

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024: 4th Sunday of Advent

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation

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**PARKING LOT SIGNS:**

Remember we have new parking lot signs, to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our parish. These signs clearly indicate the No Parking Fire Lane, the Handicapped parking area, as well as how to properly enter and exit the parking lot. Please obey all signs to ensure a safe parking environment.

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
4th Sunday of Advent**

**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](mailto:curlingparish@hotmail.com)

[www.sacredheartrcparish.ca](http://www.sacredheartrcparish.ca)

**e-transfers:**  
**[sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com](mailto:sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com)**  
**Password "Church"**  
Note: include your envelope #

Diocesan website: [rcchurch.com](http://rcchurch.com)

**Weekend Masses:**

Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am. ***No mass on Dec. 28 & on the 29 at 10:30a.m. at Holy Redeemer only.***

**Weekday Mass:**

Tuesday to Friday 10a.m. ***None on Dec. 26 & 27 or Jan 2***  
**Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

**Lohnes Complex\***

First Friday of each month - 2 pm  
**\*Note:** No mass at the church on this day.

**Bible Study:**

To be determined at a later date.

**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](http://www.rcchurch.com) you will find a link to family connections.

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS**  
**on December 14 & 15**

Regular Sunday	2135.00
Loose Offering	84.25
Parish Dues	150.00
Building Fund	35.00
Christmas Flowers	225.00
Advent Folders	285.00
Votive Candles	28.00
Sunday Missals	8.00
Mass Stipends	40.00

**MASS INTENTIONS Dec. 24 – 29**

Dec. 24-25	Christmas Masses
Dec. 26-29	Office and church closed
<b>Dec. 29</b>	<b>Holy Redeemer Mass 10:30a.m</b> <b>Jubilee of Hope 2025</b>

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>December 24</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
Victoria Murphy	Joe Byrne
<b>December 25</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
Mike Leonard	Marie Pennell

**CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS**

<b><i>Christmas Eve – 7pm</i></b>	Late William & Ada Myles & Late Cameron Carew. Late Rita McGrath. Late Rebecca Park. Late Jack Neville & The Neville & Griffin Families. Late Eugene McHugh. Late Thomas (Sr.), Annie & Brian Griffin & Late George Hynes.
<b><i>Christmas Day – 11am</i></b>	The Late Jack, Joan & John Hearn The Late Nellie, Joe & Jim Hayes The Joyce Family The Late Vince & Ellen Lewis & Danielle Tuma The Late Rosemary (Hayes) Butcher The Late John King

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS:**

Raise your voice in song this Christmas Eve. Come join the Folk and Sunday choirs as they sing carols inside our church on Christmas Eve at 6:30p.m., for about 30 minutes before mass starts. We will have the words printed out for all who would like to sing. We look forward to seeing you there.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE/CHURCH HOURS:**

The church and office **will be closed** from Dec. 26 to 29, and Jan. 2 & 3, there will be no Mass on these days, but the Lohnes Complex Mass will be held Jan. 3 at 2pm. The Office is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day.

**THANK YOU:** Father Lainey would like to thank everyone for the birthday greetings, cards, phone calls and gifts. He had an excellent day because of your caring. Thank You everyone.

**ADVENT ENVELOPES:**

Are located at the back of the church.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** If you wish to donate towards Christmas flowers in a loved one's name, add the envelope with their name to the collection or contact the office. We will print the list at Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS PARKING:**

During mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day please follow the guidelines of the people helping everyone park. They are trying to make room for everyone to have a parking space. Thank you for your kindness towards them.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASS:**

**Christmas:**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024,**  
4:30pm - *Our Lady Star of the Sea*  
7:00pm – Sacred Heart Parish

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

11:00am – Sacred Heart Parish  
**December 29, 2024: JUBILEE OF HOPE**  
10:30a.m. - *Holy Redeemer Cathedral.*

**New Years:**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024:**  
4:30pm – Sacred Heart Parish  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025:**  
11:00am – Sacred Heart Parish

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE:**

The members of the committee are as follows:  
Father Lainey, Tony Griffin, Joe Byrne, Elizabeth Carew, Christine Chadderton, Don Gallant, Mike Leonard, Bob Musseau, Dan Park, Veronica Stone and Marie Pennell.

**POTLUCK & GIFT BASKET TICKET DRAW:**

Thank you to all who attended the gift basket draw and potluck last Sunday. Jordan Griffin was the winner of the gift basket. As always please know how much it means to the Parish for all the support and love you show through your work on all our fundraising efforts throughout the year. Thank you.

**A CHRISTMAS TRADITION:**

The Legion of Mary and students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School invite your family to witness them in presenting a spiritual Christmas Gift to Baby Jesus as they role play the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Christmas Eve 3:00 to 4:00pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Free admission.

**2025 DONATIONS ENVELOPES:**

Your 2025 envelopes are now available at the back of the church.

***Reflection:***

***Come, Lord Jesus***

Lord Jesus, come into our weakness.  
Come into our fears.  
Come into our anxieties.  
Come into our failures.  
Come into our divisions.  
Come into our grieving.  
Come into our loneliness.  
Come into our darkness.  
Come into our doubting.  
Come into our despair.  
Come into our poverty of heart.  
Come into our searching.  
Come into our joys and hopes.  
Come into our dying.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

