



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

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

December 25, 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
 FaceBook: www.facebook.com/corpuschristins

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

Please forward all notices for bulletin to bulletin@corpuschristins.ca before 5:00 pm on Monday.

This Week's Readings

	1st Reading	Gospel
Sun, Dec 25	Isaiah 9:1-6	Luke 2:1-14
Mon, Dec 26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Matthew 10:17-22
Tues, Dec 27	1 John 1:1-4	John 20:1-8
Wed, Dec 28	1 John 1:5--2:2	Matthew 2:13-18
Thurs, Dec 29	1 John 2:3-11	Luke 2:22-35
Fri, Dec 30	Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Sat, Dec 31	1 John 2:18-21	John 1:1-18

Community's Email Addresses

St. John	windsor@corpuschristins.ca
St. Francis	wolfville@corpuschristins.ca
St. Joseph	kentville@corpuschristins.ca
St. Anthony	berwick@corpuschristins.ca
St. Alphonsus	bridgetown@corpuschristins.ca
St. Monica	middleton@corpuschristins.ca
St. Louis	annapolisroyal@corpuschristins.ca
St. Patrick	digby@corpuschristins.ca
St. Joseph	weymouth@corpuschristins.ca

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, 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

195 Cottage St., Berwick, NS
 Tel: 902-375-2554
 Toll Free: 888-701-2554
 Email: chrispalmermla@gmail.com
 Facebook: [@chrispalmerkingswest](https://www.facebook.com/chrispalmerkingswest)
 Instagram: [@palmerkingswest](https://www.instagram.com/palmerkingswest)

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

Ask about pre-planning.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DEC 24

Berwick	4:00 PM	Graeme King by Collette Pellerine
Digby	4:00 PM	Ed Donovaro by Sheila and Family
Kentville/Online	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 of 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

TUESDAY, DEC 27

Digby	6:30 PM	Clifford Mullen Jr by Marilyn & Family
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WED, DEC 28

Kentville	8:30 AM	Carl & Brenda McAuley by Theresa MacMillin & Family
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Mass of Thanksgiving by a Parishioner

THURSDAY, DEC 29

Kentville	8:30 AM	Florence Barry by Theresa Coffey
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FRIDAY, DEC 30

Kentville	8:30 AM	Lorna Burnham by Butch & Family
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SATURDAY, DEC 31

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Mary Grant by Peter Newton
Kentville	4:00 PM	Tom Coffey by Theresa & Family
Digby	4:00 PM	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Windsor	6:00 PM	Intentions of Yvonne Gaudet by Laura Joyce

SUNDAY, JAN 1

Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Berwick	9:00 AM	Peter O'Neil by sister, Anne & Family
Kentville/Online	10:15 AM	Intentions of Fr John, Fr Michael, Fr Raymond, Archbishop Dunn & All Priests by Helen Walsh
Middleton	11:00 AM	Fr David Stokes, Dan Canfield & Barbara Picot by Carolyn Gilbert
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Wolfville	11:45 AM	Helen MacDonald by Carolyn Gilbert



Mass Intentions

TUESDAY, JAN 3

Kentville 8:30 AM Rena Dumareq by Theresa & Floyd Preston

WEDNESDAY, JAN 4

Kentville 8:30 AM Arsena Robichaud by the LeBlanc family

Middleton 9:00 AM Intentions of Fr John MacPherson (L) by St Monica's CWL

THURSDAY, JAN 5

Kentville 8:30 AM Nellie Leonard by Theresa Coffey

Berwick 9:00 AM Claire Ann Muise by Judy & Rick Coulombe

FRIDAY, JAN 6

Kentville 8:30 AM George Pellerin by Dennis & Barb Nash

SATURDAY, JAN 7

Bridgetown 4:00 PM Gerry Bach by Tom & Lois Porter

Kentville 4:00 PM ***Liturgy of the Word with Communion***

Digby 4:00 PM Wayne Comeau by Sheila Donovaro

SUNDAY, JAN 8

Windsor 8:30 AM ***Liturgy of the Word with Communion***

Annapolis Royal 9:00 AM Theresa LeBlanc by Donald & Barbara Theriault

Berwick 9:00 AM Billy Peters by Leo & Anita Curries

Kentville/Online 10:15 AM ***Liturgy of the Word with Communion***

Middleton 11:00 AM Helen MacDonald by Bev Slauenwhite

Weymouth 11:30 AM David Burke by Ron Muise

Wolfville 11:45 AM ***Liturgy of the Word with Communion***

Jan 1-7, 2023 Readings

	1st Reading	Gospel
Sun, Jan 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Luke 2:16-21
Mon, Jan 2	1 John 2:22-28	John 1:19-28
Tues, Jan 3	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 1:18-23
Wed, Jan 4	1 John 3:7-10	John 1:35-42
Thurs, Jan 5	1 John 3:11-21	John 1:43-51
Fri, Jan 6	1 John 5:5-13	Mark 1:7-11
Sat, Jan 7	1 John 5:14-21	John 2:1-11

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.

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

Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts: Let the children come to me! The Sunday Missal for Young Catholics can help to bring the Mass alive, so that children feel they are active participants. Imagine reviewing the Sunday readings ahead each week with your children, learning and growing together. This colourful illustrated book invites children into Mass as an adventure (\$7.00).

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/>



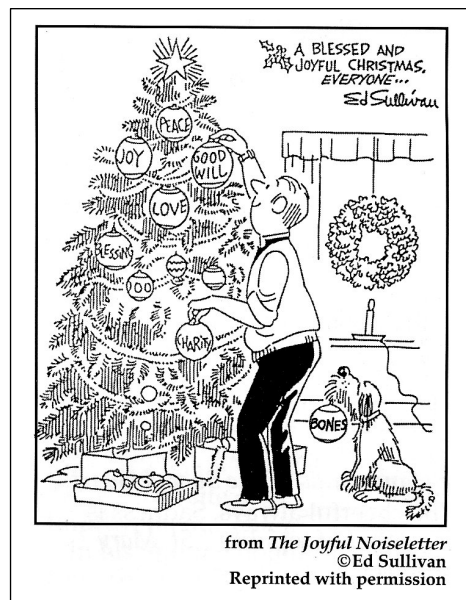
DIGBY & AREA
HOUSING COALITION

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.



This notice was approved by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT IN CLASS ACTION

To all individuals who were sexually abused by a priest of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax or Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth between April 14, 1954 and March 31, 2020 and have not previously settled or otherwise released either the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax or Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth.

The Court has approved a settlement which provides compensation to eligible class members who file a claim for sexual assault and meet the requirements of the claims process.

If you opted out of the class action, the settlement will not impact you.

If you are part of the lawsuit as a Class Member, you can submit a claim for a payment of money as compensation. The amount of money that you may receive will depend on the specifics of the claim you submit. The potential amount of money to be paid to a Class Member whose claim is accepted will likely range from \$30,000 to \$350,000.

For further information, visit <https://kmlaw.ca/cases/catholic-priest-sexual-abuse-class-action/> or call 1-833-630-1785, or email catholicabuseclassaction@kmlaw.ca.

You must submit your claim for compensation before December 14, 2023. If you do not submit your claim for compensation before December 14, 2023, you will lose your right to compensation.

Did You Know?

Christmas Carols

Today, Christmas songs are usually called carols (Old English *carolen*, “to sing joyfully,” which in turn came from the Greek *choraulein*, a ring dance with flutes). Originally, even in the 5th century, carols were Latin hymns. Christmas carols in a modern sense became popular in Italy in the 13th century under the influence of St. Francis of Assisi and spread throughout Europe. Carols sung today come from both Protestant and Catholic composers of recent centuries. The tradition of going Christmas caroling was introduced in the American colonies by the English.

Mistletoe

What has become an occasion of affection and even merriment, a kiss under the mistletoe, was a serious tradition in pre-Christian times. Among the Druids, a pre-Christian religious group in Gaul, Ireland, and Britain, mistletoe was considered a sacred plant with powers to heal and to protect. Because it was so sacred, enemies who met under it were expected to pledge themselves to a truce. From this came the custom of placing it over a doorway as an invitation to peace, good will, and hospitality. After Britain became Christian, the use of mistletoe was forbidden because of pagan practices associated with it. For a while, however, it became a symbol of Christ at Christmas in Britain because of its reputation of healing powers.

Poinsettia

The poinsettia with its scarlet leaves, now of many hues, came from Mexico where it grows as a shrub. It blooms at Christmastime, and Mexicans called it “flower of the Holy Night.” It was brought to the United States by the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett (1799-1851) who had them grown in his greenhouse in South Carolina. Eventually, they were named after him. Only since 1920 have they become potted plants. Poinsettias are now associated as much with Christmas as lilies are with Easter.

Defying Darkness with Christmas Lights

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

In the days of apartheid in South Africa, one of the ways people expressed their opposition and their belief that someday it would be overcome, was to light a candle and put it in a window where it could be seen by anyone passing by. A lit candle, publicly displayed, made a prophetic statement. It didn't take long for the government to react. Placing a lit candle in your window became a criminal offense, equivalent to carrying an illegal firearm. The irony wasn't lost on children. They joked, "*Our government is afraid of lit candles!*"

And well they should be! To light a candle for a moral or religious reason (be it for protest, for Hanukkah, for Advent, or for Christmas) is to make a prophetic statement of faith and, in essence, make a public prayer.

Admittedly, this can be hard to read inside the glow of the millions of Christmas tree lights that we see everywhere. Why do we put up all these lights at Christmas? A cynical answer suggests that this is done for purely commercial purposes. As well, for many of us, these lights are simply a question of aesthetics, color, and celebration, mostly devoid of any religious meaning. However, even here, there is still something deeper going on. Why do we put up lights at Christmas? Why do we light our homes and our streets with colorful lights at this time of year?

No doubt, we do it for color, for celebration, and for commercial reasons; but we also do it because, more deeply, it expresses a faith, however inchoately this might still be felt, that in Christ a final victory has been won and light has forever conquered darkness. "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.*"

Our Christmas lights are, in the end, an expression of faith and in essence a public prayer. Nevertheless, we might still ask, to what end? What difference can this possibly make? Putting up lights as a symbol of faith can seem like a very insignificant and naïve thing to do in the face of the seeming overwhelming darkness of our world. We look at our world and we see millions suffering from the war, millions of refugees on borders around the world, and hundreds of millions suffering from food shortages. As well, when we know that thousands of people every day are dying from domestic violence, drug violence, and gang violence, and when we see tension everywhere within our governments, our churches, our neighborhoods, and our families, we might ask ourselves, what difference do our little string of lights, or indeed all the Christmas lights in the world, make?

Well, in the words of the late Jesuit Michael Buckley, *prayer is most needed, just when it is deemed most useless*. These are words to hang onto. Given the magnitude of our world's problems, given the magnitude of the darkness that threatens us, now more than ever, it is imperative that we express our faith publicly, as a prayer. Now, more than ever, we need to show publicly that we still believe faith works, that we still believe in the power of prayer, and that we still believe that, in Christ, the power of darkness has been forever overcome.

This is expressed wonderfully in a poem John Shea inscribed inside his Christmas card this year.

*Our Christmas trees want to talk to us
The greater darkness of December can take its toll and strengthen what afflicts us.
Our Christmas trees beg to differ. Their branches are full, leafy, strung with lights.
The brightness is defiant. We want a perfect world. But that is not always what we get.
We may experience catastrophic weather; a pandemic; threatened health; overstressed work, dipping finances,
struggling relationships, and society and world either slightly or wildly insane.
Our Christmas trees glow. Their lights whisper;
"Give all the things that afflict you their due, but do not give them your soul. You are more than the surrounding
darkness."*

While struggling to overcome apartheid in South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was sometimes confronted by military personnel who came into his church while he was preaching, flashing their guns to intimidate him. He would smile at them and say, "I'm glad you have come to join the winning side!" In saying this, he wasn't talking about the apartheid struggle; he was talking about the forever victory that Christ has won for us. The most important of all battles has already been won, and our faith puts us on the winning side. Our Christmas lights express this, however consciously unaware of it we may be.

Karl Rahner once wrote that, at Christmas, God gives us sacred permission to be happy. Christmas also assures us that we have more than sufficient grounds to be happy, regardless of what might still be happening in our lives and in our world. We can be defiant in the face of everything that demands we be downcast. Our Christmas lights express that defiance.