



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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024



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

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 Kentville, NS B4N 3X3
 Email: parishoffice_kentville@corpuschristins.ca
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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, Jan 21	Jonah 3:1-5,10	Mark 1:14-20
Mon, Jan 22	2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10	Mark 3:22-30
Tues, Jan 23	2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19	Mark 3:31-35
Wed, Jan 24	2 Samuel 7:4-17	Mark 4:1-20
Thurs, Jan 25	Acts 22:3-16	Mark 16:15-18
Fri, Jan 26	2 Timothy 1:1-8	Mark 4:26-34
Sat, Jan 27	2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17	Mark 4:35-41

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.

<u>Individual Confession Times</u>	Kentville – every Saturday 11 am – 12 noon Windsor – 1 st Saturday of the month ... 9 – 10 am Berwick – 1 st Saturday of the month ... 10 – 11 am Middleton – 2 nd Saturday of the month ... 10 – 11 am & after Wednesday morning Mass until 10:00 am
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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 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

TUESDAY, JAN 23

Kentville	8:30 AM	Kathy Hanna by Mari McCabe
Digby	6:30 PM	For the deceased members of the McClafferty & Peters Families by Carolyn McClafferty

WEDNESDAY, JAN 24

Kentville	8:30 AM	Intentions of Jesmilin Maria by Philomena & Manoj
Middleton	9:00 AM	Healing of Paul Hamilton by Carolyn Gilbert
Weymouth	4:00 PM	For the Parishioners of Corpus Christi

THURSDAY, JAN 25

Kentville	8:30 AM	Maurice Harquail by Dalyce, Jennie & David
Weymouth	4:00 PM	For the souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, JAN 26

Berwick	9:00 AM	Intentions of Mike Rasmusson by Shirley Samson
Digby	9:00 AM	Betty Cosman by Doris, John & Charlene Barr

SATURDAY, JAN 27

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Margaret Dempsey by Patsy Sabeau
Kentville	4:00 PM	Vern Nash by Dennis & Barb Nash
Digby	4:00 PM	Catherine Robicheau by Carolyn McClafferty

SUNDAY, JAN 28

Windsor	8:30 AM	Intentions of Stan Herridge & John West by Laura Joyce
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Gerard LeFort by Knights of Columbus, Comeauville
Berwick	9:00 AM	Ernie Samms by Theresa MacMullin & Family
Kentville	10:30 AM	Maurice Harquail by Dalyce, Jennie & David
Middleton	11:00 AM	Roy Landry by Mary Gillis
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Louise & Daniel Comeau by Joanne & Jerry Belliveau
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Phil Williams by Hector & Joan Pottie

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.

Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts

St. Monica's (Middleton): Corpus Christi Catholic Books & Gifts: Spiritual Classics of the Catholic Christian Faith which have been published in affordable paperback editions: *Confessions* by St. Augustine (\$11.95); *The Way of Perfection* by St. Teresa of Avila (\$9.95); and *Abandonment to Divine Providence* by Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade (\$6.00). Available at St. Monica's church hall after Sunday Mass or call Mary Crooks 902-825-6495.

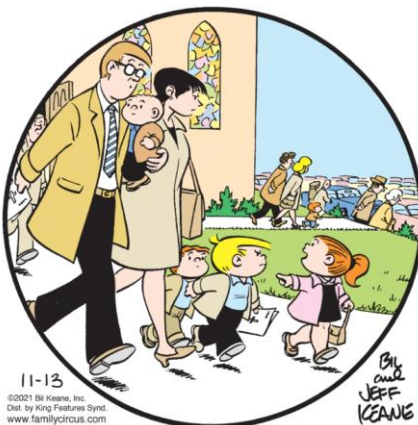
St. Joseph's (Kentville): We have a growing variety of children & adult books & gifts to purchase ... or books to sign out. The "Library/Bookstore" is open during office hours (Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday 9am-1pm) or after Mass.

GAMES NIGHT (Kentville)

Come and enjoy a 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.

Games Night: Where laughter is the main currency, and winning is a bonus.

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!



11-13
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"Father Forest said, 'As you live,
so shall you die.' I'll bet Billy
dies in a messy room."

St. Monica's CWL (Middleton) extends a sincere **Thank you** for your generous contributions of Hygiene Items which were delivered to the Middleton Library. Many people find warmth from the cold and practical assistance at our local libraries where they are welcomed with a smile and called by name. In addition to lending books and providing computer access, they also provide free workshops to engage all ages and help with applications, booking appointments, submitting resumes, preparing taxes, etc. They can discreetly provide hygiene supplies to those who need these aids for their personal dignity, especially those who are hardest hit by the housing shortage. It is a meaningful way to work together as a caring community. Thank you and God bless you!

CWL News - The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked of the Catholic Women's League Canada to support **Bill S-210: Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act**. The House of Commons resumes on January 29, 2024 and this bill will come up for debate. Experts in child health indicate that the average age of first exposure to violent and degrading pornography is eleven years old, which contributes to sexual violence against women and addictive behaviors in youth. They advocate for age verification measures on pornography websites which Bill S-210 would pass into law. In its meeting with the federal government in February 2023, CWL Canada emphasized the protection of children and youth from access to pornography. Please consider signing a petition to be forwarded to our MP in support of this legislation. You may sign the petition at the entrance to the church (Middleton or Kentville) or see Mary Crooks at St. Monica's church hall or Ann Myers at St Joseph's, Kentville, or contact the office of your Member of Parliament, or write to your MP (no postage required). Thank you for helping to protect the development of our children to healthy youth and adults.

Neighbours' Meal (Wolfville)

The Wolfville Area InterChurch Council (WAICC) invites you to a **Neighbours' Meal** on Thursday, **February 1st**, 5:30pm at L'Arche.

Eating together is one of the most ancient practices across Christian traditions. When we gather, share food, and go out nourished to meet a world in need, we taste what it means to live the whole life of faith. At the Neighbours' Meal, we'll share soup, bread & salad, and members of each WAICC organization will offer short reflections on how the simple actions of a meal mirror the Christian life as they experience it in community. No cost. All are welcome!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18th-25th)

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is an annual global ecumenical celebration. Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all the baptized; to reflect together on Scripture; to participate in jointly-organized worship services; and to share in acts of outreach and fellowship. The theme for 2024 is drawn from Luke 10:27: *"You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself."*

Please offer this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, who prayed that all might be one, we pray to you for the unity of Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope. Amen."*

Church Divisions

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

If I cannot trust and work together with other Christians, what hope is there for any ecumenism with Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism? What hope is there for the world? Especially when we can see the historical accidents, the cultural blindness, the self-interest on both sides of every schism and reform. Why should we need to defend that? I have too much baggage to carry already.

Often I feel like a juggler in this Church, trying to hold many truths together. I can't make the great issues of the Reformation key in my life. Especially when I see that so many of the questions were asked entirely by comfortable, white male clerics (on both sides) and, usually were questions of power and righteousness! If we have to divide, why couldn't we divide over who was doing a better job of feeding widows and orphans?

- from *The Other Side, "Poverty and Surrender"*

Interruptions Can Be Our Real Work

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

David Steindl-Rast once commented that we tend to be resentful when things interrupt our work until we realize that, often times, interruptions are our real work.

Most of us tend to be impatient and resentful, sometimes deeply so, when our plans are interrupted by demands which deflect our energies from what we would ideally like to be doing. Sometimes this is minor: an unexpected phone call interrupts our work or our favorite TV program. Sometimes the interruption is major: an unwanted pregnancy interrupts our career or education; economic demands interrupt our plans to be a writer or an artist; the demands of a family interrupt our chance to travel, to see movies and plays, and to have the type of hobbies and recreations we would like, or the loss of health interrupts our career.

Countless things, big and small, constantly derail our agendas, force us to alter our plans, and slowly kill our dreams. Very often we are resentful: *"If only! If only this hadn't happened! Now I have to wait to go back to school, to resume my career. Now I'll never have a chance to fulfil my dream."*

Sometime in middle age, or even earlier, this resentment takes a more radical form: *"I've wasted my life. I've been a victim of circumstances. I've given in to the demands of others and now I'll never get the chance to do what I really wanted to do."* Sometimes, however, as Steindl-Rast points out, the opposite happens. Instead of resentment there is gratitude. We realize that the interruptions, so unwelcome at the time, were really salvific and, far from derailing us off of our real agenda, they were our real agenda.

A few examples can be helpful here. I am sure all of us have known individuals or families where an unplanned pregnancy suddenly turns all plans (economic, career, travel, new house) upside down. Initially there is some bitterness and resentment. Later on the unwanted interruption turns into a much wanted and loved child who creates a happiness in life that dwarfs what might have resulted had original plans not been derailed by that interruption.

A.N. Wilson, the British historian, in a recent biography of C.S. Lewis, describes how Lewis' life as a teacher and writer was, during virtually all of his productive years, interrupted by the demands of his adopted mother who made him do all the shopping and housework and demanded hours of his time daily for domestic tasks. Lewis' own brother, Warnie, who also lived in the household (and who generally refused to let his own agenda be so interrupted) laments this fact in his diaries and suggests that Lewis could have been much more prolific had he not had to spend literally thousands of hours shopping, walking the dog, and doing domestic chores.

Lewis himself, however, gives us a far different assessment. Far from being resentful about these interruptions, he is grateful for them and suggests that it was precisely these domestic demands that kept him in touch with life in a way that other Oxford Dons (who never had to shop and do housework) were not. Historians like Wilson agree and suggest that it was because of these interruptions, which kept Lewis' feet squarely on the ground, that Lewis came to insights which appeal so universally.

As these examples demonstrate, what initially is experienced as an unwanted interruption can, in the end, be our real agenda.

This, though, is not always true. Our lives are not meant to be left to pure circumstance and fate. We must also actively choose and create destiny. It is not always good to accept whatever happens. We have dreams and talents, and these are God-given, and so we must fight too for our agenda.

However, we must look always for the hand of providence in our interruptions. These often constitute a conspiracy of accidents within which God guides our lives. If we were totally in control of our own agendas, if we could simply plan and execute our lives according to our own dreams with no unwanted derailments, I fear that many of us would (slowly and subtly) become very selfish and would (also slowly and subtly) find our lives empty of simple joy, enthusiasm, family life, and real community. We do not live by accomplishment alone!

The very word baptism means derailment. Christ baptizes Peter on the rock when he tells him: *"Because you said you love me, your life is now no longer your own. Before you said this, you fastened your belt and you walked wherever you liked. Now, others will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go."* To submit to love is to be baptized ... and to let one's life be forever interrupted. To not let one's life be interrupted is to say no to love.

C.S. Lewis once said that we will spend most of eternity thanking God for those prayers of ours that he didn't answer. Along the same lines, I suspect we will spend a good part of eternity thanking God for those interruptions that derailed our plans but which baptized us into life and love in a way we could never have ourselves planned or accomplished.

Lewis also once said that God's harshness is ultimately kinder than human gentleness and that God's compulsion is our liberation. In our interruptions, not infrequently, we experience this.



**"I installed the peephole backwards ...
now, all my troubles seem so far away."**

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We Still Need the Saints

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

The saints are our heroes and heroines: It's worth being Catholic to hope that we might be like them. It's good to stand on the shoulders of these giants, these free, poor and in-love people.

Catholicism at its best wants to give you the freedom of a saint. It can lead you on a wisdom journey, a universal tradition that includes Abraham, Sarah, Moses, the prophets, Jesus, Mary and two thousand years of saints.

Saints, like all of us, are forgiven sinners. But saints have rejoiced in forgiveness and not been overwhelmed by the sin. Many of them, frankly, were ignorant, biased, broken and neurotic. That gives me hope.

I've been inspired, motivated and energized much more in my Catholicism by reading biographies and lives of the saints than any book of theology. They were the heroes and heroines who formed my ideals as a young man. We still need to read the lives of the saints, and I think our young people do, too. Every culture I am aware of forms its next generation by heroic epics and myths.

- from *Why Be Catholic?*

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