

### Fr. Jeff's Christmas Greeting

As we prepare to celebrate the beauty of God becoming man in the flesh as the Christ child this Christmas we reflect on the past year. Some of us have had great joyous occasions; the celebration of a Christian marriage, the birth of a new child, the warmth of a new home or a new job while some of us have encountered sickness, the loss of a loved, or a broken relationship.

In the midst of our lives we take time to reflect on the God who desperately Loves us; the God who becomes one with us in the flesh especially in the gift of the Eucharist. We rejoice that God desires to be with us at all times and at every point of our lives no matter what's going on. Jesus wants to break into our lives to bring us Love, Joy & Peace; He desires to uphold and sustain us, strengthening us with His Presence along life's journey.

May you and I strive this Holy Season as we look upon the baby Jesus in the crib, allowing the warmth of His light and Love to flood our hearts with Gifts of Peace and Hope as we share our struggles and Blessings with each other and with Emmanuel "God is with us"

At this time of the year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who so generously serve the needs of God's people in St. Kevin's Parish & St. Joseph's Parish.

A special thank you to our Choir members under the direction of Gerry Doyle, Dave Stack, Carol O'Brien and Susan Chafe, our Altar servers, Liturgical ministers, Sacristans, Bereavement team, Baptism team, Food bank volunteers, Parish council-Finance committee members, Board of Directors committee, Cemetery committee co-ordinators, Fund raising volunteers, Catholic Women's League, Service committee, Sisters of Mercy, Youth group members, Church decorators, and to Patsy Hynes, Keith Lee, Philomena Seaward and Paula Everard and to all Parishioners.

I want to thank each of you for sharing your talents and gifts so generously and so well. What you do for the Lord and His people you do so thoughtfully and joyfully that it is a pleasure and a great Blessing for me and my ministry as your Priest. Give yourselves a pat on the back for all you do!!! It truly amazes me to see you as you minister in the parish. What a Blessing you are to me and I thank God and pray for you daily.

I pray that the Lord during this Holy season may Bless you and your families with the Peace and Joy of the Christ Child. May your hearts, homes and lives be filled with the Love of the God made flesh and may Jesus fill you with His Love as you continue to serve Him and one another.

Peace & Love,



Fr. Jeff

### Last week's Collection - with thanks !

<u>St. Kevin Parish</u>		<u>St. Joseph's</u>	
Sunday Coll:	\$ 1,740.65	Sunday Coll:	\$ 625.00
Loonie Coll:	\$ 217.45	Special Coll:	\$ 5.00
Advent Folders:	\$ 155.00	Dues:	\$650.00
Advent Folder:		Advent Folder:	\$ 20.00
Food Bank:	\$ 560.00	Dues:	\$300.00
Food Bank:		Food Bank:	15.00
Christmas Coll:	\$ 60.00	Christmas Coll:	\$10.00

**Family Aid Donations** - \$ 2,000 has been received from ScotiaBank - Goulds ( \$1,000 was collected at the Goulds Santa Claus Parade and ScotiaBank matched it !); \$100 received in memory of John Murphy; \$100 received in memory of William & Mary Dillon & Christopher William Blundon; \$ 50 received in memory of Mary & Gus Dinn and \$60 has been received in memory of Joey Poole. Thank you to Brewskies & Hayloft for their food donation and monetary donation of \$375.00. Thank you also to all who gave monetary donations to our Food Bank throughout the year and to all those who gave extra at Christmas time. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

**Flowers for Christmas** - Thank you to all who donated flowers for our churches for the Christmas season. A special thank you to Wayne & Jeannette Putt of Rise & Shine Nurseries, Goulds, for once again donating the many poinsettias you see on the Altar. Thank you for generosity !  
Please note: To keep our church looking beautiful, all poinsettias will remain in the church.

**Christmas Food Hampers** - a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all those who donated food items to help fill our Christmas hampers. We received over 50 turkeys from parishioners at St. Kevin's & St. Joseph's - that is so amazing !!! This year we completed 94 hampers through the generosity of our parishioners, schools, businesses and the community as a whole. A special thank you to all those who gave food all year and to Paul Williams and his family for the amazing food drive that they organized. Because of this food drive, and the food drives held at the schools, Goulds Parade and Petty Harbour parade, this will be the first year that our Food Bank will have well stocked shelves after Christmas !! Thank you for remembering that there are those less fortunate in our own community and for so willingly helping every year.

**Sponsoring of Families** - a huge thank you to the individuals and businesses who sponsored families this year. We had 15 sponsors who helped families give 26 children a very Merry Christmas. Most of our sponsors are parishioners, local business and schools. Thank you again and may your kindness and thoughtfulness be returned to you many times over. On Christmas Day remember that you helped make a child very, very happy !!

**CWL Christmas Stockings** - thank you to all who donated to this annual fundraiser. All funds collected will be donated to St. Kevin's Family Aid to help offset the cost of the Christmas Hampers. The total amount collected this year was \$135.00.

**Church Decorating** - Thank you to all the volunteers who decorated St. Kevin's and St. Joseph's Parishes. A lot of work goes into making the church look beautiful for Christmas and we thank you so much for your hard work and time. Both churches look beautiful !

**Sanctuary Lamps - Dec. 25:** **St. Kevin's: Gerald Collins**  
**St. Joseph's: Mary & Ambrose Chafe**

*Archbishop Currie's Christmas Message 2016*

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*Earlier this month, we marked the ending of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and with it, the closing of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica and in cathedrals around the world. It was a remarkable year, a true celebration of the tender love and mercy of our God, which never ceases. In our Archdiocese of St. John's, monthly events helped to draw our minds and hearts towards our God, source of mercy and compassion, and towards our sisters and brothers, particularly those in most need. Together, throughout this year, we celebrated the Jubilee for Consecrated Life (Feb. 2), the Jubilee for the Sick (Feb. 11), 24 Hours with the Lord (March 4-5), The Jubilee for Youth and Young Adults (April 3), the Jubilee for Married Couples (May 21-22), the Archdiocesan Food Drive (May 28-29), the Jubilee for Grandparents (July 24), the Jubilee for Catechists (Sept 24-25), and the Jubilee for Prisoners (November 6). Many of our events included pilgrimages through the Holy Door at the east side of our Basilica-Cathedral.*

*As God's people, and as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today, we are perpetually on pilgrimage. This Year of Mercy has reminded us that we must constantly journey toward the other, and reach out in mercy and love, often surprising the people around us with the love of God that flows through us. The Year of Mercy may have drawn to a close, but we are certain, now more than ever, that "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end" (Lamentations 3:22). Our task from this point forward is to continue to make God's mercy and love present in our world. As we look around us, ours is a world which desperately needs to know the peace that only God can bring. We must be means of that peace, speaking fluently the language of mercy, which is a language of actions, of outreached hands and open hearts and minds.*

*At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who walked among us on earth. Jesus continues to walk among us, we meet him in the hungry, cold, ill-clothed, sick, imprisoned, grieving and poorly housed or with no roof over his head. Let each one of us search each day for some concrete way to reach out to someone in need. Though the Year of Mercy has come to a close, mercy is more needed than ever in our world.*

*May the joy, peace and mercy of Christ be poured into your hearts and homes this Christmas. May that joy, peace and mercy flow from your hearts and homes into the world around us, enlightening that world, one heart and one life at a time. When others experience the mercy you embody, may they be able to say, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23).*

*In Christ,*

***MOST REVEREND MARTIN W. CURRIE, D.D.**  
Archbishop of St. John's*

**ST. KEVIN'S & ST. JOSEPH'S PARISHES**

P.O. Box 520, Goulds, NL, A1S 1G6

*December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Feast of Christmas*

*Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Kolonel*

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***For unto us is born this day,  
in the city of David, a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord!***