



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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 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

Website: www.corpuschristins.ca
 FaceBook: www.facebook.com/corpuschristins

Digby Parish Office

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Box 190, 110 Queen St., Digby, NS
 B0V 1A0
 902-245-2115
 Pamela Cosman
 parishoffice_digby@corpuschristins.ca

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

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

This Week's Readings

	1st Reading	Gospel
Sun, Aug 20	Isaiah 56:1, 6-7	Matthew 15:21-28
Mon, Aug 21	Judges 2:11-19	Matthew 19:16-22
Tues, Aug 22	Isaiah 9:1-6	Luke 1:26-38
Wed, Aug 23	Judges 9:6-15	Matthew 20:1-16
Thurs, Aug 24	Revelation 21:9-14	John 1:45-51
Fri, Aug 25	Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22	Matthew 22:34-40
Sat, Aug 26	Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11;4:13-17	Matthew 23:1-12

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 Monica middleton@corpuschristins.ca
 St Alphonsus bridgetown@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

*Our parish thanks you for your financial support.
 How else could we fulfill our mission?*

Individual Confession Times

Kentville – every Saturday 11 am – 12 noon
 Windsor – 1st Saturday of the month ... 9 – 10 am



Mass Times & Intentions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Daniel Bernard by Lynn Main
Kentville	4:00 PM	Bill Harvie by Ann & Gerard Burke
Digby	6:00 PM	Catherine Robicheau by Lorraine Bell

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

Windsor	8:30 AM	Rhyannon Mizuik by Paul DuMesnil
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Cathy Emin by Betty & Lawrence Ritcey
Berwick	9:00 AM	Brian & Cecil Oliver by Helen Oliver & Family
Kentville	10:30 AM	Pauline Williams by Doris & Family
Middleton	11:00 AM	Linda Lunt by Sharon & Bernie Halbot
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Robinson Family from Hassett by Verna, Bertha, Evonne, Gloria & Florence
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Joshua Ueffing by Truus Ueffing

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Kentville/Online	8:30 AM	Elizabeth Massicks by Catherine Farrells
Digby	6:00 PM	Cemetery Mass at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Digby

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Kentville/Online	8:30 AM	Maynard Barry by Wayne Barry
Middleton	9:00 AM	John & Isabel Foley by Tom & Peggy Foley
Southville	6:00 PM	Cemetery Mass at St. Theresa's Cemetery, Southville

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

Kentville/Online	8:30 AM	Mary & Joe O'Handley by Ann, Gerard & Family
Weymouth	6:00 PM	Cemetery Mass at St. Joseph's Cemetery Weymouth

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Berwick	9:00 AM	Intentions of Ray & Phyllis Bourque (L) by Carolyn Gilbert
Digby	9:00 AM	Charlie Woods by Betty Ritcey

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	John & Joan Healy by Patsy Sabeau
Kentville	4:00 PM	Stephen Douglas Kline by Ann Myers
Digby	6:00 PM	Antonio Villarroel by his family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Windsor	8:30 AM	Bill Gaudet by Wanda Zwicker & Laura Joyce
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Jeanne Sproul by Eric & Leah Brown
Berwick	9:00 AM	Carolyn Adshad by Anita & Leo Currie
Kentville	10:30 AM	Darryl Crossman by Hector & Joan Pottie
Middleton	11:00 AM	Dan Bernard by Fred & Marion Hole
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Eugene & Rick Weir by Bobby Comeau
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Nancy Henry by the Sequeira Family

Weekday Masses in Kentville will be Livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Flood Relief:

If you would like to help financially with “flood relief” in the Windsor area, please submit your contribution (ie. cash) in an envelope marked “flood relief”, or on a cheque marked likewise. (Please make out the cheque to Corpus Christi Parish but earmark it “flood relief”). Or you could submit something via e-transfer. All monies that we, as a parish, collect will be forwarded to the **Benevolent Fund** at St. John the Evangelist Church in Windsor. Eleanor McKiel, who coordinates the fund, has already identified certain families/individuals in need.

Thank you.

Children’s Catechetics (Windsor) Classes will start on Sunday, Sept. 17 after Mass in the Rectory. Due to the small number of children, it will be a combined class. We could still use another helper. It is a wonderful opportunity to share your faith with the younger generation. If you haven’t registered your children or you want to help, you can email kentville@corpuschristins.ca or contact the office.

Children’s Catechetics (Kentville)

Fall and the start of our catechetics sessions are approaching. Please register your children and youth **now** (if you have not already done so) so we are ready for Sept. 10 when parents and children are invited to meet their catechists and find their group. Each group will have the name of one of our saints so which saint is yours? Parent letters with additional information will be available at that time. You can register emailing the Kentville liaison at kentville@corpuschristins.ca or calling the office. We need to know the child/youth's name, date of birth, school grade this year, sacraments received, your name(s), phone number(s) and email address(es) to register each child/youth. They are not registered until we have all the above information.

Sessions begin on Sept. 17 at 9:15 am and end at 10:15 so families can attend Mass.

We are still in need of a few catechists and helpers so we can offer catechetics to our youngest children who are just beginning school. Any adult who completes the Responsible Ministry check can help by simply being the second checked adult in the room, even if they don't want to be a catechist or help. We need a second adult who fulfills the Responsible Ministry check to simply be in each room. Can you help us? We would be most grateful.

Please pray for all the students, catechists, and helpers as we prepare for our new year in our rooms which are newly painted and have new flooring.

Collection Counter (Weymouth) – St Joseph’s, Weymouth is looking for a volunteer to help with counting the collections. They have 5 teams so your turn would be once every five weeks. Anyone interested can get in touch with Greg MacDonald at 902-841-1950 or talk to him in church.

Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts (Middleton) Affordable Crucifixes and Crosses in various sizes and materials, including Jerusalem wood, for adults, youth, and children. For your home, your prayer corner, or to mark a special occasion, such as Baptism, wedding, anniversary, ordination, new home, First Holy Communion or Confirmation. Available at St. Monica's church hall after Sunday Mass, or call Mary Crooks 902-825-6495.

THANK YOU to all who have sent Mass cards, made donations in Dan's name; called, sent letters or cards, E-mails or lovingly embraced us with a big hug; thank you for caring, for sharing our grief. We thank God for each and every one of you. The Bernard Family

Cemetery Masses will take place in the **Annapolis Royal, Digby** and **Weymouth** areas over the next 2 weeks. Please note the change in time which is at 6:00 pm. If it is raining the Mass will be said in the church. In the case of rain at Plympton Cemetery the Mass will be said in St. Joseph's, Weymouth. (Please note, there will be Cemetery Masses – Bridgetown to Windsor - during the last week of August. More information to come next week.)

Mass Change Sept 2-3 On the weekend of September 2-3 there will be a change in Mass location and times due to the Wharf Rat Rally being held in Digby. Masses for this weekend will be held at St. Louis, **Annapolis Royal** on Saturday, September 2 at 4:00 pm and Sunday, September 3 at 9:00 am in St. Patrick's Church, **Digby**. Mass will remain at the same time in St. Joseph's **Weymouth** Sunday, at 11:30 am.

Did You Know?

Incense (Part II)

Last weekend we published a note re. the use of incense in the history or the Church and elsewhere. General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states that the use of incense is always optional (GIRM #276). By not mandating the use of incense, the Church recognizes there are times when, for the good of the faithful, its use should not take place.

Here in Corpus Christi Parish, we are trying to make our churches “scent free”, to protect the health of those affected by incense and other scents. The **well-being of people** is our priority.

While the use of incense “is an expression of reverence and of prayer” (GIRM #276), the Church teaches that incense should not be used when to do so would cause harm to the health of the faithful.

RCIA

Are you non-Catholic and would like to know more about the Catholic faith?

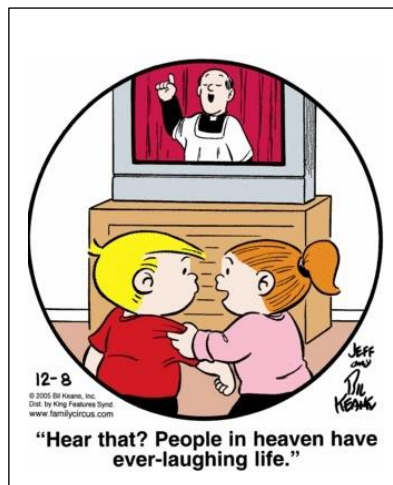
Are you thinking that you might like to be more connected to the Catholic faith and be initiated into it (ie. Baptism, Communion, Confirmation)?

Are you Catholic but feel that your understanding of the Catholic faith is rather limited?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** could be for you. We welcome you to reach out, ask questions and come see what it’s all about!

In-person sessions (Kentville) will be starting September 14th at St. Joseph’s. For more information please contact Wayne Barry at johnmaynardjohn790@gmail.com (902) 830-5396 or Elizabeth Benoit at elizabeth.benoit@gmail.com (902) 300-2680.

On-line sessions will also be starting in September. For more information, please contact parishoffice_kentville@corpuschristins.ca



Faith Means That God Is With Us

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

If Christ was born into the world to redeem it, why doesn't our world look more redeemed? Why is our world still full of loneliness, anxiety, betrayals, sickness, poverty, violence, war, and death? What did Christ's birth into our world really change?

These aren't irreverent questions; they're the right questions. Only in struggling to answer them do we begin to understand more deeply the mystery of Christ. What is that mystery?

In the gospels, one of the angels who announces Jesus' birth, tells us: "*They shall name him Emmanuel*" (which means "God is with us.") What do those words mean?

Sometimes it's helpful to proceed by the *via negativa*, namely, by explaining what something doesn't mean. In this case, the fact that Christ is born into our world does not mean that those who believe in him will be spared the pain, loneliness, seasons of sickness, heartaches, betrayals, anxieties, fears, and humiliations that afflict everyone else. Faith offers no one an escape from pain. Moreover, believers, just like unbelievers, will suffer too the darkness of doubt, the painful fear that the heavens are empty. Faith in Christ doesn't remove any of the pains inherent within the human condition, including the pain of doubting God's existence. Faith promises no magic pass-cards.

What it does promise is that God will be with us so that we do not have to walk through loneliness, sickness, violence, anxiety, fear, and death alone. We have a hand to grasp, a love to embrace, a truth to cling to, and a power to sustain us (even through death itself). We walk in the same world as everyone else, but, like a young child holding on to her mother's hand as she walks into school for the first time, we are not alone, a trusted, sustaining, guiding love walks with us. God doesn't remove us from what can hurt us, but walks with us amidst it all.

But that explanation too can feel pretty empty on any given day. If God is walking beside us, hand in ours, why don't we feel that more really? Why does God often seem non-existent, not with us at all?

Because believers, like everyone else, are not exempt from the trial of faith, from the darkness of doubt, from those emotional and spiritual dark nights that can crush us, bring us to our knees, and can make us cry out in fear that God has abandoned us, as happened to Jesus on the cross. Part of being human (and faith isn't some magic bullet immunizing us against the human condition) is the experience of God's seeming absence.

So how can we say that "God is with us" when mostly it feels like God isn't there for us? That's a complex question and a full answer would necessitate a discussion on why, in the nature of faith, God's reality is often felt more like an absence than a presence. But, without entering into a full-blown discussion on this, allow me to give just one perspective:

In the Jewish scriptures there's a famous incident where Moses asks God to see his face. God answers that this is impossible because nobody can see God's face and live. When Moses persists in his demand, God offers a compromise: He tells Moses that he will place him in a cleft in the rocks, put his hand over Moses's face, and then pass by, so that Moses will get to see his, God's, **back**, though never his face.

What's meant by this? Among other things, that we are wise not to be overly naive about the powerful, sacred, archetypal energies that flow through us. Even when something is beautiful and good, like sex for instance, it doesn't mean we don't have to treat with sacred caution. We're wise to accord things their proper respect, to keep our shoes off before the burning bush.

But there's a wonderful sub-text here too which can help explain why we so often think that God is absent in our lives. Generally we struggle to feel God in the present moment, to see God's face in the here and now. In the present, God often seems absent. Yet, when we turn around and **look back in our lives**, when we **look back on our story**, we more easily see how God has been there all along and how we have walked in a divine presence, protection, guidance, and love that were imperceptible at the time but are clear in retrospect. We see God more clearly in our **past** than in our present. We see God's back more than we see God's face.

This can be helpful in understanding how Christ is present to us, even when it doesn't always feel like it.

Faith doesn't promise us a ladder to crawl out of the pains of life, it promises a friend to walk with through those pains. Mostly though it's only when we **look back in our lives** that we see that this friend has always been there.

Out of the Mouths of God's Kids

A young couple invited their pastor to their home for dinner. While they were in the kitchen, the pastor asked their smallest daughter what they were having for dinner.

"Goat," the little girl replied.

"Goat?" the pastor asked.

"Yeah," the girl said. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'We might as well have the old goat over for dinner today.'"

A Sunday school teacher asked a little boy if he believed in God.

"I sure do," replied the boy.

"Why do you believe in God?" the teacher asked.

After pondering the question, the boy replied, "Well, I really don't know. I think it runs in the family."

A child's letter to God:

"Dear God. I'd like to live for 900 years like that guy in the Bible. See what you can do for me, please."

Chequebook Storytime

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

There is a couple I know who earn very good money, and yet they live simply, without any status symbols or luxuries, with money set aside for charity. It's a trimmed-down life for them and their six children.

Every month the mother gathers the six children around the chequebook. For each cheque she writes to whomever it might be, to whatever cause or charity, she tells them a story: "This is why these people need it more than we need it." And so those kids actually know where the family money is going and that it isn't there in the bank account for them to buy a new toy.

The parents themselves are making choices not to have always new, better, more things. When the parents share those choices, the children are more willing to buy into them. They begin a process of solidarity (not without struggle, however!) At this point they are some of the most mature and responsible – and yet alive and real – children I'm aware of in their community.

I think the mother's cheque-writing process is probably the best form of religious education. The rubber has met the road. It's not highly metaphysical and spiritual; it's "Jesus means this. Commitment means this. Love means this." That's religious education.

Our chequebooks are probably our best theological statement about our real values. Jesus said, similarly, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

