



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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2024



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

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 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, Jan 14	1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19	John 1:35-42
Mon, Jan 15	1 Samuel 15:16-23	Mark 2:18-22
Tues, Jan 16	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Mark 2:23-28
Wed, Jan 17	1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51	Mark 3:1-6
Thurs, Jan 18	1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7	Mark 3:7-12
Fri, Jan 19	1 Samuel 24:3-21	Mark 3:13-19
Sat, Jan 20	2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27	Mark 3:20-21

**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](mailto: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  
 Windsor – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month ... 9 – 10 am  
 Berwick – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month ... 10 – 11 am  
 Middleton – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month ... 10 – 11 am  
 & after Wednesday morning Mass until 10:00 am

**Scripture Reflection and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Take time to reflect and discuss God's Word and pray before the Blessed Sacrament ... 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, JAN 13**

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Keith Dalby by Patsy Sabean
Kentville	4:00 PM	Phil Williams & Hormidas Fredette by St Joseph's CWL
Digby	4:00 PM	Betty Bigelow by the Schofield Family

### **SUNDAY, JAN 14**

Windsor	8:30 AM	Ida Bowser & Leah Anderson by Terry & Eleanor McKiel
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Michael MacMullin by Theresa MacMullin & Family
Berwick	9:00 AM	Terrance & Dorothy O. Thompson by Alexandra Jardine
Kentville	10:30 AM	Georgina MacDonald by Donna Boyer
Middleton	11:00 AM	Healing of Margie Stewart & Marion Hole
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Parishioners of Corpus Christi Parish
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Souls in Purgatory by Wayne Barry

### **TUESDAY, JAN 16**

Kentville	8:30 AM	Intentions of Gloria Samms by Theresa MacMullin & Family
Digby	6:30 PM	Elsie McCarthy by Jim, Cheryl, Melua & Joanna

### **WEDNESDAY, JAN 17**

Kentville	8:30 AM	John, Bynon & Edward Whelton by Mary-Alma Smith
Middleton	9:00 AM	Elizabeth MacDonald & Joan MacDonald by Carolyn Gilbert
Tideview Terrace	10:30 AM	A. Violet Amero by Doris, John and Charlene Barr
Weymouth	4:00 PM	For the Parishioners of Corpus Christi

### **THURSDAY, JAN 18**

Kentville	8:30 AM	David MacLellan & Maynard Barry by Wayne Barry
AR Nursing Home	10:00 AM	Melanie Dennis by Eric & Leah Brown
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Mary Belliveau by Joanne & Jerry Belliveau

### **FRIDAY, JAN 19**

Berwick	9:00 AM	Intentions of Ingrid Hoover & Rose Longley by Tom & Peggy Foley
Digby	9:00 AM	Karen Woods by Pat Levings

### **SATURDAY, JAN 20**

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Keith Dalby by St Alphonsus Ladies Aux.
Kentville	4:00 PM	Trevor McDaniel by Mary D'Entremont
Digby	4:00 PM	Tracy & Mike Cormier by Ralph & Yvonne Mullen

### **SUNDAY, JAN 21**

Windsor	8:30 AM	Phyl & Bernie Grant by Alan Grant
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Louis Thibodeau by Eloise Mailman
Berwick	9:00 AM	Intentions of Gene & Shirley Samson
Kentville	10:30 AM	Phil Williams by Ann Myers
Middleton	11:00 AM	Intentions of Marjorie MacDonald & Sharon Halbot by Gordon MacDonald
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Ezinne Martha Odumuko by Cathy LeBlanc
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Deceased Members of Ueffing teBraake Family by Truus Ueffing

**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.

**Please write your name, address, and phone number on the first few envelopes in 2024 so we can update our files and ensure donations are contributed to the correct person.**

**St Joseph's CWL (Kentville)** will meet on **Wed, Jan 17** at **1:00 pm** in the Library across from the parish office. We welcome any women interested in companionship in faith in the Catholic Women's League of Canada. In addition, membership dues can be brought to the meeting or place in the collection during the Sunday Masses. If anyone has any questions about Catholic Women's League of Canada, please contact President Ann Myers at 902-680-8957.

**Twelve Baskets Foodbank (Middleton)** Thank you all so much for your support of the Twelve Baskets Foodbank this past year, and for accepting the challenges that have been brought to you. What you and your congregations do truly does make a difference for those in our communities facing food insecurity and other hardships. Here are the needs for January: Flakes of ham, turkey and chicken, tea, instant coffee, canned pasta, canned vegetables, hand soap and toothpaste.

**Take Out Luncheon (Port Williams)** The Loyal Workers' Corn Chowder/Hamburger Soup luncheon on Wed, Jan 17 at the Port Williams United Baptist Church from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm will include a bowl of your chosen soup, roll and butter and either Apple Crisp or Chocolate Cake all for \$10. Call by **Mon, Jan 15** to Carol Ann Burden 902-542-3681 or Ruth Blenkhorn 902-542- 7141 and we will call you back with a pick-up time on Jan 16. (Snow Date: Jan 18, 2024)

### **Thank You Letter to the People of St. John the Evangelist Church (Windsor)**

I wanted to extend my gratitude for making Christmas happen for me and my children. I will always be so grateful for the help and donations, it honestly brought me to tears the day everything was delivered, the food, the gifts, the love ... my only hope is that one day I will be in a position to give back and help someone else in need as you have all helped me. I hope you all had an amazing Christmas and New Year. I can't say thank you enough for everything. My kids are my world and you all just lit it up ♥ the smiles on their faces. Christmas morning was the best gift I ever could have been given. I wish you all the best and hope you all have a great day.

Sincerely, A single mom and her 3 kiddos ♥

**St. Monica's CWL** extends a hearty **Thank You** to parishioners for your generous support of the Free Will Craft & Gift Table that was held during Advent. Together we raised \$470 to assist the work of the Valley Care Pregnancy Centre, as well as donations of baby blankets and clothes, maternity clothes, and books for little children. Thank you also to those who kindly contributed crafts and gift items in order to provide a meaningful and enjoyable experience of sharing and giving for us all. May these offerings help to welcome new life and support new families.

### **Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts**

**St. Monica's (Middleton):** *The Transforming Power of Lectio Divina*. In this book, Benedictine Sr. Maria Tasto helps us to integrate the practice of Lectio Divina, or sacred reading of Scripture, into our lives, so that attentive and meditative listening to the Word of God may penetrate and enlighten our hearts more deeply, thereby enriching our prayer life and our relationship with God. (\$9.95) A valuable companion to guide us in this new year in our desire to pray more faithfully and humbly, open and receptive to the grace of God. Available at St. Monica's church hall after Sunday Mass or call Mary Crooks 902-825-6495.

**St. Joseph's (Kentville):** 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.

**GAME NIGHT (Kentville)** - Come and enjoy games night on **Sat, Jan 20** at St Joseph's Church, Kentville 7-10 pm. Invite your friends and embrace that friendly competition. There will be a canteen for drinks and snacks.

**Breakfast Fund Raiser (Wilmot)** - A community breakfast will be held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 45 Main St. Middleton Sat, **Feb 10**, 8-10 am and the second Saturday of every month thereafter. Free Will Offering. Review: "The best eggs east of TOFINO!" ...Anon, and too many reviews of Howard's pancakes to print. All Welcome!

### Thank You Letter from Canadian Food for Children

Dear Good People of Corpus Christi Parish:

We would like to acknowledge a donation of **used eyeglasses** for the poor in developing countries. We shipped them in one of our 40 ft long containers. Your generosity is certainly appreciated.

God Bless you all,  
Gloria Vargas

## Catholic Identity

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

(Most of us who are older) were given a strong sense of Catholic identity. Catholicism was a total world, a total way of thinking and feeling. Someone said you could just easily stop being Catholic as you could stop being black, brown, yellow, red or white. You couldn't change it. "Holy Mother Church" is still our mother. You can't change mothers. You can't kill your mother. Maturity usually means accepting that Mom was a good enough mother and not a perfect one.

But most people who have been formed since Vatican II have never had that experience. Except in rare instances, they were never given a strong sense of Catholic identity. So they don't have a strong sense of loyalty to Catholicism. Neither, however, do they have a big need to fight the Church. I don't know which is worse. Is it worse to have a mother to rebel against or not to have a mother at all?

Those of my generation are putting all of their time into reforming structures and models of authority. The younger set, however, have an entirely different set of problems: no Christian or Catholic identity, a poor sense of healthy boundaries and almost no sense of the sacred.

■ from *Why Be Catholic?*

## Loving the Church

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

Nothing in this world is an end in itself, including Church, priests, bishops, popes, laws, Bible – nothing! Only God is an end; everything else is a means. Only God can save us, not the Church.

I say that out of great love for the Church. God saves, and the Church is that beautiful gift given by God to preach that word which will set us free. But when we preach "Church" and raise up "Church", we are not necessarily proclaiming the Lord. We often are preaching ourselves. Jesus never preached Israel, he preached Yahweh. He preached the absolute transcendence of Yahweh and fidelity and obedience to Yahweh.

At the same time Jesus never put Israel down. He loved Israel. Insofar as Israel was true to the covenant and true to the prophet, Jesus was obedient to Israel, obedient to the priests, obedient to "the Church." But he wasn't afraid to keep knocking on the door. He kept inviting Israel to be true to itself. Jesus taught us to love the unlovely, exactly as it is.

If we simply love that which is worthy of love, we will never love at all. The Lord loved "the Church", Israel, exactly as it was. You cannot love the Church as it was fifty years ago. That's a cop-out. The only Church you must love is the Church today.

■ from *The Great Themes of Scripture*

## Signs & Wonders

Sign outside a church:

"If you must curse, use your own name." - God

## 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.



## Spiritual Growth in 2024

Corpus Christi Parish recommends that you begin the **New Year, 2024**, with a plan for your spiritual growth. Below are **two wonderful opportunities** 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. <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

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 started 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.

# Giving Ourselves a Better Story

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

In a recent book, *Living Between Worlds*, James Hollis offers a piece of wit that carries more depth than is first evident. A therapist says to a client, *I cannot solve your problem, but I can give you a more compelling story for your misery*. That's more than a wisecrack. Whether we feel good or bad about ourselves is often predicated on what kind of story we understand ourselves as living within.

I remember a seminar some years ago where one of the keynote speakers was a young French Canadian priest, Pierre Olivier Tremblay. Tremblay began his talk with words to this effect: I am a chaplain at a university, working with young college students. They are full of life, dreams, and energy; sadly, however they are mostly devoid of hope because *they have no meta-narrative*. They suffer a lot because they do not have a bigger story within which to understand themselves and make more sense of their own story. Their own stories, precious though they are, are too small and individualistic to give them much to draw on when pain and heartache beset them. They need a bigger story within which to situate themselves, a meta-narrative. While this wouldn't necessarily take away their pain and heartaches, it would give them something bigger within which to understand their suffering.

Hearing this, I think of my parents and the spirituality that helped sustain them and their generation. They had a meta-narrative, namely, the Christian story of salvation history and of how, in that story, at the very beginning of history, Adam and Eve committed an 'original sin' that has ever since skewed reality so as to leave us with the impossibility of ever attaining the full symphony in this life. When their lives got hard, as is the case with all of us, they had a religious perspective as to why they were frustrated and in pain. They understood themselves to be born into a flawed world and a flawed nature. Hence, their prayer included the words, *for now we live, mourning and weeping in a valley of tears*.

Today we might frown on this and see it as unhealthy and morbid, but that narrative of Adam and Eve helped give some explanation and meaning to all the shortcomings in their lives. While it didn't take away their pain, it helped give dignity to their miseries. Today I see many sincere parents trying in new ways to give a bigger narrative to their young children through stories like *The Lion King*. That might indeed be helpful for young children; but as Pierre Olivier Tremblay points out, eventually a much bigger and more compelling narrative is needed.

The story within which we frame our pain makes all the difference in the world vis-a-vis how we cope with that pain. For example, James Hillman tells us that perhaps the biggest pain we experience with aging is *our idea of aging*. This is true too for many of our struggles. They need the dignity of being seen under a larger canopy. I like what Robertson Davies says when he laments that he doesn't want to struggle with a 'growing edge', but wants rather to be 'tempted by demon'. He wants to accord a higher dignity to his temptations!

A bigger story brings us this dignity because it helps us differentiate meaning from happiness. We invariably confuse the two. What we need to seek in life is meaning, not happiness. Indeed, happiness (as we generally understand it) can never be pursued because it is always a byproduct of something else. Moreover, happiness is ephemeral and episodic; it comes and goes. Meaning is abiding and can co-exist with pain and suffering. I doubt that Jesus was particularly happy as he hung dying on the cross, but I suspect that inside of all the pain, he was experiencing deep meaning, perhaps the deepest meaning of all. Not incidentally, he found this deepest of all meaning because he understood himself as being inside the deepest of all stories.

At the end of the day, faith, religion, community, friendship, and therapy, cannot take away our problems. Most times, there isn't any solution; a problem must be lived through. As Gabriel Marcel famously put it, life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved. The story within which we frame our pain is the key to turning problem into mystery.

Art Schopenhauer once wrote that all pain can be borne if it can be shared. The sharing he was referring to doesn't just have to do with friendship, community, and intimacy. It also has to do with story. Pain can be to borne more generatively when it finds itself inside a larger story than our own, when it shares a meta-narrative, a horizon wide enough to dwarf idiosyncratic loneliness.

Hollis is right. No therapist can solve our problem, but he or she can help us find a bigger story that can give more meaning and dignity to our misery.



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