



# ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Archdiocesan Webpage: [rcsj.org](http://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)*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17, 2017

### SAYING YES TO GOD: OUR YES

*By: Catherine Wiecher Brunell*

Like the expectant Mary and Joseph, we all have a piece of God to bring into this world. We have been created and as such, the seeds of our creative possibilities remain within our core. How do we harvest these? How do we ready them? How do we audaciously trust that we have a "yes" to issue as well?

One way to begin is to put ourselves into the story of God.

Picture the manger scene. We can imagine the animals and even the angels. We can hear the cry of the newborn baby and feel the relief of his parents. We can see the star bright in the sky. But can we find ourselves within its rays? Where do we fit into this familiar miracle? Christ was born unto *us*. What does this mean? As we look for our place in the scene, we will ready ourselves to respond more deeply to it.

#### Advent Reflection

Use a few of these questions to prompt your reflection:

- ★ If Mary's "yes" to God led to Joseph's, where do they both lead you?
- ★ What do you imagine that God is growing in your life right now?
- ★ Where in your life do you need Christ to enter the most?
- ★ What is God's invitation to you? How is it unbelievable? How is it actually very possible?
- ★ What will you co-create with God this year?
- ★ What will change in your life when you say "yes"? What will stay the same?

SOURCE: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS  
FOR NEXT SUNDAY  
December 24, 2017**

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

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
**Second Reading:** Romans 16:25-27  
**Psalm:** 89  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

**FR. EARL DREAMS**

An enlightening Chinese proverb reads: *"Two-thirds of what you see is behind your eyes."* Indeed. Much we hold dear this Advent-Christmas Season lies within our hearts' depths to motivate ever deeper loyalties to Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our parish community is small in number but large and with wide hearts open to embrace our future by the grace of God. Our destiny is with the Lord whose birth stories tilted towards the underdog; persons in great need like the Holy Family! Like Joseph with Mary and Jesus we +bless the Lord who gives us joyful hope towards the re-making of our parish's life in St. John's East. *Merry Christmas* on behalf of your front office parish staff AND my Jesuit brothers in residence who are at your service... *Fr. Earl Smith, SJ*

**SAINTS SPEAK**

The natural gift of wonder God gave us as children was meant to be kept alive....Instead we let wonder go to sleep. We entered the typical dream state of most humans. Why else does Jesus tell us today, *'Stay awake!'...Advent says, 'Wake up and realize the gifts of love you have received.'*

**Rev. Alfred McBride, b.1928**

Norbertine priest-catechist

Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent...If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time.

**Edward Hays, 1931-2016**

A Pilgrim's Almanac, author storyteller

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all our parishioners who last weekend signed the petition that the amended *Bill C-51 - "Retain Section 176 which directly protects the rights of Canadians to freely practise their religion peacefully, lawfully, and obstructed, whatever that religion may be"*. Our signed petitions have been forwarded to the *Honorable Rob Nicholson* who will be sponsoring and presenting this petition in the House of Commons in January, 2018.

**ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS A. PENNEY**

Archbishop Penney passed away on *Tuesday, December 12, 2017* and his funeral was held at the *Basilica on Friday, December 15, 2017*. Our parish also had a *Memorial Mass* for *Archbishop Penney* on Friday morning at 9:30 am. The Archbishop was a friend to the Jesuits and in recent years, while residing at St. Patrick's Mercy Home, he often attended Mass at our parish on special occasions. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS**

Archbishop Currie is pleased to announce that the Holy Father has conferred the title "Monsignor" on the following priests:

- Father Francis S. Puddister
- Father D. Joseph Barton
- Father Patrick J. Kennedy

Their installation will take place at a later date.

**OUR 'PIUS' SMILE**

*The meaning of growing older...Your children become more like you but your grandchildren are perfect... You look forward to an night in rather than a night out...You forget people's names but they have already forgotten yours...You sleep better in an armchair with the television blaring than in a bed...You miss the day when everything worked with just an 'on' and 'off' button...*

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**December 2 and 3:** \$4,525.50

**December 9 and 10:** \$4,080.40

*Thank you for your continued generous support.*

### ATTENTION: PARENTS

This *Sunday, December 17, 2017* is the last Sunday for our *Children's Liturgy of the Word and sacramental preparation programs* for 2017.

All our programs will resume on *Sunday, January 7, 2018*, the *Feast of the Epiphany*.  
Christmas blessings to all our families.

### POSADAS SLATE

Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition running nine days before Christmas. It reenacts Joseph and Mary's struggle to find shelter. (*Posadas* means lodging or shelter). In many Latin American countries elaborate processions go through the streets, with Mary and Joseph asking for lodging several times and being turned away, until finally being allowed in.

Several years ago a plaque made of slate was donated to the parish. On it, is depicted Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay. Would you like to welcome Mary and Joseph into your home this Advent or Christmas? You can see this slate on the table at the back of the Church and sign up to bring the Holy Family into your home.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If any parishioner would like to donate flowers/plants for the altar this Christmas, they may do so by dropping them off at the *Church/Chapel* during the *regular Masses this weekend or next weekend*. Flowers can also be dropped off at the *Parish Office during regular business hours - Monday to Friday - 9 am - 4:30 pm*.

If you would like to make a monetary donation you may do so by placing it in an envelope marked **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**. Please include your *name, address and envelope number*.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament* on *Monday, December 18, 2017* will *begin at 3 pm* for this occasion only. *Please note change in time*.

### EPIPHANY BRUNCH (Early Bird Notice)

The *Epiphany Brunch* will be held *Sunday, January 7, 2018* in the *Parish Hall* immediately following the *11:00 am Mass (approximately 12:00 pm)*.

### RECONCILIATION NEWS

God's forgiving Presence was evident when St. John's East parishes celebrated sacramental reconciliation at *Mary Queen of Peace* on a night when nasty weather and other competing Advent activities prevented others from attending it. Thanks be to God, Emmanuel, God-with-us!

*St. Patrick's Parish and Corpus Christi Parish* are having a combined *Advent Penance Celebration* on *Tuesday, December 19, 2017* at *7:00 pm* at *St. Patrick's Church*.

*St. Teresa's Parish* is having extended time for *Advent Penance* on *Saturday, December 23* from *1:00 pm - 4:45 pm*.

### HOLY CROSS: OUR OWN DEAR SCHOOL

Brother Darcy's latest book *Holy Cross: Our Own Dear School*, depicting the history of *Holy Cross School*, is available at the Basilica Book Store or Parish Office or Twin Cities Imaging, 6 Campbell Ave.

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER RELIC PILGRIMAGE

A major *Relic of St. Francis Xavier* is coming to Canada from Rome. There will be opportunities to venerate the relic on *Friday, January 5, 2018* at the *Basilica of St. John the Baptist*.

Schedule of events at the Basilica will include: 12:10 pm Mass, with the relic present all afternoon. A *prayer service* opened to the public is scheduled for *7 pm*. It includes Confessions and the Veneration of the Relic.

*Who was St. Francis Xavier?* St. Francis Xavier was a famous Jesuit missionary to India and Japan, bringing hundreds of thousands of people to faith. It is said that he was the greatest missionary since St. Paul the Apostle. The major relic that will be venerated during the pilgrimage is his right arm, usually found at the Gesu Jesuit church in Rome. It is rare that this relic leaves its usual home. This is a unique opportunity to thank God for the work of this great missionary, and for the gift of faith.

### MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

The evening Mass at *St. John's College Chapel* will start a new schedule on *Sunday, January 7, 2018* at *6:30 pm*. *Please note the change in the new time of the Mass*.

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

*There will be NO MASSES on Sunday, December 24 - the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent at 8:30 am and 11 am in this Parish.*

*Archbishop Currie wishes to announce, because of concern expressed by a number of people who would not be able to attend the Mass on Saturday night, December 23, Archbishop Currie will be celebrating a Mass on **Sunday, December 24, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent at the **Basilica Cathedral at 8:30 am.** All are welcome to attend this Mass.***

**CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday, December 24**

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass  
*(A Family focus Mass)*

11:00 pm Christmas Midnight Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY Monday, December 25**

10:30 am

**Tuesday, December 26**

9:30 am

*There will be no 7:30 pm Mass*

**Wednesday, December 27 - Saturday, December 30**

9:30 am

**Saturday, December 30**

4:45 pm

**New Year's Eve Sunday, December 31**

*There will be NO MASS at 8:30 am*

11:00 am Mass

4:45 pm Mary, Mother of God

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

**New Year's Day Monday, January 1**

11:00 am Mary, Mother of God

**Monday, January 8, 2018**

9:30 am Mass

7:30 pm NO MASS

*St. Patrick's Mercy Home will hold its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opening Liturgy at 7:00 pm at St. Pius X Church. All are welcome. More details to follow.*

**Tuesday, January 9, 2018**

9:30 am Mass

7:30 pm NO MASS

*This evening Mass will be an alternate date for the St. Patrick's Mercy Home Opening Liturgy due to inclement weather on January 8, 2018.*

**PARKING**

Your cooperation is requested to keep the fire and ambulance lanes open during the *Christmas and New Year's Masses*. An open lane to allow easy access of both Church entrances is also our aim. Overflow parking is available at Gonzaga High School. Please **DO NOT** park in St. Patrick's Mercy Home lot. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Monday, December 18 - Friday, December 22**

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26  
CLOSED**

**Wednesday, December 27 - Friday, December 29**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Saturday, December 30 and Sunday, December 31  
CLOSED**

**Monday, January 1 CLOSED**

**Tuesday, January 2** Resume regular schedule  
- 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**EXPOSITION THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be cancelled on *Monday, December 25, 2017 and Monday, January 1, 2018.*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on *Monday, January 8, 2018* from 1 - 6 pm in the *Church.*

**PARISH SKATING PARTY**

The annual Skating Party will be held on *Boxing Day, Tuesday, December 26, 2017* from 1 - 2 pm at *Bussey Horwood Arena (Bonaventure Avenue)*. Come one and all, enjoy the free gourmet hot chocolate and 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 are all invited - all free. We'll even tie up your skates for you!

**PARISH FINANCES**

Parishioners are offered a gentle nudge and reminder that all parish donations received by *December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017* will receive an income tax receipt for 2017.

## Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 17	8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass Mass	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Mon.	Dec. 18	9:30 am <b>1:15 pm</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> 7:30 pm	Mass <b>Funeral: Dr. Michael Bense</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel</b> Mass	Ron Kieley <i>(Note change in time for this occasion only)</i> Ted, Nellie Cahill Ted Cahill, Jr.
Tues.	Dec. 19	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Mass	Janet Nolan Michael and Mary Martin
Wed.	Dec. 20	9:30 am	Mass	Leonard and Mary Madden
Thurs.	Dec. 21	9:30 am <b>7:30 pm</b>	Mass <b>Choir Practice - Church</b>	William and Madeline Scott
Fri.	Dec. 22	9:30 am	Mass	Jack and Evangeline Barry
Sat.	Dec. 23	9:30 am 4:45 pm	Mass Mass	Leo, Francis, John and Joyce Parrell 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun.	Dec. 24	<b>NO 8:30 am MASS</b> <b>NO 11:00 am MASS</b>  7:00 pm 11:00 pm	   <b>Christmas Eve Mass</b> <b>Christmas Eve Mass</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>

**WEBSITES:** Three to recommend are: [www.jesuits.ca](http://www.jesuits.ca) [www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)  
[www.jesuitresources.org](http://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](mailto:stpiusx@nl.rogers.com)

**CHAIRPERSON OF PARISH COUNCIL:** 739-5780  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** 233-0302 or 753-6997