

Archbishop's 2025 Christmas Message

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

The solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord is our annual celebration of our God coming to earth and being born as one of us. It is the celebration of our God entering so fully and actively into our humanity that we in turn may share in His divinity forever in heaven.

The message of Christmas is one of God joining us here on earth in the midst of our trials, temptations, difficulties and pains, not to instantaneously remove them or wipe them away, but to be with us in the midst of them, sharing them with us in such a way as to help us to face them, accept them, and conquer them through the power of the beauty, goodness and love that are also present here, and are but a foretaste of the beauty, goodness and love that can be ours forever with Him in heaven.

Emmanuel, "God is with us" is the great message of Christmas: "God with us" as a baby in a manger, the child of travellers so poor and alone that their child is born in a stable; "God with us" in such a profound yet simple way that the course of history is changed forever; "God with us" for all peoples of every time and place no matter what their state, their challenges, their situation; "God with us" as light in our darkness, hope in our struggles and joy in our hearts forever and always.

Praying that all may know the joy and the peace that can only come from accepting the gift of God's presence in our hearts and in our lives, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Peter Hundt, Archbishop of St. John's

Fr. Fleming's Christmas Message

"So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger" (Lk 2:16)

Looking back at this past year, I have been struck by many news accounts and anecdotal stories that tell of a renewed interest in Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith in our times, especially among young people. I also have seen some of these signs of life in our own parish and diocese. By this, I am reminded of the shepherds who first "went with haste" to find the newborn Jesus. Christmas announces that God became man in Jesus Christ, and in Him we find the fullness of truth, meaning, and love—the things our hearts and minds most desire. As we celebrate this great mystery, let us continue to make our parish a place where Jesus Christ can be found by all who seek Him. Let us also strive to be ever more like those shepherds who, in humility and simplicity, heard the good news of Jesus and responded so promptly and generously.

Thank you for the witness of your faith and your kindness to me over the past year, and I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and New Year. **Fr. James Fleming**

SANCTUARY LAMP- For the week of December 21st – 27th the Tabernacle Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the souls of Tom Greene & Krista Haines. For the week of December 28th – January 3rd the Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the special intentions of M.S. Family. If you would like to have the Sanctuary Lamp lit for a deceased relative or friend or for a special intention, contact the parish office. The cost is \$5.00 per week.

PRAVERS FOR OUR SICK - Lord hear our prayer for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, aging and in need of our prayers, and for those who care for them, may they find strength and courage through their faith. We pray for John Power, Michael Grace, Ashley White, Lorraine Hearn, Brendan Grace, Jenny Hickey, Delores Smith, Tony Grace, John Tucker, Greg & Madonna Connolly, Steven Gibbons, Ron Hickey, Rose Mackey & Pat Neville. If you would like to have your loved ones prayed for please call the parish office.

IN MEMORY - the Parish extends a sincere thank you to those who donated to the Purchase of Poinsettias to beautify the altar during the Christmas Season. **The flowers are given in Memory of:**

John-Michael Mackey, Bernard, Madeline, David J. Lawlor, Lorraine S. Lawlor/Lawlor/Stapleton families, Gordon Walsh/Walter Tobin, Patrick & Mildred Rumbolt, Jardine/Tobin Families/Pat Whiffen, Brian St. Croix, Gerald & Angela Kelly, Tom & Kay Hickey, Doyle/Locke family, Metcalfe/Mercer family, John & Ellen Griffin, Michael & Elizabeth Bruce, Dalton/ Haskell family, John & Nora Kinsella, Fr. Charles Holland, SJ, James & Olive Chubbs, Joe & Gertrude Walsh/Karen Sheppard, Vince Burton, Burton/Farrell families, Gary Power, Francis & Cecilia Johnson, Meehan & Kielly Families, Ned, Bessie & Theresa Nugent, George & Nora Hutchings, Skinner & Power family, Marjorie Babin, Sandra Taggart, Joan Barter, Charles Stacey, Claude Malouin, Gerald Donovan, Lewis/McDonald family, Carroll/Ricks family, Noreen, Tina & Greg Wall, Laurie Family, Aloysius Lake, Donald & Janette King, Hollie Parsons, Elizabeth Laurie, Helen Laurie, Jimmy Laurie, Patrick Doyle, Dennis Lawlor, Alice Murphy, Albert Chislett, Mercer/Eason family, Ramon Rodriguez, Virginia Rodriguez, Ligaya Catapang, Francisco Catapang, Gary Power, Suzanne Strong, Ade Family, James Bartlett, Marvin Kean, Melvin & Helen Maidment, Ron & Alice White, Alvin & Theresa Hobbs, Mitch Crotty, Bonita Flood, Nichole Power, Greene & Cole family, Maxwell Hussey & Brophy family, Josephine, Jeremiah & Kevin Hutchings, Berkley, Rita & Gordon Porter, Art Rice, Daphne Petten, Theresa Nugent & 2 infant brothers.

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU TO BECOME A PRIEST? COME AND SEE.

A vocation discernment group, led by Fr. James Fleming, meets regularly on the last Sunday of every month at the Basilica. Single Catholic men, 18 years and older, who are open to considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend. The group meets at 6:30 pm to pray, share a meal, and discuss a topic related to discerning a call to the priesthood. To register or find out more, please contact Fr. James Fleming at 834-9481 or vocations@rcsj.org

ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR - The 2025 Jubilee Year concludes in the Archdiocese of St. John's on **Sunday December 28, 2025**, feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with the celebration of the Eucharist in St. John the Baptist Cathedral-Basilica at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend and participate in this joyful and hope-filled closing celebration of the Jubilee Year. For those who are unable to attend, the Mass will be live-streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation>.

While the Jubilee Year of Hope concludes with this celebration, let us pray that we will continue, both as individuals and as an Archdiocese, to journey together as Pilgrims of Hope.

PARISH COLLECTIONS		December 13 & 14, 25		
Fund	# of envs.	Amount	Loose	Total
Sunday offering env.	130	\$2,664.00	\$356.50	\$3,020.50
Dues	2	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Food bank (Hymn Sing		\$ 265.00		\$ 265.00
Jessie Tree (Food bank)	22	\$ 850.00		\$ 850.00
Rosaries	2	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Archdiocesan assessment env.	3	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Christmas off. env.	4	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00
Christmas flowers	16	\$ 545.00		\$ 545.00
Hymn Sing	17	\$ 320.00		\$ 320.00
Donations	2	\$1,055.00		\$1,055.00
Needs of Canadian Church env.	1	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00
Archdiocesan assessment env.	3	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Initial offering env.	1	\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00
Totals	203	\$6,049.00	\$356.50	\$6,405.50
Received with deep appreciation and gratitude.				

2026 Collection Envelopes - The Collection envelopes for 2026 are available to be picked up on the table near the entrance to the church. Please take the box of envelopes with your name on the label. If you haven't been using envelopes but wish to do so, please take a box with **NO NAME** on it. In order to record your donations please include your name & contact information on your envelope for the first few weeks of 2026. (The envelopes are arranged in Alphabetical order by last name).

MASS SCHEDULE: December 23 – January 4, 26

INTENTION		
Tues. Dec. 23	-	10am - +George & Nora Hutchings --Sean Morrissey --Ann Johnson
Wed. Dec. 24 - (The Nativity of the Lord)	6:00 pm	- All Parishioners
	10pm	- All Deceased Parishioners
Thurs. Dec. 25 – (The Nativity of the Lord)	10:30am	- Vocations to the Priesthood, religious life & marriage
Fri. Dec. 26 (St. Stephen)	- 10am	- +Gordon Walsh --Carmel Handigan --Eleanor Fitzpatrick
Sat. – Dec. 27	- 4pm	- +Rose Madore --Bessie Nugent --Donna Stanley
Sun. Dec. 28	- 10:30 am	- All Parishioners
(The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)		
Tues. Dec. 30	- 10am	- +Ellen Sharpe - +Bernadine White --Anne Geehan
Wed. Dec. 31 (The Holy Mother of God)	4pm	- All Parishioners
Thurs. Jan. 1 (The Holy Mother of God)	- 10:30am	- +Pius Skinner --Judy Mercer --Sr. Loretta Chafe RSM
Fri. Jan. 2 (Sts. Basil & Gregory)	- 7pm	- +Raymond Kenny --Charlie Kenny/ Kenny/Skiffington family +Michael Meaney
Sat. Jan. 3 (The Epiphany of the Lord)	4pm	- +Helen, Elizabeth & Jimmy Laurie --Vince Burton +Lorraine Lawlor
Sun. Jan. 4 (The Epiphany of the Lord)	10:30am	- All Parishioners

MINISTRIES:

Christmas Eve	-	6pm
1st R	-	Dave Locke
2nd R & IP	-	Gerry Phelan
Usher	-	Jennifer Hutchings, Mary. Ryan, Jerry Hynes Ray Johnson, Pat Burton, Barbara Wakeham-Murphy
OFF	-	Carol Barron
EM	-	Lorna Clark, Gertie Kielly
S	-	Rita Locke

Christmas Day	-	10:30 am
1st R	-	Marguerite Greene
2nd R	-	Ann Marie Vatcher
Usher	-	Gary Penney, Dana Decker
OFF	-	Melinda & Emerson Mercer
EM	-	Pat Burton
S	-	Myrna Power

Sun. Dec. 28	-	10:30am
1st R	-	Myrna Power
2nd R	-	Brendan Murphy
Usher	-	Paul Kelly, Ray Johnson
OFF	-	Mildred Skiffington
EM	-	Marguerite Greene
S	-	Steve Dray

Thurs. Jan. 1	-	10:30 am
1st R	-	Doreen Dray
2nd R	-	Sherry Doyle
Usher	-	
OFF	-	Gertie Kielly
EM	-	Carol Barron
S	-	Steve Dray

Sun. Jan. 4	-	10:30 am
1st R	-	Marguerite Greene
Usher	-	Paul Kelly, Tracy Barron
EM	-	Paul Cahil

2nd R	-	Pat Burton
OFF	-	Lisa & Nevaeh Dean
S	-	Myrna Power

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**NATIVITY OF THE LORD****THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH****THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD****THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD****DECEMBER 21, 25 – JANUARY 4, 2026****WELCOME TO ST. EDWARD'S PARISH****2696 Topsail Road, CBS****Box 13048, Topsail Station****CBS, NL A1W 2K1****834-9481****Email – Stedwardsparish@outlook.com****Website – <https://stedwardsparishweb.wixsite.com/st-edwards-parish-nl>****Parish Priest – Fr. James Fleming****Administrative Assistant – Jennifer Hutchings****Parish Council Chair – Dave Locke****Liturgy Committee Chair – Monika Behr****Finance Council Chair – Paul Kelly****OFFICE HOURS****Monday – Friday – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm****Closed daily 12 -1pm**

PLEASE NOTE – This is a two week bulletin, as the Parish Office will be closed during the Christmas Season from December 24 – January 1st. It will reopen on Friday, January 2nd @ 8:30 am. For **emergencies or sick calls only** call 709-697-1340.