



Fr. John MacPherson, Pastor  
 Fr. Michael Walsh, Associate Pastor  
 Fr. Raymond Odumuko, Associate Pastor

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022



**Kentville Parish Office**  
 Monday, Tuesday & Friday  
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Box 486, 48 Belcher St., Kentville, NS  
 B4N 3X3  
 902-678-3303  
 Jennifer Hilborn  
 parishoffice\_kentville@corpuschristins.ca

**Digby Parish Office**  
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
 9:30 am – 5:00 pm  
 Box 190, 110 Queen St., Digby, NS  
 B0V 1A0  
 902-245-2115  
 Pamela Cosman  
 parishoffice\_digby@corpuschristins.ca

Website: [www.corpuschristins.ca](http://www.corpuschristins.ca)  
 FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/corpuschristins](http://www.facebook.com/corpuschristins)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/corpuschristins](http://www.youtube.com/corpuschristins)  
 Instagram: [corpuschristins](https://www.instagram.com/corpuschristins)

**Please forward all notices for bulletin to [bulletin@corpuschristins.ca](mailto:bulletin@corpuschristins.ca) before 5:00 pm on Monday.**

**This Week's Readings**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Sun, Dec 18	Isaiah 7:10-14	Matthew 1:18-24
Mon, Dec 19	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25	Luke 1:5-25
Tues, Dec 20	Isaiah 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Wed, Dec 21	Song of Solomon 2:18-14	Luke 1:39-45
Thurs, Dec 22	1 Samuel 1:24-28	Luke 1:46-56
Fri, Dec 23	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24	Luke 1:57-66
Sat, Dec 24	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16	Luke 1: 67-79


**Community's Email Addresses**

St. John	<a href="mailto:windsor@corpuschristins.ca">windsor@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Francis	<a href="mailto:wolfville@corpuschristins.ca">wolfville@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Joseph	<a href="mailto:kentville@corpuschristins.ca">kentville@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Anthony	<a href="mailto:berwick@corpuschristins.ca">berwick@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Alphonsus	<a href="mailto:bridgetown@corpuschristins.ca">bridgetown@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Monica	<a href="mailto:middleton@corpuschristins.ca">middleton@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Louis	<a href="mailto:annapolisroyal@corpuschristins.ca">annapolisroyal@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Patrick	<a href="mailto:digby@corpuschristins.ca">digby@corpuschristins.ca</a>
St. Joseph	<a href="mailto:weymouth@corpuschristins.ca">weymouth@corpuschristins.ca</a>

**Giving to Corpus Christi Parish**  
 There are many ways to donate to Corpus Christi Parish:

- 1- Weekly Offertory Envelopes
- 2- Cash donations
- 3- E-Transfers to [finance@corpuschristins.ca](mailto:finance@corpuschristins.ca), include your name and church
- 4- PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittances)
- 5- Through the mail, send to Kentville Parish Office


Corpus Christi Parish thanks you for your financial support – How else could we fulfill our mission?



**Chris Palmer**  
 MLA KINGS WEST

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 Tel: 902-375-2554  
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OFFICE HOURS:  
 Mon to Fri  
 9am to 12pm  
 1pm to 4pm




**Lindsay Windsor**  
 Funeral Home

(902) 798-2232  
 194 King Street, Windsor  
[www.lindsayfuneralhome.com](http://www.lindsayfuneralhome.com)

*Ask about pre-planning.*



# Mass Intentions

## **SATURDAY, DEC 17**

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Marg Grant by Betty & Laurence Ritcey
Kentville	4:00 PM	Maynard Barry by Wayne Barry
Digby	4:00 PM	Arcade Comeau by Bill & Jacqueline Amirault

## **SUNDAY, DEC 18**

Windsor	8:30 AM	Dr Camille DuMesnil by Paul DuMesnil
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Leah Theriault by Mary Gilbert
Berwick	9:00 AM	Bernard Fitzgerald by the Grandchildren
Kentville/Online	10:15 AM	Paul Dill by Pat Crossman
Middleton	11:00 AM	Helen MacDonald by Fred & Marion Hole
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Richard, Alfreda & Ian Cromwell by the Family
Wolfville	11:45 AM	Dominic Doiron by Mary Merlin

## **TUESDAY, DEC 20**

Kentville	8:30 AM	Adrien Roberge by Stella Bond
Digby	6:30 PM	For the Intentions of Monika Treleaven by Marion Croft

## **WEDNESDAY, DEC 21**

Kentville	8:30 AM	Laurens & Maria Smolenaars by Peter & Agnes Nan
Middleton	9:00 AM	Helen MacDonald by Mary Gilbert
Tideview Terrace	10:30 AM	For the Intentions of Pamela Cosman
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Arlene Burton by a Friend

## **THURSDAY, DEC 22**

Kentville	8:30 AM	Arsena Robichaud by Joan & Hector Pottie
Berwick	9:00 AM	Paul Thompson by Sandra & Tom Jardine
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Marie Dugas by a Friend

## **FRIDAY, DEC 23**

Kentville	8:30 AM	Souls in Purgatory by Wayne Barry
Digby	9:00 AM	Andrew Jeffrey by Anita Tomaselli

## **SATURDAY, DEC 24**

Berwick	4:00 PM	Graeme King by Collette Pellerine
Digby	4:00 PM	Ed Donovaro by Sheila and Family
Kentville	4:00 PM	John Gaudet by Doris Gaudet
Annapolis Royal	6:00 PM	Leah Theriault by Marilyn Harry
Middleton	6:00 PM	Deceased Family Members by Carolyn Gilbert
Wolfville	6:00 PM	Mary Grant by Tom & Lois Porter
Bridgetown	8:00 PM	Mona Bateman by Val Pelly
Windsor	8:00 PM	Guy K Smith by Mary-Alma Smith
Weymouth	8:30 PM	Donald, Norma & Kelvin Cromwell by the Family
Kentville	10:00 PM	Maurice 'Moe' Harquail by Jennie Harquail

## **SUNDAY, DEC 25**

Kentville	10:00 AM	Doris Dandurand by Ann Myers
Middleton	10:00 AM	Intentions of Mary Canfield (L) by Carolyn Gilbert
Weymouth	10:00 AM	Peter Comeau by the Parishioners of St Joseph's, Weymouth



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Eve Mass

4 pm – Digby, Berwick, Kentville  
6 pm – Annapolis Royal, Middleton, Wolfville  
8 pm – Bridgetown, Windsor  
8:30 pm – Weymouth  
10 pm – Kentville

### Christmas Day Mass

10 am – Weymouth, Middleton, Kentville

**2023 Collection Envelopes:** Many people were issued different envelope numbers for 2023. Please write your name, address and phone number on the first few envelopes in the new year to ensure the donation is credited to the correct person, even if you have the same envelope number as 2022. We want to ensure we have your correct information. Thank you

**Used Postage Stamps** may be deposited in the box at the entrance to St. Monica's Church all year. Our Catholic Women's League will send them to Development & Peace for their fundraising at stamp fairs. (Please do not cut the edges of the stamp.) Thank you!

**Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts:** "Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross" provides a solid and captivating understanding of Mary, rooted in Scripture and Catholic tradition. Edward Sri blends sound research with an easy writing style. Excellent reading in this holy season and all year. (\$20.00) Available at St. Monica's church hall after Sunday Mass or call Mary Crooks 902-825-6495.



## Bible in a Year and 30 Days of Pausing in the New Year

As Advent draws to its conclusion at Christmas, it is time to think about what you will do for your spiritual growth over the coming year. The parish is offering two suggestions.

**Bible in a Year** - Have you ever decided to read the full Bible but given up by the time you reach Leviticus? Fr. Mike Schmitz hosts the #1 Religion podcast in America, The Bible in a Year. It covers the Bible in one year with daily podcasts that are 20-25 minutes and include 2 or 3 Scripture readings, a reflection by Fr. Mike, and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. If you miss a day, you can still get the episode and continue on at your own pace. The link to all the episodes is included below. The poster in the church has a QR code you can also use to access the series. A free reading plan is available. You can use an app such as Spotify or Apple podcasts or a link on your computer. Make this coming year the year that you do read the full Bible! <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

**30 Days of Pausing** in the New Year helps us understand the value of slowing down in our daily lives and focusing on what is truly important. It will help you to let go of the things that get in our way of living life the way God wants us to live it. It includes a specific call to action for each day. The link for this is included below. <https://store.loyolapress.com/the-power-of-pause> or <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/family/holidays-and-special-occasions/other-special-occasions/30-days-of-pausing-in-the-new-year/>



DIGBY & AREA  
HOUSING COALITION

### Digby & Area Housing Coalition

- Do you have an extra bedroom in your home?
- Are you a Senior wanting to stay in your home?
- Do you need help with chores around the house?
- Would you like to help a student who needs a place to stay?
- Could you use some extra money?
- Are you lonely, feeling isolated?

If you answered "Yes" to any one of these, then HomeSHARE may be for you.

The Digby & Area Housing Coalition Society has teamed up with Annapolis Valley HomeSHARE to help match home providers with home seekers. Please call Dianne at 902-825-8034 or Nancy at 902-467-3700

Immediate need: Several students need a room to rent, in Middleton, Lawrencetown and Digby.

**Corpus Christi Weekday Online Mass from Kentville**  
- please note that this will resume in the Spring

# The Mysticism of the Crib

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

When Pablo Picasso was a young child, a huge fire broke out in the city where his family lived. A night of chaos followed with people rushing about the streets shouting, commotion, and anarchy everywhere. Later, as an adult, Picasso recalled that night and described how, through all the commotion, he sat snug inside a harness-vest on his father's chest, watching everything around him, all the turmoil, from a secure, protected space. He felt no fear at all, only wonder, as he took it all in. People were fearing for their lives, but he was snug and safe on his father's chest.

This was not without long-term effects in his life. Art critics have pointed out that, as an artist, Picasso painted from precisely that perspective – a safe perch from which he could look at bedlam and disorder while being quite secure himself.

My memories are not exactly those of Picasso, but I have a warm memory too about being a child and feeling snug and secure in a world full of cold and chaos. My memory has to do with Christmas eve and going to church and seeing in the crib at the front of the church, the baby Jesus. Our parish still has the same crib, all these years later, and when I am home at Christmas and celebrate mass in the local parish, I still see parents bringing their young children forward to the crib to look at the nativity scene.

What goes on in the mind of a child when she or he looks at the infant, Jesus, sleeping in a manger of straw, surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the various animals? As adults, it is easy to be cynical about Christmas cribs – a plastic doll, lying on plastic straw. The stuff of saccharine, not of mysticism. But what does go on in the mind of a child?

Partly I am guessing and vaguely I am remembering, but a child, at least one who is not yet deeply wounded by some kind of abuse, will feel, before the crib, some of the same things that Picasso felt on the night of that great fire, the security of seeing things from the perspective of being held snug on a loving parent's chest.

To a child's eyes, the Christmas crib is heaven frozen in time. All the peace promised by Isaiah's vision is there: a little baby, the prince of peace, the God of the whole universe, asleep peacefully in the straw, surrounded by a loving mother and an attentive father and praying shepherds and animals who are too stunned by the very sight of it all to even move. To a child, the nativity scene is the snug-harness of safety on the father's chest or the mother's breast. The peace and security once felt at the mother's breast returns.

When a child sees and feels this, and any innocent heart will, that child walks away from the crib with a mystic's eye and a mystic's heart. For a time, at least, he or she will see and feel things from the perspective of the crib – where the God of the poor, the peaceful, the little and the innocent rules the world.

At the last supper, the scriptures tell us the beloved apostle rested his head on Jesus' breast, a gesture of unique friendship and intimacy. This is a mystical image that parallels what we have just been describing. When you put your head on another's breast, you have your ear just above that person's heart and are able to hear his or her heartbeat.

To see the world while hearing Christ's heartbeat. This is the real Christmas invitation. When the gospels tell us that it was the same disciple who leaned on Christ's breast who later looked into the tomb and "saw" that Christ had risen, it means much more than a simple physical registering of the fact that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. It means that the beloved disciple saw precisely as someone who is, at the same time, hearing the heartbeat of Christ.. As a result, it says, he understood – with his soul.

St. Bonaventure once said that God gave us three eyes: the eye of the body, a physical eye through which we see things; the eye of the mind, a capacity to see things through reasoning and thought; and the eye of the soul, a capacity to see, feel and understand the things of God.

Christmas wants us to engage the eye of the soul. It is about leaning our head on the crib, Jesus' breast, in order to hear his heartbeat and then turning our eyes out to the world to see things from that perspective.

The crib is the harness-vest on the mother's breast.



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## Did You Know?

### Nativity Scene

The tradition of having some kind of Nativity scene, also known by its French name (creche), in churches and in homes evolved during the Middle Ages, first in churches as a prop for Nativity plays associated with Mass. A creche is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with the principal characters: Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels, and animals. St. Francis of Assisi popularized this custom with a living Nativity scene at Greccio, Italy, in 1223. These scenes, constructed from every sort of material, spread throughout Christendom.

### Window Lights

The custom of putting a candle in the window comes from 19<sup>th</sup> century Immigrants into the United States. It seems to have its origin in the Yule candle (ie. a huge candle that burned along with a Yule). It represents a beacon to light the way for Mary and Joseph and the coming of the Christ Child. It is possible, however, that its origin lies in a time of suppression of Catholicism in Ireland. The candles attracted fugitive priests to safe houses.