church Library**. **Please note the change in time of this Meeting.**

Interested parishioners are invited to attend all Parish Council meetings.

JESUIT NEWS

Canadian Jesuits International sent us a letter of thanks for our recent donation of **\$415.00** to the Jamaica Region.

Nepal Jesuit Society has recently sent us a thank you for a recent donation of **\$275.00**. This donation will be used for the educational needs of children of the poor. We want to give these children of subsistence farmers the basic skills they need to become as educated as they can be.

OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

A man went to his doctor with a complaint about his feet. To assist with his recovery the doctor suggested that he put on a new pair of socks every day. By week's end he couldn't put on his shoes.

RECONCILIATION NEWS

An **Advent Reconciliation Service** is scheduled at **The Basilica** on **Monday, December 11, 2017** at **7:30 pm**.

Our Parish will join Mary Queen of Peace, St. Paul's and St. Francis of Assisi Parishes for **Reconciliation** on **Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 7:30 pm** at **Mary Queen of Peace Church** on **Torbay Bay Road**. Members of your Jesuit Community will provide their participation at this event.

GRIEVING: COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

This event, sponsored by Eastern Health's Pastoral Care and Ethics Department, is designed to provide people who are spending their first couple of holiday seasons without a loved one, with helpful information and suggestions. It will be held **Tuesday, December 5, 2017** from **7:00 - 8:30 pm** or **Wednesday, December 6, 2017** from **2:00 - 3:30 pm** at the **Health Sciences Auditorium**. For more information, please contact **Rev. Dr. Jacintha Penney** or **Paul Grimes** at **777-6959**.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL: TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED BY SUICIDE

This annual **Vigil** is held to remember those who died by suicide and to support family and friends who are survivors of suicide loss. This will be held **Sunday, December 10, 2017, 3:00 pm** at **St. Patrick's Church, Patrick Street**. Parking is available on the Church parking lot on Patrick Street.

Gather in music, poems, prayers and candle lighting. Music by Shelley Neville, Peter Halley, Dan Dillon and Judy Brazil. Everyone is invited to bring a framed photograph of their loved one to be displayed during the Vigil. Please feel free to bring along cookies/cake for tea following the Vigil. All are welcome.

PARISH BOXING DAY SKATING PARTY

The annual **Parish Boxing Day Skating Party** will be held **Tuesday, December 26, 2017** from **1 - 2 pm** at **Bussey Horwood Arena** on **Bonaventure Avenue**. No hockey sticks. Usual gourmet timbits and hot chocolate will be served. All are welcome.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

November 18 and 19: \$4,463.45

November 25 and 26: \$4,124.61

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 3	8:30 am 11:00 am 7:00 pm	Mass Mass MUN Roman Catholic Chaplaincy Mass - St. John's College Chapel	1 st Sunday of Advent 1 st Sunday of Advent
Mon.	Dec. 4	9:30 am 1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel Mass	Mary Furey and Ed Bruce Goss, Aberly and Neville Families
Tues.	Dec. 5	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Mass	Mary and Aiden Woodford Tilley, Pottle and Greeley Families
Wed.	Dec. 6	9:30 am 8:00 pm	Mass Parish Council Meeting - Church Library	Leo Holden and Hughie Coady and Families
Thurs.	Dec. 7	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Choir Practice - Church	Jack, Alice and Paul Bursey
Fri.	Dec. 8	9:30 am	Mass	Thomas Doyle
Sat.	Dec. 9	9:30 am 4:45 pm	Mass Mass	Evangeline and Jack Barry 2 nd Sunday of Advent
Sun.	Dec. 10	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

WEBSITES: Three to recommend are: www.jesuits.ca www.ignatianspirituality.com
www.jesuitresources.org

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 3:30 - 4:20 pm and 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: 739-5780

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: 233-0302 or 753-6997