



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

Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2023



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, Jan 8	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
Mon, Jan 9	Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7	Matthew 3:13-17
Tues, Jan 10	Hebrews 2:5-12	Mark 1:21-28
Wed, Jan 11	Hebrews 2:14-18	Mark 1:29-39
Thurs, Jan 12	Hebrews 3:7-14	Mark 1:40-45
Fri, Jan 13	Hebrews 4:1-5,11	Mark 2:1-12
Sat, Jan 14	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 2:13-17

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

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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

Ask about pre-planning.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JAN 7

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Gerry Bach by Tom & Lois Porter
Kentville	4:00 PM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Digby	4:00 PM	Wayne Comeau by Sheila Donovaro

SUNDAY, JAN 8

Windsor	8:30 AM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
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	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Middleton	11:00 AM	Helen MacDonald by Bev Slauenwhite
Weymouth	11:30 AM	David Burke by Ron Muise
Wolfville	11:45 AM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>

TUESDAY, JAN 10

Kentville	8:30 AM	John Doyle Jr by Barbara Montford
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WEDNESDAY, JAN 11

Kentville	8:30 AM	St Joseph's CWL
Middleton	9:00 AM	Intentions of Fr Michael Walsh by St Monica's CWL

THURSDAY, JAN 12

Kentville	8:30 AM	Ron Acker by Betty & Angus Corcoran
Berwick	9:00 AM	Bernie Fitzgerald by his Wife & Son

FRIDAY, JAN 13

Kentville	8:30 AM	Souls in Purgatory by Helen Walsh
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SATURDAY, JAN 14

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Kentville	4:00 PM	Jim Shields by Taya & Bob Shields
Digby	4:00 PM	Peter Loughran by Pat Levings

SUNDAY, JAN 15

Windsor	8:30 AM	Phyllis Grant by Mary-Alma Smith
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Frank Pugh by Pat & Alan Dill
Berwick	9:00 AM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Kentville/Online	10:15 AM	Selia LeBlanc by Louis Comeau & Family
Middleton	11:00 AM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Meinhard Doelle by Marion & Greg MacDonald
Wolfville	11:45 AM	Paul Ueffing by Truus Ueffing

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

Thank You: On behalf of the CWL Council in St Joseph, Kentville, Thank You everyone from our parish & communities for supporting the Bake & Craft Sale held in December. We had a wonderful response. The opportunity to meet & greet new and old friends was appreciated.

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

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>

Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts – St Monica’s Church (Middleton)

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).

Religious illustrated calendars which indicate each Sunday of the liturgical year and the feast for each day. (\$5.75)

Have you ever thought that you would like to read the Bible but feel daunted on how to proceed? Does this desire draw you as a meaningful practice for the year ahead? "Bible in a Year" organizes this journey for you in a manageable way with daily complementary readings from the Old and New Testaments, Psalms, and a brief Commentary. If you begin now, you will read and reflect upon the Bible this year and initiate a lifelong practice of making Scripture a part of each day. (\$39.95, incl. tax)

Available at St. Monica's church hall after Sunday Mass or call Mary Crooks 902-825-6495



St. Joseph's (Kentville) – Update

As you may or may not know, our custodian/caretaker, **Jordan Brackett**, has moved to Digby. In the Spring, Jordan's wife accepted a new job at the Digby Hospital and, as a result, over the course of the Summer, they made their way to Digby.

- **"Mrs. Clean"** is now responsible for custodial work in the church facility (every 2nd Thursday).
- **Ken Borden** is now the caretaker of Holy Cross Cemetery (towards Coldbrook) and Serenity Gardens Cemetery (Centreville). Ken is also responsible for 2 community cemeteries: Elm Grove Cemetery (Steam Mill) and Oak Grove Cemetery (Kentville).
- The **Knights of Columbus** (St. Joseph's – Kentville) are now responsible for looking after the St. Joseph's Cemetery (next to the church). *If you (man/woman) are interested in helping the Knights to maintain this property, please contact the parish office.*
- Five men have responded to be part of the **St. Joseph's Snow Removal Team** with two others ready to help in times of major snowfall. *If you (man/woman) are interested in helping the team, please contact the parish office.*

Mary, Mother of God

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

Mary symbolizes the People of God, the Church, the symbol of humanity in need of God. The medieval had a great sense of this. They used to picture Mary in their art as the woman with a giant cape. Beneath the cape were all the people of God. She summed up the meaning of their Christianity in her person, in her "yes".

She is the symbol of God's final victory in humanity. In her bodily Assumption we know that all of our humanity is free, redeemable and of unmeasurable dignity. It happened in her in accelerated and perfect fashion so we could look at her and say "yes". She is one of us and she is what we will be. We now know that the resurrection Jesus has promised will also be given to us in spirit and in body.

We are redeemed totally. We are not just set free in our spirits; in our bodies, too, we share in the redemption and freedom of the Lord. That is what Marian celebrations are all about.

from **The Great Themes of Scripture**

Longing, Desire and the Face of God

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

"Like a deer yearns for flowing streams, so my soul yearns for you my God." "My soul keeps vigil for you in the night."

We've all heard these lines, prayed them, and in our more reflective moments tried to mean them; but, mostly, our hearts have belied those words. We haven't really, at least not in our more conscious thoughts and feelings, longed for God with any real intensity and in our beds at night our souls are generally keeping vigil for someone other than God. But, for this, we need not apologize.

We are human beings, not angels, and nature and instinct conspire to direct our gaze and our desire towards this earth. It is persons and things of this earth for which our hearts long with intensity. Moreover, our longings are wide and promiscuous. We ache for a lot of things, though are most intense longings mostly have to do with yearning for a soulmate and with emotional and sexual consummation.

Those desires, at first glance at least, generally do not appear as holy or God-directed. Indeed, they seem the opposite. What we long for with deep intensity and what our souls keep vigil for in the night is, most times, someone or something much more earthy and erotic than what we associate with God. For example, when we see someone hauntingly beautiful or when we experience strong sexual attraction, what are we feeling inside of ourselves in the face of that radiance? For whom is our soul keeping vigilance at that moment? For what are we longing?

We dare not associate what we are feeling at those times with the holy sentiments we express in our psalms and prayers. And we are the poorer for that, religiously and humanly. First of all, that desire, far from being unhealthy, is in fact a sign of health. Beauty is meant to be honored; we are meant to feel that powerful attraction and pull, including its sexual component. Beauty, of course, is also meant to be respected and not violated. Our capacity to honor beauty is a sign of health and our capacity to not violate that beauty is a test of that health, though that's not the point here.

The point here is that, consciously and unconsciously, we understand these powerful earthy and erotic attractions as taking us away from God and as something we need to give up in order to move closer to God. Our desire for God and our more earthy and sexual desires are perceived as competitors, incompatible, demanding that we renounce one for the other. That misconception, more than we imagine, hurts us.

Why? Because everything that is beautiful and attractive, however earthy and sexual, is contained inside of God. God is the creator of all that is beautiful, attractive, colorful, sexual, witty, brilliant, and intelligent. All that we are attracted to on this earth, including the beauty that allures us sexually, is found inside of God and our attraction and longing for it here on earth is, in the end, a longing for God. Our souls need to keep vigil at a deeper level.

This is what many of the saints and mystics intuited when they felt such intensity in their longing for union with God. All that is beautiful and attractive is found inside of God and is found there in a form that exceeds our experience of it here. The saints and mystics rightly intuited that God is more interesting, more beautiful, and more sexual than anyone or anything here on earth. Hence their longing for God could indeed be compared to a thirsty deer longing for a drink from a cool stream.

We experience the same longing and the same intensity, except we never associate those feelings with God, though we should. The ache that we feel within ourselves in an obsession, in a powerful sexual desire, and in the face of stunning beauty is, ultimately, a yearning for God because everything we desire, be it ever so human, fleshly, or sexual, is inside of God, the author of all that is good. Our souls too thirst for God and they keep vigil for God at night, even though mostly we are unaware of it.

But we never really understand this. If we did, we would, like the saints and mystics of old, become obsessed with God, instead of being obsessed only with what we find attractive here on earth. Some of us are obsessed with beauty, some of us are obsessed with finding a soulmate, some of us are obsessed with sex, some of us are obsessed with truth, some of us are obsessed with justice, and some of us are obsessed with the energy, color, and pleasures of this world. But very few of us are obsessed, or even much interested, in God who is the author of beauty, sexuality, intimacy, truth, justice, energy, color, and pleasure.

Why aren't we more interested in the One of which these things are only a pale reflection?

The Passing of Pope Benedict XVI

Today, the Bishops of Canada join the People of God and Pope Francis in mourning the loss of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and thank God for his life of humble and dedicated service. Benedict XVI leaves behind a great legacy of teaching that will continue to inspire us, both through the three encyclicals he wrote and through the many public speeches he delivered throughout the world as Supreme Pontiff. Pope Benedict XVI, “Cardinal Ratzinger”, served as a faithful and sure guide of Catholic doctrine in his various offices with the Holy See.

As Pope, he challenged us “to dare to love” – to make “your whole existence a joyful enterprise of giving yourselves to God and to your brothers and sisters, in imitation of the One who conquered hatred and death forever with love (cf. Rev 5:13)”, and to find peace, comfort and inspiration in the love that Christ has for each one of us.

As Canadians, we are especially grateful for his efforts to heal the wounds of our past. Benedict XVI was the first pope to meet victims of abuse by members of the clergy. He publicly acknowledged the scourge of abuse by these clergy, apologized for it, and strengthened Church processes to respond to allegations, including facilitating the prosecution or suspension from the clerical state those found responsible for abuse.

Pope Benedict XVI also invited a Canadian delegation, made up of representatives of Indigenous communities, as well as Catholic dioceses and religious communities across Canada, to a private meeting in April 2009 to discuss their experience of residential schools. During this meeting, the Pope listened to their stories and expressed his regret and sadness for the sorrow suffered by many Indigenous people in the residential school system.

A few years later, he canonized North America’s first Indigenous saint, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, also known as the “Lily of the Mohawks.”

As we pray for the eternal rest of his soul, we pray that the love and hope that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI found in the Risen Lord may continue to inspire and comfort us in the trials and tribulations of our own earthly lives. May peace be granted to him as he rests forever in communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – 31 December 2022

