



ST. PIUS X
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
16 Smithville Crescent, St. John's, NL A1B 2V2
Tel.# 754-0170



Finding God in All Things

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 2019



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS
AFTER THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

Such a loss! Such a keen and tearing pain. Even when I am in a crowded room, there is a loneliness I never knew existed. Comforting God, I have turned to you so many times for solace, and I come again. While the world is bright and sparkling, my heart feels leaden and has an emptiness that cannot be filled. Lord, how can I enter into this season of joy? In my head I celebrate your birth into this world, but in my everyday life, I am filled with a grief that runs so very deep. You blessed me with a loving relationship and now it is gone from my life. How can I be faithful to that love and the memory of that love and my sorrow in this season of "Rejoice!""? Tears are so close to the surface all the time and helpful friends who want to "keep me busy" don't seem to really understand that I need to embrace my grief. I am afraid of letting go of the sadness and losing the deep love connection I had. Instead of entering into the Rejoice of Christmas, I long for the sorrow of Lent. I beg you Lord, show me how the two are connected. I ponder the name Emmanuel and know that it means "God with us." With us. With me in this world, in this sorrow. If I look beyond my pain, I know that you, too, suffered so much in this world. I never understood so clearly before that Emmanuel is what your nativity is really about. You are in my world, in my pain. Thank you, Lord, for the loved one you blessed my life with. Grant me now in my grief, a peace. Give me a comfort that might not make the tears go away, but that lets me feel your presence as you take up a place deep in my heart, with me.

SOURCE: *Creighton University Online Ministries*

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www.spx.ca



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

December 22, 2019

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

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Psalm: 24

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

Saint Peter addresses this cool guy, 'Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?' The guy replies, 'I'm Mike, retired Air Canada pilot from St. John's, NL.' Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the pilot, 'Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom.' So Captain Mike goes into Heaven with his robe and staff. Next, it's the priest's turn. He stands to his full height and booms out, 'I am Father Smith, pastor of Saint Mary's church for the last 51 years.' Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the priest, 'Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom'. 'Just a minute,' says the good father. 'That man was a pilot and he gets a silken robe and golden staff and I get only cotton and wood. How can this be?' 'Up here - we go by results,' says Saint Peter. 'When you preached - people slept. When the pilot flew, people prayed...'



FINDING GOD

Finding God in the Dark

Can you find the true meaning of Christmas in the comedy, Christmas with the Kranks? Come and try to find it.

Sunday, December 15, 2019

7:00 - 9:00 pm at St. Pius X Church.

Come and bring a friend. All are welcome.



FR. EARL DREAMS

Every Advent and Lent Seasons our parish gladly offers a Sacramental Reconciliation Service with other St. John's East parishes. It is seldom well attended. There are good reasons including (our) personal histories of this sacrament. While it is appreciated by those who come to it, this form of forgiveness is not on the list of Advent priorities and of course that is quite OK. In reality Our Lord invites each of us to many everyday forms of reconciliation starting with an often repeated 'I'm sorry' for offences big and small; especially among and between family members and friends. There is a penitential rite at the start of Mass. God's forgiveness is offered and is always freely given. This is God's practise.

It is also God's practise to offer forgiveness within the Sacramental Rite as it is facilitated by an ordained priest. Often, I witness the wondrous outpouring of God's mercy. I also receive this Sacrament on regular basis and always with good effect. I deeply desire that others including many parishioners consider availing themselves to this sacrament. It is no longer the frightening (blame-you) type experience sometimes remembered from the past. Rather, it's God's gift of Himself who invites each and all of us to return home. Home is God's heart where there is healing, transformation, and an ever deepening offer of eternal friendship. Attending an Advent Reconciliation Service is possible. God's voice is spoken in our holy desires in search of a more meaningful loving union. Indeed, this is reason enough to return to the Sacrament. Praise be to God.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

This Sunday, December 15, 2019 is the last Sunday for our Children's Liturgy of the Word and sacramental preparation programs for 2019.

All our programs will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Christmas blessings to all our families.

DE MELLO FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES



Seek God

When you play hide-and-seek, you have to go looking for the person who is hiding. God doesn't hide from us, but we do have to look for him if we want to find him. Just remember, God is always with us.

You can feel his love in the good-morning kiss your mom gives you. You can hear his voice in the sound of the wind in the trees. You can see his beauty in the snow, the sunshine, and the big black night. Best of all, he's in your heart, ready for you to find him.

I can't see you, God, but this much I know.

I see your love in the sun, wind, and snow!



CHRISTMAS SINGERS WELCOME!

Anyone interested in singing with the choir for the Advent and Christmas season is invited to two rehearsals on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Church.

We also practice from 9:45 to 10:45 am before Mass each Sunday.

If you are interested please email mr_parsons@hotmail.com.



SAINTS SPEAK

The Church of Christ is not an institution, it is a new life with Christ and in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Sergei Nikolaevich Bulgakov,
1871-1944

Russian Orthodox Christian Theologian

Since God offers to manage our affairs for us, let us once and for all hand them over to His infinite wisdom, in order to occupy ourselves only with Himself and what belongs to Him.

Jean-Pierre de Caussade, SJ

Abandonment to Divine Providence

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The parishes in St. John's East will celebrate an Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 7:00 pm, at St. Paul's Church, Newfoundland Drive.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 7 and 8: \$3,813.30

Envelopes \$3,532.50

Loose \$ 289.90

Thank you for your continued generous support.

MISSA CANTATA

Missa Cantata (a sung High Mass in Latin) will be offered in St. Pius X Chapel this Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 5:00 pm for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday".

Fr. Bill Browne, SJ will preside. The Cantata Singers will lead the music, which includes 15 Gregorian-chant hymns. Everything needed to follow and participate will be provided. Preparations begin at 4:45 with organ preludes. Everyone is welcome.



Decorating

As we move through Advent, we approach that time when we join together to prepare our Church for the beautiful season of Christmas. The tree will be decorated on Saturday, December 21, 2019 and then on Sunday, December 22, 2019 we will be looking for assistance to decorate the Church, Chapel and foyer following the 11:00 am Mass. If you are able to stay and help out, we would really appreciate it. Coffee will be available.



Donation of Flowers or Plants

This is a great opportunity to remember a loved one by donating a Christmas plant or flowers. This year we have chosen red and white poinsettias for the Church. So think of that option and please have them dropped off by Saturday, December 21, 2019.

Monetary donations are certainly appreciated to allow the costs of the plants which are ordered for the occasion.

Thank you for your help and support.

CHURCH PARKING LOT

No doubt we've noticed the sad condition of our parking lot with its many holes. Repeated (countless) requests for its repair have been sent to the School Board since last spring! We have been told help is to arrive sooner than later yet still we wait with Advent patience. Let's remain hopeful that expected help soon arrives, yes, even as winter descends upon us. A welcomed prayer and caution when negotiating the lot is also advised.

myparishapp.com

At St. Pius X we are pursuing new opportunities to foster a stronger parish life and better engage the New Evangelization. As a part of these efforts St. Pius X Parish has its own app for Apple and Android phones. Our app will allow us to send you useful and important messages throughout the week regarding our parish life and events, and allow you to reply to messages or RSVP for events. There will be no need for parishioners with smart phones to remember to silence their phones before Mass. The app will send you a reminder to silence your phone 20 minutes before the Mass you select. Many more great features will be a help to all of us. The features include daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers and prayer reminders, Confession reminders, and our weekly bulletin. So, be sure to download the app by visiting myparishapp.com or searching for myparish on your phone's app store, and stay connected with us all week long.



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

God is in all Creation

Nature itself has an inherent dignity that must be respected, and when we humans distance ourselves, from nature and allow it to be violated, we are in essence, destroying our own human ecology. Social bonds break down and we forget our love for one another. As the cry of the Earth grows, so does the cry of the poor. The Amazon, for instance, provides 20% of the world's oxygen. Yet, not only are we destroying this essential biome, but those trying to protect it are being impoverished, criminalized and even killed.

The notion of ecology is at its essence about relationships. The symbiosis of these relationships becomes evident when we begin to examine how our relationship with nature impacts on our relationship with our sisters and brothers, and with God. Integral ecology calls us to be in a right relationship with all three, because if there is no harmony within any one, the others will suffer.

SOURCE: Development and Peace

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 15	8:30 am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent
		11:00 am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent
		5:00 pm	Missa Cantata - Chapel	
		7:00 pm	Finding God in the Dark - Movie - Christmas With the Kranks - Church	
Mon.	Dec. 16	9:30 am	Mass	John, Patricia and Ron Dawson
		1:00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel	
		2:50 - 3:05 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet - Chapel	
		7:30 pm	Mass	William and Madeline Scott
Tues.	Dec. 17	9:30 am	Mass	Aiden, Mary and Isabel Woodford
		7:00 pm	Advent Reconciliation Service - St. Paul's Church	
		7:30 pm	Mass	Tobin and Dinn Families and Jim Knox
Wed.	Dec. 18	9:30 am	Mass	Morris and Shortall Families
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice - Church	
Thurs.	Dec. 19	9:30 am	Mass	Peggy Walsh
Fri.	Dec. 20	9:30 am	Mass	Mary Finn
Sat.	Dec. 21	9:30 am	Mass	Margaret 'Peg' Kavanagh
		4:45 pm	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent
Sun.	Dec. 22	8:30 am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent
		11:00 am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent

GONZAGA JESUIT COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE

Fr. William Browne, SJ, Br. Joe Frechette, SJ, Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ, Mr. Richard Mulrooney, SJ, Fr. Joseph Schuck, SJ

WEBSITES: Four to recommend are:

www.jesuits.org www.ignatianspirituality.com www.jesuitresources.org www.aleteia.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, 8:30 am - 12 noon and 12:30 - 4:00 pm;

TELEPHONE: 754-0170 E-MAIL: stpiusx@nl.rogers.com

CHAIRPERSON OF PARISH COUNCIL: 739-5780

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: 233-0302 or 753-6997