

*Fr. Jeff's Christmas Greeting*

*“The word became flesh and lived among us” (John, 1:14)*

*Today, we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord - Jesus the Christ coming into the world to brighten our lives. Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be hesitant and to let him, whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend, to be our companion.*

*God came to us because he wanted to join us on the journey, to listen to our story, and help us realize we are not walking in a circle but moving with God toward his wisdom and understanding. This journey has brought us down different avenues, some dead ends, and through some seemingly endless hills but has also brought us through lush forests, rolling meadows and beautiful landscapes.*

*The mystery of Christmas gives us comfort that we are not on the journey alone. We know the journey of Joseph and Mary: their poverty and lack of social status, their trek through hostile land, their rejection at the inn, and of course, Jesus born in a barn.*

*Glory to God in the highest! The light that is Jesus has lifted the shroud of gloom and darkness. Christ humbled himself for us. He went from commanding angels to sleeping in straw. Jesus went from holding stars to clutching Mary's finger. The palm that held the universe took the nail of the soldier. All to meet us on life's road and journey with us.*

*“From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace: (John 1:16)*

*I wish you a most Blessed and Holy Christmas. Merry Christmas!*

*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 many of the 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 104 Christmas 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. The generosity and support our Food Bank receives not only at this time of year but all year long never ceases to amaze us and make us proud of the community we live in. Our sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone! A huge thank you to the Food Bank volunteers for the organization and endless hours they put into the assembling, distribution and delivery of the food hampers.*

**Sponsoring of Families** - *once again this year we put out the call for help with Santa supplies - the response was overwhelming. 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 29 sponsors help give 33 children a very Merry Christmas this year. Once again everyone who requested help received it. Thank you for your generosity and kindness of heart. I love this quote from Mother Teresa who said it perfectly:*

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

*God bless you for caring and sharing! May all the joy and happiness you helped give these families be returned to you many times over!*

**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.*



## *Archbishop Hundt's Christmas Message 2019*

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

At Christmas, we celebrate God's love for us taking human form through the birth of His Son Jesus as a baby born to a poor couple in Bethlehem of Judea. It is a religious solemnity through which we praise God for this gift of His love and in which we are reminded that love is often made incarnate in small, quiet and hidden ways.

Christmas is a very special time for us and for our society. It is a celebration that calls forth the best in us, inviting us to be generous, loving and kind, not just to family and friends, but also to the sick, the suffering, the lonely and those who are most in need. It invites us to remember that love is real and is meant to be shared, and that it is by sharing it that we receive it, are blessed by it, and we ourselves become a blessing.

In reflecting on how love is made real, shared and a blessing in the Archdiocese of St. John's, the RUAH Counselling Centre and the Chaplaincy services offered at Her Majesty's Penitentiary, the Health Sciences Centre, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital the Waterford Hospital, Pleasantview Towers and other senior's homes, come immediately to mind for me. I am grateful for the kindness, care and love shared in these institutions by volunteers, counsellors and chaplains. I deeply appreciate the generous financial assistance given by so many in support of these ministries especially through the annual Archbishop's Dinner and Auction and the Archbishop's Appeal Campaign. The support and love shared is a great blessing to many and a wonderful witness to Christ's love made manifest by those who declare themselves Christians.

As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of Christmas this year, I also wish to take this opportunity to thank those who are involved in the many other outreaches and services sponsored by, supported by and/or provided by the Religious Congregations, parishes and individuals of our Archdiocese. May God bless you abundantly during this Christmas season for your lived out Christian witness.

I hope that this Christmas will be one in which each of us will give and receive the blessing of love shared and treasured. Asking that you join with me in praying for God's love to become ever more incarnate through the generosity, sharing and kindness of all of us who bear the name of "Christian", I remain,

Yours in Christ,  
+Peter Hundt  
Archbishop of St. John's, NL

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

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

*December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Feast of Christmas*

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

