



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



Finding God in All Things

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2019

and

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 29, 2019

**GOD WORKS THROUGH
ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE**

The story of the first Christmas sets before us a marvelous array of individuals: a teenage mother, a conscientious young carpenter, an egotistical emperor, a bevy of angels, a band of hardworking shepherds, a trio of scholarly star gazers, a wise old holy man, an elderly prophetess, and a megalomaniacal king. And, lest we forget, a baby!

Another lesson we learn from the story of the first Christmas is this: God works through all kinds of people. All kinds. The young and old, the simple and sophisticated, the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. Incredibly, each of the individuals listed above played a role in salvation history. Some did this knowingly, others without a clue. Some did this through their love and goodness, others through their hatred and evil. The amazing thing is that God can use everyone to effect salvation-even me. The only question is this: what kind of a role will I choose to play?

In Romans we read, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28). Isn't that some of the best news in the entire Good News? God, work through me today in some small way!

Source: Everyday Epiphanies: Seeing the Sacred in Every Thing, page 101

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www.spx.ca



**SCRIPTURE READINGS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

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: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Psalm: 72
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



FR. EARL DREAMS

A Christmas Greeting...

How big is your God? A book written by Paul Coutinho, SJ, aims to assist the reader gain the freedom required to experience the Holy Presence of God in everyday realities, perhaps (even) in the ordinary customs of this wondrous Christmas Season! Are we 'up' for this challenge. I hope yes! How are we challenged by the birth circumstances of the Lord? He was born in a stable, home of animals, for various reasons including there was no room in the inn! In truth, 'each of us is an inn keeper who decides if there is room for the Christ Child. May our essential focus remain Christ-centered on our Messiah's birth to impoverished refugee parents, Saints Mary and Joseph of Nazareth.

Merry Christmas! You are very dear to my heart. With much gratitude I am...

Fr. Earl Smith, SJ,
Pastor



OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

The obese G.K. Chesterton once remarked to his lean friend George Bernard Shaw, "To look at you, anyone would think there was a famine in England." Shaw replied, "To look at you, anyone would think you caused it." SOURCE: In Pursuit of Health and Longevity, Cal Samar, page 209

The wise old Mother Superior from county Tipperary was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her comfortable. They gave her some warm milk to drink, but she refused it. Then one nun took the glass back to the kitchen.

Remembering a bottle of Irish whiskey received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at Mother Superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips. Mother Superior drank a little, then a little more. Before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop.

"Mother", the nuns pleaded, "Please give us some wisdom before you die".

She raised herself up in bed with a pious look on her face and said, "Don't sell that cow".

SOURCE: Anonymous

**BULLETINS
DECEMBER 22 AND 29, 2019**

During the Christmas season, we will have only one bulletin for the weekends of December 21 and 22 and 28 and 29, 2019.

Please be sure to take a bulletin this weekend as it has the Mass Intentions, the schedules for Christmas and New Year's Masses and the Parish Office hours for the next two weeks.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word and sacramental preparation 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



The Light of the World

At this time of year, it starts getting dark much earlier. So what do you do? You turn on some light. Lights can be very small - as small as a tiny firefly or the flame from a candle on your birthday cake.

Some lights are big - they can light up a whole room. But God is the biggest and brightest light there is. He is full of so much light and goodness that there is no darkness in Him at all. God's light is so bright, it lights up the whole world!

In God there just isn't anything dark.

God's light is much more than a tiny spark!



LET'S DECORATE!



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.

myparishapp.com

Most parishioners know myparishapp was launched last year. This app is up and running in new ways as continue to expand our use of it. Features, events and its calendar are regularly updated. Please continue to explore your use of it.

If you have any questions regarding the app, please contact Eranga Fernando (hcteranga@gmail.com) or Ahtisham Younas (ahtishamyounas66@gmail.com).

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

The following religious items are available for sale from the table in the Chapel area -Christmas Cards, 2020 Calendars, 2019-2020 Sunday Missals, The Catholic Register and Daybreaks: Daily Christmas Time Reflections - there are six varieties of booklets on this theme.

Caroling Through Advent and Christmas

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

At all Masses the weekend of January 11 and 12, 2020, we will have the installation of new Eucharistic Ministers, and blessing of existing Eucharistic Ministers. This is for those of you who minister in the Church, and those who bring Holy Communion to shut-ins. January 12 is liturgically the Baptism of the Lord.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 14 and 15: \$3,784.60

Envelopes: \$3,433.45 Loose: \$ 351.45

Thank you for your continued generous support.



**20th ANNUAL
ST. PIUS X PARISH
SKATING PARTY**

The 20th Annual Boxing Day Event, more fun than shopping on Stavanger Drive or Danny Drive! This will be held on Thursday, December 26, 2019 from 1:00-2:00 pm at Yetman Arena, 45 Bonaventure Avenue (formerly Bussey Arena and previously O'Heir Arena).

Come see if DeMello can skate! This event is FREE! Free Timbits and hot chocolate. Burn off the first several pounds of turkey from Christmas! Try out your new skates! Free skate tightening. Free tissues for your runny nose! Everyone is welcome.



SAINTS SPEAK

When it seems that God shows us the faults of others, keep on the safer side. It may be that our judgment is false.

St. Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380

Doctor of the Church, laywoman, mystic, activist

It certainly takes grace to make a human into a saint. Anyone who doubts this does not know what a saint is -- nor what a human is.

Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662

French inventor, writer and Catholic theologian

Whoever has Christ in his heart, so that no earthly or temporal things--not even those that are legitimate and allowed--are preferred to Him, has Christ as a foundation. But if (other) things be preferred, then even though one seems to have faith in Christ, yet Christ is not the foundation to that person.

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

The City of God, v. II

We are the wire, God is the current. Our only power is to let the current pass through us.

Carlo Carretto, 1910-88

Catholic religious writer, a Little Brother of Jesus, led a hermit-like life

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

9:30 am Morning Mass

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

11:00 pm Christmas Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

11:00 am

There will be no 8:30 am Mass

Thursday, December 26

9:30 am

Friday, December 27

9:30 am

Saturday, December 28

9:30 am

4:45 pm Holy Family

Sunday, December 29

8:30 am Holy Family

11:00 am Holy Family

Monday, December 30

9:30 am

7:30 pm

New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31

9:30 am

4:45 pm Mary, Mother of God

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1

11:00 am

There will be no 8:30 am Mass

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 to 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 as St. Patrick's Mercy Home has restricted parking for its own use. 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 23:	9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday, December 24:	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday, December 25	CLOSED
Thursday, December 26	CLOSED
Friday, December 27	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday, December 28 and	CLOSED
Sunday, December 29	CLOSED
Monday, December 30	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday, January 1	CLOSED

The regular schedule will resume Thursday, January 2, 2019 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

CHURCH MICROPHONES

We've upgraded our microphone system to allow better, clearer volumes for the persons speaking from the sanctuary. Feedback on it is welcome. Please tell persons with hearing difficulties who might otherwise not attend church because of deafness.

2020 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The 2020 collection envelopes are available from the table at the back of the Church, near the Choir area. If you would like to begin using collection envelopes, please contact the Parish Office - 754-0170 or stpiusx@nl.rogers.com.

PARISH FINANCES

Parishioners are offered a gentle nudge and reminder that all parish donations received by December 31st, 2019 will receive an income tax receipt for 2019.



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

As we see in the Book of Genesis, when God set forth Creation, His was already an interconnected vision of the world. When humankind betrays this holistic order, chaos ensues. God flooded the land, but His covenant with Noah provided humankind and the Earth with an opportunity for redemption and renewal, and for forming new and caring relationships.

As our common home faces a climate emergency precipitated by human activity, have we betrayed our covenant (with God, who sacrificed His only Son to save human-kind and to renew the face of the Earth? When we see a rainbow in the sky, do we remember our shared promise with God, to care for what He created and in turn to be cared for by Him?

SOURCE: Development and Peace

ELDERS' MINISTRY NEWS "THOUGHT OF THE WEEK"

DEMENTIA
My eyes do see,
My ears do hear,
I am still Me, so let's be clear,
My memory may fade,
My walk may slow,
I am ME inside
don't let Me go.

FB/MyDayMyWay

Supporting Caregivers
"Alzheimers Weekly and Dementia Weekly"
For more information on [Alzheimer Weekly](#)
and [Dementia Weekly](#), see
www.AlzheimersReadingRoom.com

Calendar of Services, Mass Intentions and Activities

Sun.	Dec. 22	8:30 am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent
		11:00 am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent
Mon.	Dec. 23	9:30 am	Mass	Leo and Frances Parrell, John Joyce and Mary and Pat Hayes
		1:00 pm		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel
		2:50 - 3:05 pm		Divine Mercy Chaplet - Chapel
		7:30 pm	Mass	Michael, Mary and Sheila Martin
Tues.	Dec. 24	9:30 am	Mass	Helen Ryan and Kevin Kearney
		7:00 pm		CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
		11:00 pm		CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
Wed.	Dec. 25	11:00 am		CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
		There will be no 8:30 am Mass		
Thurs.	Dec. 26	9:30 am	Mass	William and Eleanor Manning
Fri.	Dec. 27	9:30 am	Mass	Deceased Members of the Fagan and Cahill Families
Sat.	Dec. 28	9:30 am	Mass	Lawrence O'Keefe
		4:45 pm	Mass	HOLY FAMILY
Sun.	Dec. 29	8:30 am	Mass	HOLY FAMILY
		11:00 am	Mass	HOLY FAMILY
Mon.	Dec. 30	9:30 am	Mass	William Connors and Madeline and Leonard Greene
		7:30 pm	Mass	Prayers for the Sick and Dying
Tues.	Dec. 31	4:45 pm	Mass	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Wed.	Jan. 1	11:00 am	Mass	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Thur.	Jan. 2	9:30 am	Mass	Thistle and Hannaford Families
Fri.	Jan. 3	9:30 am	Mass	Mary Finn
		7:30 pm	Mass	Priest's Intention
Sat.	Jan. 4	9:30 am	Mass	Bruce French
		4:45 pm	Mass	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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