Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRI

BROKEN ~ FORGIVEN ~ REBORN

Fr. John MacPherson, Pastor

Fr. Michael Walsh, Associate Pastor

Fr. Raymond Odumuko, Associate Pastor

3rd Sunday of Advent

St Monica

St Louis

St Patrick

St Joseph

St Alphonsus

December 17, 2023

Contact the Parish

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Phone: 902-678-3303 Jennifer Hilborn

middleton@corpuschristins.ca

bridgetown@corpuschristins.ca

weymouth@corpuschristins.ca

digby@corpuschristins.ca

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PO Box 486, 48 Belcher Street Kentville, NS B4N 3X3 Email: parishoffice_kentville@corpuschristins.ca Website: www.corpuschristins.ca

Please forward all notices for the <u>bulletin</u> to bulletin@corpuschristins.ca before 5:00 pm on Monday.

This Week's Readings						
		1 st Reading	Gospel			
Sun, 1	Dec 17	Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11	John 1:6-8, 19-28			
Mon, Dec 18		Jeremiah 23:5-8	Matthew 1:18-25			
Tues, Dec 19		Judges 13:2-7, 24-25	Luke 1:5-25			
Wed, Dec 20		Isaiah 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38			
Thurs, Dec 21		Song of Solomon 2:8-14	Luke 1:39-45			
Fri, Dec 22		1 Samuel 1:24-28	Luke 1:46-56			
Sat, Dec 23		Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24	Luke 1:57-66			
Community's Email Addresses			Giving to Corpus Christi Parish			
St John	windsor@corpuschristins.ca		There are many ways to donate to Corpus Christi Parish:			
St Francis	ancis wolfville@corpuschristins.ca		1. Weekly Offertory Envelopes			
St Joseph	Joseph kentville@corpuschristins.ca		2. Cash donations			
St Anthony	berwick	@corpuschristins.ca	3. E-Transfers to finance@corpuschristins.ca, include			

- 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.*

Individual Confession Times	Kentville – every Saturday 11 am – 12 noon
	Middleton – after Wednesday morning Mass until 10:00 am
	Windsor – 1 st Saturday of the month 9 – 10 am
	Berwick – 1 st Saturday of the month 10 – 11 am

Scripture Reflection and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Take time to reflect and discuss God's Word and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Held on **Tuesdays Berwick**: 10 am to 11 am - Scripture reflection, 11 am to noon - Rosary during Exposition **Middleton**: 2pm to 3pm - Scripture reflection, 3pm to 4pm - Rosary during Exposition



Mass Times & Intentions

SATURDAY, DEC 16 Bridgetown 4:00 PM Dan Bernard by Bill & Darlene McDonald Kentville 4:00 PM Gerry MacDougall by her Children Digby 4:00 PM Alfred Bailey by Marion Croft SUNDAY, DEC 17 Windsor 8:30 AM Guy K Smith by Mary-Alma & Family Annapolis Royal 9:00 AM Wendy James by the Parishioners of St. Louis Church Berwick 9:00 AM Helen Langlois by Colleen Stephenson & John McNeil Kentville 10:30 AM Alice Sullivan by Pat Fitzgerald Middleton 11:00 AM Dan Bernard by Vernon & Ilona Mullen Ian Cromwell by best friend/cousin Dawn Cromwell-Smith Weymouth 11:30 AM Wolfville 12:15 PM Maria Duarte by her Friends at St Francis **TUESDAY, DEC 19** Kentville 8:30 AM Phyllis Butler by Doris Pasley Digby 6:30 PM A. Violet Amero by Doris Barr & Helen Robicheau WEDNESDAY, DEC 20 Kentville 8:30 AM Maurice Harquail by Dalyce, Jennie & David Middleton 9:00 AM Intentions of Fr Walsh by Tom & Peggy Foley **Tideview Terrace** 10:30 AM For a Special Intention 4:00 PM Weymouth For the Parishioners of Corpus Christi THURSDAY, DEC 21 Kentville 8:30 AM Intentions of St Joseph's Rosary Cenacle Members AR Nursing Home 10:00 AM Melanie Dennis by the Parishioners of St. Louis Church Weymouth 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory FRIDAY, DEC 22 Berwick 9:00 AM Gerald Flinn & Lisa Marie Comeau by Marjorie MacDonald Digby 9:00 AM Wayne Comeau by Carolyn McClafferty SATURDAY, DEC 23 4th Sunday of Advent Bridgetown 4:00 PM Karon Davis by Larry & Marcia Corneal Kentville 4:00 PM Rosaline Moreau by her son Ryan Moreau Digby 4:00 PM For the deceased members of the Coakley family by Gordon & Nancy Coakley Wolfville 6:00 PM For the Parishioners of Corpus Christi Middleton 7:00 PM Elizabeth MacDonald & Joan Carey by Gordon MacDonald Windsor 8:00 PM Linda Strickey by the Family SUNDAY, DEC 24 4th Sunday of Advent Berwick 10:00 AM Helen MacDonald by Sherry & Robert Estey SUNDAY, DEC 24 Christmas Eve Annapolis Royal 4:00 PM Douglas & Allan Theriault by Donald & Barbara Theriault Kentville 4:00 PM Robert Harvie by Jordan Harvie Berwick 6:00 PM Florence Otto by Tom & Peggy Foley Weymouth 6:00 PM Louise, Daniel & Jacky Comeau by Joanne & Jerry Belliveau Windsor 6:00 PM Guy K Smith by Mary-Alma & Family Digby 8:00 PM Vanessa Gennette by Rose McIntyre Kentville 8:00 PM Tom, Laura & Cornellis Coffey & Mike & Bridget Hann by Theresa Coffey Middleton 8:00 PM **Deceased Family Members of Carolyn Gilbert** St Anne, Bear River 10:00 PM

Betty Cosman by Carolyn McClafferty

Special Collection Envelope for December is Christmas. These donations are used for the operation of our churches and parish.

2024 Boxes of Collection Envelopes Boxes are now available for pickup at your church. If you donate by PAR, E-transfer, or Post-Dated Cheque, there are now boxes with just the Special Collection Envelopes that you can get.

St. Monica's Pot Luck Lunch (Middleton) on **Sun, Dec 17** after Mass in our church hall. In this holy season of Advent, come and enjoy fellowship together as we await in faith and joy the celebration of the birth of Christ! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Carolyn Gilbert 902-825-4460.

St John's Giving Tree (Windsor) - The ornaments represent gifts for families in need. If you pick an ornament, please return the present, gift wrapped, by **Sun, Dec 17**, with the ornament taped to the gift. Also, non-perishable food donations will be accepted for the Giving Tree Families. *Thank you in advance for brightening someone's Christmas!*

Christmas Hampers (Kentville) – 13 of the 60 families opted to receive food for a meal while the other 47 opted for a gift card. A word of "thanks" to all who donated. Surplus funds are deposited into the **Christian Concern** account which offers assistance throughout the year for food vouchers, pharmaceuticals, rent, oil, electricity, travel to medical appointments etc. Donations towards Christian Concern are very much appreciated throughout the year.

Hygiene Drive (Middleton) During December, the Middleton Rosa Harvey Library is collecting new hygiene items, such as toothbrushes; toothpaste; mouthwash; lotion; shampoo; soap; deodorant, clothes detergent; feminine hygiene products, etc. Items can be taken directly to the library or left with Mary Crooks in the church hall. *Thank you!*

Twelve Baskets Foodbank (Middleton) is preparing for approximately 200 hampers. The need is great this year as food insecurity plagues a lot of the families in our community. <u>The needs for December are</u>: Cranberry Sauce (store bought), Canned Gravy, Tea, Table Salt, Hand Soap, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Shampoo, Body Wash.

Thank you from the Society of St Vincent de Paul: We (St Francis of Assisi Conference, Wolfville) have just completed our annual Christmas Sharing Campaign, delivering gift cards and seasonal treats to over 30 families in the Wolfville/Canning area. We are once again grateful for your generosity. May God bless our benefactors and those whom we serve!

Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts

St. Monica's (Middleton): The Incarnation of Christ, the Word made flesh, is entrusted to the protection and virtue of St. Joseph. In his humanness, humility, and courage, he is responsive to the grace and call of the Holy Spirit. He is the patron saint of the universal church and of Canada. He speaks to the hearts of all - men and women, teens, and children. Like Mary, he leads us to Jesus and strengthens us. The book *Consecration to St. Joseph* by Fr. Donald H. Calloway enriches our relationship with Joseph and includes a 33-day at-home retreat. (\$21.95) We also have quality framed picture of Joseph and Jesus; small durable statues ideal for children (\$5.00); medals and laminated prayer cards. Available at St. Monica's church hall after Sunday Mass or call Mary Crooks 902-825-6495.

<u>St. Joseph's (Kentville)</u>: We have a growing variety of children & adult books & gifts to purchase ... or books to sign out. The "Library/Bookstore" is open during office hours (Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday 9am-1pm) or after Mass.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday Dec 23	4 pm Bridgetown 4 pm Digby	Wed, Dec 27	8:30 am Kentville
	4 pm Kentville 6 pm Wolfville	Thurs, Dec 28	8:30 am Kentville
	7 pm Middleton	Saturday Dec 30	Holy Family
	8 pm Windsor		4 pm Bridgetown
			4 pm Digby (LOW)
Sunday Dec 24	10 am Berwick		4 pm Kentville
Sunday Dec 24	Christmas Eve	Sunday Dec 31	Holy Family
	4 pm Annapolis Royal		8:30 am Windsor
	4 pm Kentville		9 am Annapolis Royal (LOW)
	6 pm Berwick		9 am Berwick
	6 pm Weymouth		10:30 am Kentville
	6 pm Windsor		11 am Middleton
	8 pm Digby		11:30 am Weymouth (LOW)
	8 pm Kentville		12:15 pm Wolfville
	8 pm Middleton		4 pm Bridgetown
	10 pm St Anne's, Bear River		
		Monday Jan 1	New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God
Monday Dec 25	Christmas Day		9 am Berwick
	10 am Bridgetown		11 am Kentville
	10 am Weymouth		11 am Digby
	10 am Wolfville		11 am Middleton

Advent Reconciliation Schedule

St Joseph (Kentville) Sat, Dec 23 11 am – 12 pm

St Monica (Middleton) Wed, Dec 20 after 9 am Mass until 10am

St Alphonsus (Bridgetown): after 4 pm Mass Sat, Dec 16

First Communion On this Gaudete Sunday, the joyful Sunday of Advent, six children at **St Joseph's, Kentville** will receive the very best Christmas gift ever - Jesus in the Holy Eucharist! This is their **First Communion**! Congratulations to **Adelyn Harris, Jesie Santos, Hudson Kinney, Ethan Siojo, Veronica Hayes, and Landon Bushey** as they receive their First Holy Communion. May this be a deepening of their relationship with Jesus! May we all keep our focus on the real meaning of Christmas, the gift God has given us: Jesus.

Thank you Pam - Pam Cosman, our Parish Secretary at St Patrick's, Digby has retired. We want to thank her for all of her work and commitment to St Patrick's and to the new Parish for all of the last 13 years. We wish her good health and the best in her retirement!

Used Stamps: St. Monica's CWL (Middleton) is pleased to receive used stamps which we send to **Development & Peace** for its fundraising. Throughout the year, you may place used stamps in the brown box in the entrance to St. Monica's Church or give them to Mary Crooks. Please take care not to cut the edge of the stamps. *Thanks very much*!

Humour ???

In a "For Sale" ad in a classified ad section of a newspaper: "Golf clubs, full set with bag, and a slightly bent putter. \$800, or trade for psychotherapy."

Formed

Formed is a Catholic Streaming Service that brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families and individuals. There is something for everyone: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books and family-friendly kids' programming. Our Diocese has a subscription that the entire parish can use for free. Here are the directions to sign in and access the website.

- 1. Go to the website https://formed.org and click on Sign Up.
- 2. A 'Create a New Account' page will appear. Under 'Find your Parish', enter **Corpus Christi 48 Belcher St Kentville NS**, and select the first entry, then click on **Next** button.
- 3. Enter your Name and email address as indicated and click on Sign Up button.
- 4. The website will then automatically take you to the main website (https://watch.formed.org/browse) where you can start searching the available programs and start watching.
- 5. To get back into website after logging out, go to https://formed.org and click on Sign In. You will need to enter your email address and click Next. You will then get an email with a link. Click on the Sign in now button and it will bring you back to the main website where you can start watching again.

<u>May 17– 27, 2024: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje</u> where Our Lady has been appearing daily for 42 years. Cost of \$3570 includes all airport taxes, security, fuel surcharges, airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) Info: Hector Caissie at 506-857-2295 or hectorcaissie@gmail.com

Upcoming Concerts

Middleton Choral Society, directed by Andrew Cranston, accompanied by Beth Cranston, presents "Here Among the Evergreens," its Christmas concert in **Middleton Baptist Church**, Middleton, on **Sat, Dec 16** at 7:30 pm. A feature of the concert will be guest musicians and the debut of Conduit Chamber Choir. Tickets, priced at \$15, are available from choir members and at the door, or call 902-825-9433.

<u>Men of St Anthony's & Friends Choir (Berwick)</u> will be having a Christmas Concert at **St Anthony's Church**, Berwick on **Sun, Dec 17** at 2:30 pm. Free will offering, proceeds going to Berwick Foodbank.

<u>A Royal Consort (Annapolis Royal)</u> - Directed by Joanne Buckmaster, accompanied by Connie Rouse, presents "Comfort and Joy," its rescheduled Christmas concert in **St. George and St. Andrew United Church**, Annapolis Royal, on **Sun, Dec 17** at 3:00 pm. A feature of the concert will be a cantata <u>A Shepherd's Tale</u>. Tickets priced at \$15 are available at Bainton's Tannery, from choir members, and at the door. No charge for children aged 12 and under.

Spiritual Growth in 2024

Corpus Christi Parish recommends that you begin the **New Year, 2024**, with a plan for your spiritual growth. Below are <u>two</u> <u>wonderful opportunities</u> to help you grow daily in your relationship with Jesus Christ. You can use the Ascension web site on your computer or get the podcast on an app.

The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz is an amazing journey through the Bible. Listen to Fr. Mike as he reads the Bible to you daily. Enjoy your daily homily. Learn exciting new facts about our faith. (Did you know that Judaism and Christianity are the only religions in the world that say men and women are equal?) Twenty to twenty-five minutes daily with this podcast will teach you so much and enliven your faith. Begin the New Year with the Bible in a Year and grow daily in your faith! Below is the link for the web site. You can also use an app for the podcast such as Apple podcasts.

https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/

The Catechism in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz will read the entire Catechism in a year. You will learn the essentials of the Catholic faith and see how our faith is rooted in Sacred Scripture. Understand what it means to live your Catholic faith. Transform your relationship with the church. Here is the link for the Catechism in a Year. <u>https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear</u>

With the beginning of a new year, start a new habit of daily spiritual growth with the Bible in a Year or the Catechism in a Year. Both these podcasts start on Jan. 1, 2024. You can start either of them at any time in the year as back episodes are available as is a daily reading plan.

Our Most Common Sin

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

Fr. Daniel Berrigan, SJ, in his criteria for prophecy, submits (and rightly) that a prophet is someone who takes a vow of love, not of alienation. Prophecy is characterized by love aching for reconnection, not anger pushing for separation.

But love isn't generally what characterizes most so-called prophetic anger in our world today, especially as it pertains to God, religion, and defence of truth. French 17th-century philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal captured this well when he wrote: *"Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction."* He's wrong on one thing; mostly we aren't doing it cheerfully but angrily. One only has to read the letters to the editor in our newspapers, listen to most talk-radio stations, or listen to any debate on politics, religion, or morality to see raw hatred and anger justifying themselves on moral and divine grounds.

There is such a thing as healthy prophetic anger, a fiery response when the poor of God, the word of God, or the truth of God are being slandered, abused, or neglected. There are important causes and boundaries to be defended. But prophetic anger is an anger that emanates out of love and empathy and always, regardless of the hatred it meets, still exhibits love and empathy, like a loving mother in the face of a belligerent child. Jesus on occasion exhibits this kind of anger, but his anger is antithetical to most of what masquerades as prophetic anger today, where love and empathy are so noticeably absent.

Someone once said that we spend the first half of life struggling with the Sixth Commandment, and then spend the second half of life struggling with the Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill! We see this illustrated in the famous parable of the Prodigal Son, his Older Brother, and his Prodigal Father. The younger son is effectively out of his father's house through wrestling with the seductive energies of youth.

The older brother is just as effectively outside his father's house, not through sin, but through wrestling with anger.



"Billy says he doesn't hafta go to church anymore 'cause his phone has an app for that!"

