

December 17, 2023: 3rd Sunday of Advent, 37th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

www.loyolapress.com

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next parish council meeting will be Tuesday January 9th, 2024, at 7pm at Sacred Heart Parish Church.

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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: **Mass During Week:**

Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.
Tuesday, **Wednesday(10a.m.)**, 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:

Thursday December 21, 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 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

December 9th & 10th, 2023

Regular Sunday	2024.00
Loose Offering	65.75
Parish Dues	150.00
Building Fund	45.00
Christmas Flowers & Christmas	465.00
Advent Folders	205.00
Votive Candles	30.00
Sunday Missals & St. Anne's Oil	12.00
Ladies Group Donation	2000.00
In Memorium	70.00
Mass Stipends	70.00
Shepherds Fund	20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	55.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. 7 pm	Late Henry & Marie Leggo Late Eric & Harvey Leggo Special Intention for Gary Young
Wed. 7 pm	Late Bernadette & Anthony George
Thur. 7 pm	Parish Community
Fri. 10 am*	Parish Community
Sat. 4:30 pm	Late William & Ada Myles Late Cameron Carew

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 4:30pm	Late Bride Greene Late Jim, Joe(Sr.) & Nellie Hayes Late Thomas, Annie & Brian Griffin Late George Hynes Late Mary Ann English
Sun. 9:30pm	Late Francois & Therese Deveaux Late Jim, Joe(Sr.) & Nellie Hayes Late Thomas, Annie & Brian Griffin Late George Hynes Late Tee Dobbin

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

December 23	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Marie Pennell	Eileen Moore
December 24 – 4:30pm	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Janet & Emily Jackson	Donna Mitchell
Communion to the sick – Eileen Moore	
December 24 – 9:30pm	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Tony Griffin	TBD

CHRISTMAS MASS:

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

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Church on Wednesday, December 20th at 7pm. **NOTE:** Mass will be held at 10a.m.

BISHOP O'REILLY ASSEMBLY 0624 will be meeting at All Hallows Parish Humber Road Corner Brook on Tuesday December 19th at 7:45 P.M. We ask that Sir Knights please try to attend and wear Shirt and Tie as this will be our Installation of Officers.

WEEKDAY MASS: Starting Tuesday January 9th, 2024 weekday mass will be at 10a.m. each morning. The weekend masses will remain the same. **NOTE:** Starting first week of January 2024, we will hold Weekday mass in the Meeting Room in order to cut down on oil costs of heating the entire church.

CHRISTMAS HOURS: The church will be closed from Dec. 26 to 29, there will be no Mass or bible study 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.

CHOIR PRACTICE: Sacred Heart Parish Choir practice for Christmas Masses is on Sunday December 19th at 2pm in the parish church. Everyone is welcome who would like to sing for Christmas Masses.

BIBLE STUDY: Thursday, December 21 after evening Mass. **NOTE:** from now on it will be on Thursdays after evening Mass.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

Donated in memory of the following:
Michael (Sr), Lawrence, Ada & Lorena George.
Joseph & Annetta Hackett.
The Byrne & Musseau Families.
The Brake & Companion Families.
Ed Dobbin & members of the Dobbin family.

Reflection

There is a world of difference between joy and pleasure. Pleasure can be planned. Joy can't be planned; it comes unexpectedly, and is all the sweeter for that. Pleasure is immediate. Joy often comes later, and the sweetest joy of all is that which follows pain. Pleasure comes from saying "yes" to ourselves. Joy comes from saying "no" to ourselves. Pleasure is like a flare in the night: it brightens things up for a while, but when it's over, we feel darker and emptier than ever. Joy, on the other hand, is like a bright fire in the hearth; even when it dies down, it leaves a warm glow behind it.

Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.26

Joy and pleasure

CHRISTMAS TREE: The Sacred Heart Ladies Group would like to thank everyone who participated in the giving tree for Sacred Heart Elementary.

SUNDAY MISSALS: We have a few 2023-2024 left. Please remember to send in your payment if you have not already done so and are not paying at the time of pickup.

THE SEARCH: This is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence.

Whether you're a practiced inquirer or a skeptic, THE SEARCH will speak to you. You may be reassured by some parts, and challenged by others. Either way, you'll find a lot here to think about. Life's questions demand to be answered. We will have fellowship and small group discussions each week in addition to the video series.

The SEARCH is from the Augustine Institute that serves the formation of Catholics intellectually, spiritually, and pastorally to renew the Church and transform the world for Christ.

This will be held for 7 Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 8:15pm, Starting January 24th - March 13th (Ash Wednesday excluded) at Sacred Heart Parish Church.

This is FREE and open to All Adults.

For registration and information please contact the parish office by email (curlingparish@hotmail.com) or telephone during office hours at 709-785-5025.