



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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 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 before 5:00 pm on Monday.

This Week's Readings

	1st Reading	Gospel
Sun, Feb 4	Job 7:1-4, 6-7	Mark 1:29-39
Mon, Feb 5	1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13	Mark 6:53-56
Tues, Feb 6	1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30	Mark 7:1-13
Wed, Feb 7	1 Kings 10:1-10	Mark 7:14-23
Thurs, Feb 8	1 Kings 11:4-13	Mark 7:24-30
Fri, Feb 9	1 Kings 11:29-32, 12:19	Mark 7:31-37
Sat, Feb 10	1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34	Mark 8:1-10

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.*

Individual Confession Times

Kentville – every Saturday 11 am – 12 noon
 Windsor – 1st Saturday of the month ... 9 – 10 am
 Berwick – 1st Saturday of the month ... 10 – 11 am
 Middleton – 2nd 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, FEB 3

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Kentville	4:00 PM	Patrick McCabe by Mari McCabe
Digby	4:00 PM	Ethel Avery by the Avery Family

SUNDAY, FEB 4

Windsor	8:30 AM	Wayne Berthier by Terry & Eleanor McKiel
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Douglas Theriault by Donald & Barbara Theriault & Family
Berwick	9:00 AM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Kentville	10:30 AM	Deceased Members of Hawley/Landry Families by Carmen & Francis Hawley
Middleton	11:00 AM	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Doug Gidney by Cathy LeBlanc
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Deceased Members of teBraake Family by John teBraake
Digby	4:00 PM	Healing of Liam and Bruce by the Confirmation Class

TUESDAY, FEB 6

Kentville	8:30 AM	Intentions of Pat Crossman & Soul of Darryl Crossman by Doris Pasley
Annapolis Royal	10:00 AM	Gerald LeFort by Marilyn Harry & Carolyn Gilbert
Digby	6:30 PM	Bob LeFave by the Jolly Julians

WEDNESDAY, FEB 7

Kentville	8:30 AM	Deceased Members of Kerr & Boudreau Families by Theresa MacMullin & Family
Middleton	9:00 AM	Intentions of Bernie & Sharon Halbot by Tom & Peggy Foley
Tideview Terrace	10:30 AM	Phyllis Daigle by Edythe Amirault
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Paul Belliveau by Joanne & Jerry Belliveau

THURSDAY, FEB 8

Kentville	8:30 AM	Paul Boudreau & Maynard Barry by Wayne Barry
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Millicent Cullen by Greg & Marion MacDonald

FRIDAY, FEB 9

Berwick	9:00 AM	Dan Bernard by Sherry & Robert Estey
Digby	9:00 AM	For the Parishioners of Corpus Christi

SATURDAY, FEB 10

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Gillian Beckner by her Family
Kentville	4:00 PM	James Lyons by Louis Comeau & Family
Digby	4:00 PM	Kaye Sapper by Angela O'Neil

SUNDAY, FEB 11

Windsor	8:30 AM	Margo, Theodora & Herman teBogt by Marianne teBogt & Family
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Shirley Marie McNeil by Pat & Alan Dill
Berwick	9:00 AM	Larry Crouse & Margie Lanteigne by Bill & Darlene McDonald
Kentville	10:30 AM	Rick Kavanagh by St Joseph's CLT
Middleton	11:00 AM	Intentions of Marg Jackson by Carolyn Gilbert
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Raymond Westby by Donald Westby
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Ben Harbers by the Harbers Family

Ash Wednesday (Feb 14) Schedule

9 am – Bridgetown	6 pm - Digby
9 am – Berwick	6:30 pm - Middleton
9 am – Kentville	6:30 pm - Kentville
10 am - Annapolis Royal	6:30 pm - Wolfville
4 pm - Weymouth	6:30 pm - Windsor

Old Palms - If you have old palms, can you bring them to the church by Sun, Feb 11 so they can be burnt. These will be used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Special Envelope Collection - On **Feb 11**, there is a special collection envelope for the **Pro-Life Assistance**. These donations for Pro-Life are forwarded to two local organizations, 20% goes to Birthright and 80% goes to Nova Scotians United for Life.

Coffee Sunday (Kentville) On **Sunday, Feb 4** the Carey family will be hosting Coffee Sunday after the 10:30 am Mass.

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!

Twelve Baskets Foodbank (Middleton) - Foodbank's Annual General Meeting will take place on **Feb 19** at 7:00 pm at the Nictaux Baptist Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The needs for February for the Foodbank include Kraft Dinner, canned tomatoes, shampoo, bars of hand soap, toothpaste, prayers and support (monetary & other food items).

Emergency Shelter (Middleton): Due to a perceived need in our community, we are seeking to open an overnight shelter in the Middleton area. The immediate **need** is for male and female **volunteer shelter hosts** - 2 to 3 per night are required. The shelter will be open from 9:30 in the evening until 7:30 in the morning. If you are interested in serving in this way or would like more information, please reach out to Diane Thurber at 902-765-8783 / dthurber184@gmail.com or Linda Thorsen at 902-309-0684/ thorsenlindae@gmail.com or Jeff Milne 902-825-8536/ pastorjeff.nictaux@gmail.com

Valley Connect Outreach ... is a continuation of Street Ministry & Community Advocacy that began more than 20 years ago. It is our privilege and joy to welcome and assist people seeking help. Food, faith and friendship together form bonds and a place of refuge for many through our weekly recovery supports, life skills programs and regular meals through the Community Soup Kitchen in Kentville and the Middleton Outreach Centre.

The sense of new identity and purpose arising from this work helps liberate people to make healthy choices as part of God's family. Our passion is for spiritual renewal and that people discover an array of solid supports required to leave old negative patterns behind.

Current supports, advocacy and food programming are expanding to address the growing needs in our region. We have recently re-launched the **Inn From the Cold** emergency shelter program in **Kentville** (at the Anglican Church) ... and we will also be launching **Inn From the Cold** in **Middleton** soon (see item above).

Valley Connect Outreach Association provides oversight and direction for the following programs and services:

- Community Chaplaincy, Navigation & Advocacy
- Community Soup Kitchen
- Middleton Outreach Centre
- Inn From the Cold (Kentville & Middleton)

Volunteer opportunities are available with Inn From the Cold (in Kentville and Middleton) and with our charity thrift store in Kentville (The Purple Peacock).

Thank you for your support and prayers. Office contact: 902-698-9627 or valley@connectoutreach.ca or to chat with Bruce Caldwell (902-385-2478).

St Monica's CWL News - During the month of February, the **Middleton Library** welcomes donations of knitted mittens, hats, scarves, socks, and sweaters which they make available to those in need of warm protection from the cold. You can bring items directly to the library, or to Mary Crooks, CWL Social Justice Chairperson. If you knit or crochet, the library can provide the yarn and needles for you. Thank you!

Job Opportunity: Secretary (Digby) – We are looking to fill the Secretary position at St Patrick's. The job will be a contract position for 6 months for 9 hours/week. Responsibilities will include responding to phone messages and email, getting the mail, scheduling mass intentions, cemetery record keeping, assisting Fr Raymond and other duties. For the full job description or if you are interested in applying, please contact the Kentville office.

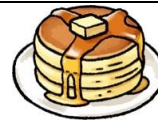
First Communion (Windsor) - Prayerful congratulations to
Wynn MacRae & Emma Webster on their First Holy Communion on **Jan 28** at St John's Church.

Marian Prayer Hour (Middleton) Our monthly Marian Prayer Hour will take place on **Sat, Feb 3** at 11:00 am at St. Monica's Church. All are welcomed to this peaceful time of prayer, especially for the needs of our parishioners and our loved ones, including those who are ill in body, mind or spirit; those who are recuperating; and those in need of hope and encouragement. Hosted by St. Monica's CWL.

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, Kentville & Annapolis Royal) or see Mary Crooks (St Monica's church hall), Ann Myers (St Joseph's) or Eloise Mailman (St Louis) 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.



Pancake Meals



St John's, Windsor A hearty meal/breakfast will be provided following the 8:30am Mass on **Sunday, Feb 11**. Free-will offering. Compliments of the Knights of Columbus.

St Anthony's, Berwick - Come and join us at St Anthony's on **Tues, Feb 13**, for our pancake supper from 4 - 6pm. We will be serving pancakes, ham, sausages, baked beans, tea & coffee. Free will offering, bring your family & friends.

St Francis, Wolfville - Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper at St. Francis Parish Centre, **Tues, Feb 13**, 5-6:30 pm. Come join us for a delicious pancake and sausage. Your host will be the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Francis of Assisi Conference. Free will offering will get you a good time with fun people and good food. Mark your calendars and plan to be there. It's a great beginning to Lent.

CWL News (Kentville) - On **Sunday, Feb 11**, the CWL at St. Josephs will be celebrating its 99th Anniversary as a council (1925-2024). As well as participating in the many ministries (hospitality, lector, eucharistic minister) at the Mass at 10:30 am, they will be hosting the hospitality after Mass in the Multi-Purpose Room. The parish community is welcomed to join in celebration with coffee, tea, and cake.

Unbound Course

Unbound is a safe, loving and effective model of prayer ministry which helps every person find freedom in the Father's love. Unbound helps us respond to the Good News of the Gospel and apply truth to our lives using Five Keys: Repentance and Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority and the Father's Blessing.

Our 1st of 8 weeks begins **Feb 7** on Wednesday evenings with a start time of 6:30 pm and ends March 27 and will be presented virtually (via Zoom.) Here is our opportunity to rekindle past friendships and renew our freedom found in Christ who, in and through the desire of the Father, calls us from the darkness of sin into the light. It is the Father's deepest desire that He renews His love and mercy within us in order that we might again become one with Him and experience our destiny; bringing with it life and life in its fullness.

To register call the Parish office 902-678-3303, email parishoffice_kentville@corpuschristins.ca or online by clicking [Unbound](#).

Lent 2024 begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

by means of Flocknote, Corpus Christi Parish will be sending out:

- **Ascension Lenten Companion** to the **adults** of our parish. Fr. Mark Toups will give reflections of 5 to 10 minutes which will be sent on Ash Wednesday, each week of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. These will help us enter more deeply into the season of Lent, help us find peace, and guide us to let God heal the hurts of our hearts.
- The **children** of our parish will receive daily emails in the **Lenten Adventure 2024**.

Adult Lenten Challenge 2024 - We invite you to follow one of these two:

- **Exodus** - Dr. John Bergsma will read and reflect on the 40 chapters of Exodus, one each day for 10 minutes.
- **Exile** - Dr. Scott Hahn - 8 talks based on his book, "Catholics in Exile: Biblical Wisdom for the Journey Home."

These presentations will help us distinguish our present surroundings from our true home. You can sign up for this challenge at https://stpaulcenter.com/exodus?mc_cid=f107b86476&mc_eid=be07bfcdda

By accepting this challenge, you will also receive free access to all material on the St. Paul Center during Lent.

Caroline and Greg Brown will be leading a **small group** for those who wish to meet **online** to discuss the material presented in this Lenten Challenge 2024. It will meet on zoom on Monday evenings at 7pm starting on Feb. 19 and concluding on March 25. To sign up for this group, email the Kentville liaison at kentville@corpuschristins.ca

Also ... you might like:

- Matthew Kelly's **Dynamic Catholic's Best Lent Ever** is a "A Historic Journey to Eucharistic Consecration." It offers a **daily video** with spiritual insight and practical ways to apply the consecration to your life. It contains three simple daily steps to prepare your heart, mind, and soul for this surrender to God. Go to the website <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html> or you can sign up at info@dynamiccatholic.com

Small Groups During Lent

Many parishioners belong to small faith groups who weekly pray, study scripture, watch videos, share their faith etc.

One of the common responses during the recent Synod process was the value of belonging to a small faith group. People appreciated the fellowship, support, encouragement, enlightenment, and challenge.

During Lent, we will be encouraging all of our parishioners to try the "small group" experience.

We will do our best to facilitate the formation of these groups.

More information to come!

Breaking Faith With Each Other

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

Is this new or are we just more aware of it? Hatred and contempt are everywhere. They are in our government houses, in our communities, in our churches, and in our families. We are struggling, mostly without success, to be civil with each other, let alone to respect each other. Why? Why is this happening and intensifying?

Moreover, on both sides, we are often justifying this hatred on moral grounds, even biblical grounds, claiming that the Gospel itself gives us grounds for our disrespect - *My truth is so right and you are so wrong that I can disrespect you and I have biblical grounds to hate you!*

Well, even a cursory look at scripture should be enough to enable us to see this for what it is; rationalization, self-interest, and the farthest thing from Jesus.

Let's begin with something already taught long before Jesus. In the Jewish scriptures, we already find this text: "I have made you contemptible and base before all the people, since you do not keep my ways, *but show partiality in your decisions.* Have we not all the one Father? Has not the one God created us? Why do we break faith with one another?" (Malachi 2,8-10) Long before Jesus, Jewish spirituality already demanded that we be fair and never show partiality. However, it still gave us permission to hate our enemies and to take revenge when we have been wronged - "an eye for an eye".

Jesus turns this on its head. Everywhere in his person and in his teaching, most explicitly in the Sermon on the Mount, he challenges us in a radically new way, telling us that, if we want to go to heaven, our virtue needs to go deeper than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees. What was their virtue?

The Scribes and Pharisees of his time were very much like the church-going Christians of our time. They were sincere, essentially honest, basically good people, who kept the commandments and practiced strict justice. But, according to Jesus, that isn't enough. Why? If you are a sincere person who is honest, keeps the commandments, and is fair to everyone, what's still missing? What's still missing lies at the very heart of Jesus' moral teaching, namely, *the practice of a love and forgiveness that goes beyond hatred and grievance.* What exactly is this?

In justice and fairness, you are still entitled to hate someone who hates you and to extract an appropriate vengeance on someone who has wronged you. However, Jesus asks something else of us: "*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. ... If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" (Matthew 5, 43-48)

This is the very essence of Christian morality. Can you love someone who hates you? Can you do good to someone who wishes you evil? Can you forgive someone who has wronged you? Can you forgive a murderer? It's this, and not some particular issue in moral theology, which is the litmus test for who is a Christian and who isn't. Can you love someone who hates you? Can you forgive someone who has hurt you? Can you move beyond your natural proclivity for vengeance?

Sadly, today we are failing that test on both sides of the ideological and religious spectrum. We see this everywhere - from the highest levels of government, from high levels in our churches, and in public and private discourse everywhere, that is, people openly espousing disrespect, division, hatred, and vengeance - and trying to claim the moral high ground in doing this. Major politicians speak openly and explicitly about hating others and about exacting revenge on those who oppose them. Worse still, churches and church leaders of every kind are lining up behind them and giving them "Gospel" support for their espousal of hatred and vengeance.

This needs to be named and challenged: *anyone who is advocating division, disrespect, hatred, or revenge is antithetical to Jesus and the Gospels.* As well, *anyone supporting such a person by an appeal to Jesus, the Gospels, or authentic morality, is also antithetical to Jesus and the Gospels.*

God is love. Jesus is love enfleshed. Disrespect, hatred, division, and revenge may never be preached in God's or Jesus' name, no matter the cause, no matter the anger, no matter the wrong. This doesn't mean that we cannot have disagreements, spirited discussions, and bitter debates. But disrespect, hatred, division, and revenge (no matter how deeply they may in fact be felt inside us) may not be advocated in the name of goodness and Jesus. Division, disrespect, hatred, and vengeance are the Anti-Christ.

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