



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

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 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 7	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
Mon, Jan 8	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7	Mark 1:7-11
Tues, Jan 9	1 Samuel 1:9-20	Mark 1:21-28
Wed, Jan 10	1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20	Mark 1:29-39
Thurs, Jan 11	1 Samuel 4:1-11	Mark 1:40-45
Fri, Jan 12	1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22	Mark 2:1-12
Sat, Jan 13	1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1	Mark 2:13-17

**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  
 Middleton – after Wednesday morning Mass until 10:00 am  
 Windsor – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month ... 9 – 10 am  
 Berwick – 1<sup>st</sup> 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, JAN 6**

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Dan Bernard by Don & Connie Boudreau
Kentville	4:00 PM	Mary Ann Doucet by Richard & Family
Digby	4:00 PM	Karen Woods by Jacqueline & Bill Amirault

### **SUNDAY, JAN 7**

Windsor	8:30 AM	Theresa Rennie by Patty Burgess
Annapolis Royal	9:00 AM	Allan Theriault by Donald & Barbara Theriault
Berwick	9:00 AM	Gerald Flinn by Bill Flinn
Kentville	10:30 AM	George Pellerine by Dennis & Barb Nash
Middleton	11:00 AM	Fr David Stokes, Dan Canfield & Barbara Picot by Carolyn Gilbert
Weymouth	11:30 AM	Eleanor Gaudet by Cathy LeBlanc
Wolfville	12:15 PM	Nancy Henry by Angie Stirling

### **TUESDAY, JAN 9**

Kentville	8:30 AM	Phyllis Butler by Doris Pasley
Digby	6:30 PM	Michael MacDonald by Donna Boyer

### **WEDNESDAY, JAN 10**

Kentville	8:30 AM	St Joseph's CWL
Middleton	9:00 AM	Intentions of Marge MacDonald & Sharon Halbot by Carolyn Gilbert
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Barbara Hubbard by Susan Dodge

### **THURSDAY, JAN 11**

Kentville	8:30 AM	NCLEX-RN Exam for Princess Rose Pena
Weymouth	4:00 PM	Maynard Barry by Wayne Barry

### **FRIDAY, JAN 12**

Berwick	9:00 AM	Intentions of Fr Michael Walsh & Fr John MacPherson by St Monica's CWL
Digby	9:00 AM	May Melanson by Dennis & Barb Nash

### **SATURDAY, JAN 13**

Bridgetown	4:00 PM	Keith Dalby by Patsy Sabeau
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

**Special Collection Envelope** for January is the **Solemnity of Mary, Jan 1**. 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.

**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.**



On Dec 17, six children at St Joseph's, Kentville received 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 received their First Holy Communion.

**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.

**Ladies Prayer Breakfast (Berwick)** will begin its 2024 program on **Sat, Jan 6**. Come between 8:30 and 9am to share in casual conversation, coffee or tea, and light breakfast treats. A program of prayer and reflection follows. Join us in St Anthony's Hall in Berwick. Bring something to share if you can. Everyone is welcome.

**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)

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

**St. Monica's (Middleton):** *Care and Prayer: Reflections on the Sacred Task of Caregiving* by Gunilla Norris (\$12.95). Amid the many practical and often daunting aspects of caregiving, the author focuses on the holy and sacred calling at the heart of being a caregiver. Her reflections offer hope, encouragement, strength, and light for caregivers. The short reflections and large clear print make it easier for busy caregivers to draw upon its wisdom when they have a few moments. 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.

## 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



"I've found that since the Holy Spirit lives within me, fewer people get under my skin."

## 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.

## Out of the Mouths of God's Kids ...

A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: *"When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time."*

## Humour ???

When a young Protestant minister was still single, he preached a sermon he entitled, *"Rules for Raising Children."* After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of the sermon to *"Suggestions for Raising Children."* When his children got to be teenagers, he stopped preaching on that subject altogether.

## 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.

## Francis Stands for Love Emptying Itself

by Fr. Richard Rohr o.f.m.

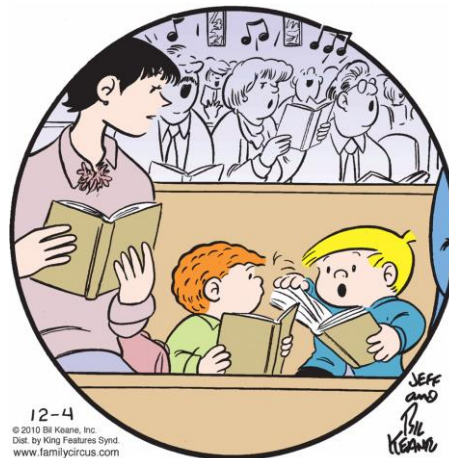
History eventually turns itself upside down. In the moment, the saint is never understood. So we had best be careful whom we name saint and devil. We had best listen because sometimes saints come in ways we are not prepared for.

Francis wanted one thing above everything else: the poor Jesus. So he went to the caves dressed in the ragged tunic and let the people call him foolish. Even in his age he saw the importance of being poor. He saw how the Church was being destroyed by its own riches.

Above all else Francis stands for love, but love that empties itself, love that is so secure that it can be poor. It can let go of its reputation, securities, money. Francis in every age will be called the little poor man. He was free enough to be poor. He named his community "the brothers of the lower class" (friars minor). He changed sides intentionally. Today we call that taking a "preferential option for the poor".

We Americans stand for the upper class on this earth. Let us ask for ourselves and for our country the gift of poverty, the freedom to be poor. If we have not heard that, we have not heard Francis. All the rest is sentimentality – "birdbath Franciscanism".

■ from *On Pilgrimage With Father Richard Rohr*



12-4  
© 2010 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

"I can't find what channel we're on."

# Trying Not To Make God Look Bad

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser o.m.i.

For fifteen years, I taught a course entitled *The Theology of God*. The students in that course were predominately seminarians preparing for ministry, along with a number of lay students who were preparing to serve as ministers in various capacities in their churches. I would always teach what the curriculum called for: the key biblical revelations about the nature of God and God's actions in history, some salient perspectives from the Patristics on God's nature and actions, the historical development of the dogmatic definitions about God, plus some speculative notions on the trinity, ranging from Saint Augustine to Karl Rahner to Catherine Lacugna. But my overriding emphasis, like a leit motif, was always this. I would tell the students: *whatever else you do in your pastoral practice and preaching, try not to make God look stupid!*

Nothing is as important in our teaching, preaching, and pastoral activities as is the notion we convey of the God who underwrites it all. Every homily we preach, every catechetical or sacramental teaching we give, and every pastoral practice we engage in reflects the God who undergirds it. If our teaching is narrow and petty, we make God look narrow and petty. If our pastoral practice lacks understanding and compassion, we make God lack understanding and compassion. If we are legalistic, we make God legalistic. If we are tribal, nationalistic, or racist, we make God tribal, nationalistic, and racist. If we do things that befuddle common sense, we make God the enemy of common sense. Crassly stated, when we do stupid things in our ministry, we make God look stupid.

In all of our preaching, teaching, and pastoral practice we need to work at rescuing God from arbitrariness, narrowness, legalism, rigidity, racism, tribalism, nationalism, and everything that's narrow, legalistic, and petty that, through us, gets associated with God. Anything we do in the name of God reflects God.

It's no accident that atheism, anti-clericalism, and most of the negativity leveled against the church and religion today can always point to some bad theology or church practice on which to base itself. Atheism is always a parasite, feeding off bad religion. So too is most of the negativity towards the churches which is prevalent today. Anti-church attitudes feed on bad religion and thus we who preach, teach, and minister in the name of God need to scrutinize ourselves in the light of those criticisms.

As well, we need the honesty to admit that we have seriously hurt many persons by the rigidity of some of our pastoral practices that do not reflect a God of understanding, compassion, and intelligence, but instead suggest that God is arbitrary, legalistic, and not very intelligent.

I say this in sympathy. It's not easy to reflect God adequately, but we must try, try to reflect better the God that Jesus incarnated. What are the marks of that God?

First, that God has no favorites. No one person, race, gender, or nation is more favored than others by that God. All are privileged. That God is also clear that it's not only those who profess God and religion explicitly who are persons of faith, but also those, irrespective of their explicit faith or church practice, who do the will of God on earth.

Next, that God is scandalously understanding and compassionate, especially towards the weak and towards sinners. That God is willing to sit down with sinners without first asking them to clean up their lives. Moreover, that God asks us to be compassionate in the same way to both sinners and saints and to love them both equally. That God does not have preferential love for the virtuous.

In addition, that God is critical of those who, whatever their sincerity, try to block access to him. That God is never defensive, but surrenders himself to death rather than defend himself, never meets hatred with hatred, and dies loving and forgiving those who are killing him.

Finally, and centrally, that God is first of all good news for the poor. Any preaching in God's name that isn't good news for the poor is not the gospel.

Those are the attributes of the God who Jesus incarnated and we need to keep that God in mind in all of our preaching, teaching, and pastoral practices, even as we are sensitive to proper boundaries and the demands of orthodox teaching.

Complex pastoral questions will always be with us and this is not suggesting that these issues be resolved simplistically. The truth sets us free and the demands of discipleship are, by Jesus own admission, harsh. However, with that being admitted, the compassion, mercy, and intelligence of God need always still to be reflected in every pastoral action we do. Otherwise, God looks arbitrary, tribal, cruel, and antithetical to love. Christianity, as Marilynne Robinson says, is too great a narrative to be underwritten by any lesser tale and that should forbid especially its being subordinated to narrowness, legalism, lack of compassion, and lack of common sense.