

December 3, 2023: 1st Sunday of Advent, 35th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

www.loyolapress.com

PARISH OUTREACH: This committee is offering to bring communions and provide a pastoral visit to those who wish to have this ongoing contact. To anyone needing a pastoral visit or communion to the sick please call the parish office at 709-785-5025 and you will be directed to a committee member.

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

35th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey

Office Administrator: Roseann Janes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025
curlingparish@hotmail.com

e-transfers:
sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com
Password "Church"
Note: include your envelope #
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

Mass During Week:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7 pm.

Friday at 10 am.

Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

Lohnes Complex*

First Friday of each month - 2 pm at the Lohnes Complex.

***Note:** No mass at the church on this day.

Bible Study:

December 5, 2023, after evening mass.

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Postponed until further notice.

Reconciliation:

By request.

Marriages:

Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

Family Connections:

At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.

St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS
November 25th & 26th, 2023

Regular Sunday	2320.25
Loose Offering	104.50
Building Fund	20.00
Christmas Flowers	20.00
Advent Folders	20.00
Votive Candles	47.00
Sunday Missals	268.00
Mass Stipends	200.00
Shepherds Fund	335.00
St. Vincent de Paul	205.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. 7 pm	Parish Community
Wed. 7 pm	Parish Community
Thur. 7 pm	Parish Community
Fri. 10 am*	Parish Community
Sat. 4:30 pm	Parish Community
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

December 9	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Jacqueline Neville	Barbara Neville
December 10	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Calvin Gillis	Joe Byrne
Communion to the sick – Barbara Neville	

CHRISTMAS MASS:

Saturday, December 23 at 4:30pm.
Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm and 9:30 pm.
Monday, December 25 at 11a.m.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, December 5 after evening Mass.

CHRISTMAS HOURS: The church will be closed from Dec. 26 to 29, there will be no Mass during these days. Mass will resume Saturday December 30 at 4:30pm. **New Years Eve Mass** will be held Sunday December 31 at 4:30pm. **New Years Day Mass** is Monday January 1 at 11a.m.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT PARTY: "Back to Bethlehem," come out on Sunday, December 10 from 2-4 for a fun-filled afternoon of activities for the whole family at the Cathedral! All parishes in the city are invited. Registration is encouraged, flyers are available.
Contact: angie.dolomount@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS TREE: The Sacred Heart Ladies Group has set up a Christmas giving tree in the church. Please take a tag and return with the item on the tag. This is to help provide breakfast items for Sacred Heart Elementary School to stock up their Library Pantry. The food items are for all the children of the school. Thank you for your generosity.

ANNUAL ADVENT ECUMENICAL SERVICE: is at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 25 Main St., Sunday December 3, 7pm. All singers are welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals Sunday, December 3 at 5:45pm.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist
The "source and summit" of the Christian life. Next sessions are December 4th and 11th at the Cathedral from 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m. Please contact angie.dolomount@gmail.com or 709-631-4543 for more information.

BOOK SALE: The Sacred Heart Ladies Group held their book sale the weekend before last and brought in \$557.00. They wish to thank

everyone who helped, contributed, and participated in the sale. The next one is planned for Spring of 2024.

STOCKING STUFFERS: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is still accepting stocking stuffers for the Christmas Hampers. A list of suggested items can be found at the back of the church. The collection box is located at the back of the Church. For those who prefer to make cash donations, envelopes are available on the church table and tax receipts can be provided. If you wish to sponsor a hamper or can help in any way, please contact the Society at 638-9010. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing generosity.

SHEPHERDS' FUND FOUNDATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN - YEAR 2023: The weekend of November 25 and 26, the Campaign was conducted. Remember we can accept contributions at any time. The Board extends sincere appreciation for your kind support and wishes you God's Blessing for your participation in this Campaign.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Have been donated in memory of the late John Joyce, John and Nora Griffin and George and Sarah Joyce by Clara Joyce.

SACRED HEART BINGO: Another great month for bingo. Thank you to those who donated the beautiful prizes and those who continue to donate on a monthly basis. It is all greatly appreciated. We are proud to say we made \$1001.00. There will be no bingo during December. The next will be Sunday January 28, 2024 at 2pm. Doors open at 1pm. Please remember the date. Thank you.

SUNDAY MISSALS: For 2023-2024 have arrived and are \$7.00 each. They can be found in the back of the church, or at the parish office. Please remember to send in your payment if not paying at the time of pickup.

The Sacred Heart Ladies Group would like to thank the following for their donations towards the November Bingo: E. Buckle, K. Buckle, T. Griffin, J. Hancock, J. Hayes, K. Hynes, G. Leggo, B. Lewis, E. McGrath, S. McGrath, K. Musseau, J. Park, P. Payne, M. Pennell, J. Penney, K. Preston, R. Pye, K. Roche, G. Quigley, L. Randell, A. Rowsell, B. Rowsell, M. Specker, M. Staples, V. Stone, L. Taylor, L. Tarbett, C. Thistle, D. Traverse, R. Woodman and P. Young. Special thanks to V. Hickey for donating several prizes. We apologize if we have missed anyone.

Reflection

Advent: a time of hope

It is said that while there is life there is hope. This has an even deeper meaning in reverse: while there is hope there is life. Hope is strength. Hope sheds light into despairing hearts. It inspires the will to live. It is the doctor's most powerful ally. It is a shield against defeat and failure. It revives ideals and renews dreams. As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible. Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the final analysis, he is our hope.

*Flor McCarthy,
New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year B,
Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.15-16*