



ST. PIUS X
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
16 Smithville Crescent, St. John's, NL A1B 2V2
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Finding God in All Things

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 9, 2018

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH MYSELF

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

SOURCE: www.onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online

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**SCRIPTURE
READINGS
FOR NEXT SUNDAY
December 16, 2018**

You could read/discuss/pray with your family, with friends or by yourself.'

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-8a

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Psalm: Isaiah 12

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

**"THE HOMELAND
OF JESUS"**

This film was made in Jerusalem. It has visual imagery of the Holy Land today, helping viewers appreciate the life of Jesus from a different angle.

The film will be shown on Tuesday, December 11, 10 am after the 9:30 am Mass, in the Church Library. All are welcome to attend.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Cecilia McGruer and her hard-working team who prepared and served our delicious Advent Brunch meal.

Thank you as well for those who gathered the materials for our **Advent Wreath Making Activity**. A special **thank you to Fr. Wayne Bolton, SJ** who chopped down the boughs for us.

Thank you to Karl Wight and **Allan Young** who prepared the Parish Hall for us.



**FR. EARL
DREAMS**

Advent followed by Christmas is a painful time of the year for many parishioners and persons in general who suffer this season for a variety of good reasons. It is therefore not always a season anticipated with fun, joy, laughter and celebration. It is with this awareness that the following quote highlighted as part of my Advent I homily is provided. It comes from an inspired source. Why not give it, its due prayerful consideration?

"The truly good news is that god is not a distant god, a god to be feared and avoided, a god of revenge, but a god who is moved by our pains and participates in the fullness of the human struggle ... god is a compassionate god. This means, first of all, that god is a god who has chosen to be god-with-us ... as soon as we call god "god-with-us," we enter into a new relationship of intimacy with him. by calling god emmanuel, we recognize god's commitment to live in solidarity with us, to share our joys and pains, to defend and protect us, and to suffer all of life with us."

Henri J. M. Nouwen,

You are the Beloved: Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living, 2017



OUR 'PIUS' SMILE

Irishman is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds into the water, subsequently bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon, he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk shouts, "Yes, I am." So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, "Brother, have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus!"

The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, "Have you found Jesus, brother?" The drunk answers, "No, I haven't found Jesus!" By this time, the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk again -- but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when he begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up. The preacher again asks the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?" The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December I and 2:	\$4,338.85
Envelopes	3,857.00
Loose	381.85

Thank you for your continued generous support.

DE MELLO

What's Advent?



Christmas is a big day. Christ enters the world as a baby and his story begins. Like any big event in your life - starting school, awaiting your own sibling to be born, a family vacation - you do certain things to get ready for the moment. During Advent, we get ready for the coming of the Lord. We pray, we think about things we can do better, and we reach out to help others. Christ is coming, and it is important that we be ready for him, at Christmas and every day.

Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus.

Come and be born in our hearts.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

Christmas Cards, Calendars and Missals

Religious Christmas cards and calendars are available for purchase on the table in the Chapel area. Sunday missals for 2018-2019 are also available for purchase.

Food for the Mind and Heart

As a Christmas gift, consider inspiring, thought-provoking books by people such as Pope Francis, Cardinal Tagle of Manila, St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, Archbishop Attila Mikoshazy, SJ, Fr. Eric Jensen, SJ, and Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ. These books can be found on the table in the Chapel area.



SAINTS SPEAK

God never destroys the work of his own hands, but removes what would pervert it, that is all. Maturity is the stage where the whole life has been brought under the direction of God.

Oswald Chambers,
20th Century English Christian spiritual writer.

This showing was made to teach our soul wisely to hold fast to the goodness of God. And in that time the method of our praying was brought to mind: how we tend, through lack of understanding and knowledge of God in his love, to spend too much time on petitioning him. Then saw I truly that it gives more honour to God, and more true delight, that we trustingly pray to him through his goodness and cling to him through his grace, with true confidence and in steadfast love, than if we took all the words that the heart can think. For if we use all these words, it is too little, and not truly worthy of God: but to rely on his goodness is all we need, and there nothing whatsoever is lacking.

Julian of Norwich, 14th C. English mystic,
A Month with Julian of Norwich, Ed.,
Rima Devereaux, 2018.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Our annual St. John's East Advent Reconciliation Service will be held Thursday, December 13, 2018 at St. Pius X Church at 7 pm. Please consider attending this blessed encounter with God, the Merciful One.



FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS

The Teachings of Jesus

This session is entitled Advent Prayer - The Nativity. It will be held Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 10:15 am at St. Pius X Church. All are welcome to attend.

ADVENT PRAYER

Almighty God,

I hear it over and over: you are coming to me.

I feel my heart stir in anticipation, and I sense that you are inviting me to enter more deeply into the mystery of your birth.

Help me to feel renewed patience settle in my heart,

and to lift my face in joy.

I have been like a lost lamb, but I hear your voice calling me and I feel how deeply you want me to return.

Somehow I know that you rejoice in my desire to find you.

Help me not to be afraid to say out loud, to believe:

Here is God, coming into my life.



PARISH NEWS

Some parishioners have noticed that most of the wonderful foliage behind our church against our school building has been cleared. There are a number of practical safety reasons for this pro-active measure. The safety of our electrical lines are threatened with every storm [Hence, Newfoundland Power has assisted us with some part of the clean up.] Our buildings are now more easily kept clear of decaying foliage that clogs drainage passages we need to keep clear to prevent water damage to our buildings. There are also ongoing concerns not to invite/encourage our neighbourhood rodents from moving in, and near our buildings. Thanks for your continued understanding and support of your parish's property management.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Parish will be accepting donations of flowers and plants to decorate the Church for Christmas. Parishioners are invited to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection and marked CHRISTMAS FLOWERS, or dropped off at the Parish Office.

MUN CHAPLAINCY

Our last Sunday evening Mass at MUN will be this Sunday, December 9, 2018. We will start again on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

MISSA CANTATA

Missa Cantata (a sung Mass in Latin) will be held in St. Pius X Chapel on December 16, 2018 at 5 pm for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). Fr. Bill Browne, SJ will preside. The Cantata Choir will lead the music, which includes II Gregorian-chant hymns. Everything needed to follow and participate will be provided.

Everyone is welcome.

MEDALS AWARDED

On December 2, 2018 Archbishop Currie presented the following Medals:

Benemerenti Medal to Ms. Joanne Thompson. The Benemerenti Medal is an honour awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Roman Catholic Church. Ms. Thompson's work with the community, especially her creative and diligent work with the Gathering Place is very much recognized, valued and appreciated.

The Award of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great to Mr. Pat Thompson. The honor is bestowed upon Roman Catholics in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Church, through examples made in their communities and their countries. Mr. Thompson's work with the Basilica Historical and Museum Committees is very much recognized, valued and appreciated.

Calendar of Services and Mass Intentions

Sun.	Dec. 9	8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass Mass	2 nd Sunday of Advent 2 nd Sunday of Advent
Mon.	Dec. 10	9:30 am 1:00 pm 2:50 - 3:05 pm 7:30 pm	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Chapel Divine Mercy Chaplet - Chapel Mass	Jack, Evangeline and Isabelle Barry Tom and Theresa Maynard
Tues.	Dec. 11	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Mass Mass	Timothy and Catherine Kinsella and Family Frank Lawlor
Wed.	Dec. 12	9:30 am	Mass	Shannon Ryan
Thurs.	Dec. 13	9:30 am	Mass	Larry Fagan
Fri.	Dec. 14	9:30 am	Mass	Thomas and Gertrude Furlong
Sat.	Dec. 15	9:30 am 4:45 pm	Mass Mass	John, Patricia and Ron Dawson 3 rd Sunday of Advent
Sun.	Dec. 16	8:30 am 11:00 am	Mass Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent 3 rd Sunday of Advent

GONZAGA JESUIT COMMUNITY IN RESIDENCE
Fr. William Browne, SJ, Br. Joe Frechette, SJ, Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ,
Fr. Joseph Schuck, SJ, Mr. Raj Vijayakumar, SJ

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 3:30 - 4:20 pm
and Tuesday: 6:40 - 7:20 pm

TIMES OF MASSES: Monday to Friday: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am and 4:45 pm; Sunday: 8:30 am and 11 am

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 9 am - 1 pm
PHONE: 754-0170 E-MAIL: stpiousx@nl.rogers.com

CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL: 739-5780
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