

## 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, 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



**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** - This year we completed 105 hampers through the generosity of so many individuals, parishioners of St. Kevin's, St. Joseph's & St. Paul's Parishes, schools, businesses, various organizations/groups, farmers and the community as a whole. There is no way all of this could happen without the continued support and generosity of so many people. Our sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone! Thank you also to the Food Bank volunteers who put so many hours into the assembling, delivery and distribution of the food hampers.

**Sponsoring of Families** - a huge thank you to the individuals and businesses from our community as well as outside our community who sponsored families this year. We had 17 sponsors who helped Santa give 27 children a very Merry Christmas. Everyone who requested help received it. Thank you for your generosity and kindness of heart. Mother Teresa said it perfectly

**"The miracle is not that we can do this work, but we are happy doing it".**

God bless you for caring! We wish you all the joy and happiness that you helped bring each and every child this year.

**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.

**Church Decorating** - Once again our volunteers have worked their Christmas magic! Our churches look beautiful! Thank you to all the volunteers who spend so many hours decorating and making everything look so beautiful. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers who give so freely of their time at such a busy time of the year.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since I became your Archbishop, I have been writing Christmas letters to you. Eleven years, eleven letters. Now, we come to this last letter that I will write to you. There is sadness in this; there is also great, even overflowing gratitude.

Each year, I have tried to reflect with you on some aspect of the wondrous story of Christmas, trying to proclaim the Good News to you, the Good News that on that first Christmas, God became human, God became one of us.

In Bethlehem, God took on human flesh and walked among us. Why? Well, theologians and people of faith have been pondering that question since the very beginning. Myself, I believe that the answer to that question is very simple. God became human out of love. God so loved the world that God left Heaven in order to walk among us, to share our lot, to experience all that we experience, except sin, of course. But why did God choose to come as a weak, even helpless baby, born to a displaced couple in a barn meant for animals? Again, I think that the answer is very simple: who could not love a baby? God took on human flesh in order to be one of us, to be loved by us, to be known by us.

The only fitting response to such love is, "Thank you." And that is my response at this moment as I prepare to say good-bye to you. God took flesh in Bethlehem in the most definitive way. In another, very real way, for the past eleven years, you have shown me the face of God. In January, your new Archbishop, Peter Hundt, will be installed, and I will begin the next stage of my life. As I think back on the past eleven years, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful for having been entrusted with the pastoral care of this flock; I am grateful for each and every one of you. We have been a family, one great Archdiocesan family. Like every family, we have had good times and bad, joys and sorrows, but we have consistently sought ways to communicate well, to attend to the needs of the least among us, to celebrate the joys, mourn the sorrows, and face the good and the challenging events together. My heart is overflowing with love and gratitude.

I have prayed for you every day of my time among you. I will continue to pray for you. It is time to entrust you to a new shepherd. I will leave your presence, but you will forever remain in my heart, and I will continue to pray for you. Please pray for me as well.

I remain, your brother in Christ,



Archbishop Emeritus of St. John's

Apostolic Administrator - Archdiocese of St. John's

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

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

*December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - Feast of Christmas*

*Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Kolonel*

*Secretary: Patsy Hynes*

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

