

Our Lady of Peace Parish

“Three Churches One Faith Community”

Bulletin Sunday Dec 22, 2024 –Fourth Sunday of Advent

Bulletin Christmas Dec 25th

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St. Anthony's St. Theresa's St. Patrick's



<p>Tuesday Dec 24th 4:00 PM St. Anthony's <i>Fr. Mote Peters</i></p> <p>Tuesday Dec 24th 5:30 PM St. Theresa's <i>Sherwood Billings</i></p> <p>Tuesday Dec 24th 8:00 PM St. Patrick's <i>Faye Gilmore</i></p> <p>Wednesday Dec 25th 10:00 AM St. Theresa's <i>Jim Noble</i></p> <p>Thursday Dec 26th No Mass</p> <p>Friday Dec 27th No Mass</p> <p>Saturday Dec 28th 4:00 PM St Anthony's <i>Mary Boyle</i></p>	<p>Sunday Dec 29th 11:00 AM St. Theresa's <i>Mass for the People</i></p> <p>Sunday Dec 29th 1:30 PM St. Patrick's <i>Patsy McAloon</i></p> <p>Tuesday Dec 31st 4:00 PM St. Anthony's <i>Deceased Members of the McAllister Family</i></p> <p>Wednesday Jan1st 1:30 PM St. Patrick's <i>Vocations to Priesthood</i></p> <p>No weekday masses 24th & 31st at 12pm at St. Theresa's.</p>
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JUBILEE OPENING MASS – Mark your calendars for the opening Mass of the Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope in the Diocese of Saint John. This Mass will take place on Sunday, December 29, 2024 (Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph) at 5:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. More information to follow in the coming weeks.



St. Theresa's Church Candle Burns in Memory of Andy Chiasson Offered by Veronica and daughter Andrea

Our Lady of Peace Financial Update

December 15, 2024		Weekly	Contributions
Offertory	5,669	Offertory	\$5,669
Capital Infrastructure	196	Budget Needs	(5,255)
Diocesan Collections	50	Excess (Shortfall)	\$414
Other	2,035	Year-to-Date	Contributions
Total Contributions	\$ 7,950	Offertory	\$266,056
		Budget Needs	(262,750)
		Excess (Shortfall)	\$3,306

Ministry Schedule December 24th

St. Anthony's

St. Theresa's

Hospitality	Greg Feener	George Fernandez, Mary Fitzpatrick, Martin Colford Betty MacNeil, Marilyn Brennan, Manie, Rachelle & Ellie Pahati
Eucharistic Minister	Leonard Cormier & Ken Harris	Mary Billings, Marg Anderson & Mary Ellen Holleran
Altar Servers	David, Miranda & Samuel Alfaro	Volunteers
Lector	Kelly Bowlen	Mark Daigle & Kendra VanLeewen
Sacristan		Debbie Heustis

December 25th

Hospitality	No Mass	Michele McCann, Mary Fitzpatrick, Martin Colford, Betty MacNeil, Marilyn Brennan, Emlie Cabungal, Miguel & Andrea Yamane
Eucharistic Minister		Janet Matheson & Mary Fitzpatrick
Altar Servers		Volunteers
Lector		Betty Flanagan & Aloysia Adimaulor
Sacristan		Rochelle Ivey

Ministry Schedule December 28th & December 29th

St. Anthony's

St. Theresa's

Hospitality	Mona & Ray McCarty	Michele McCann, Mary Fitzpatrick, Martin Colford Darren Ricard & George Fernandez
Eucharistic Minister	Greg Feener	Betty MacNeil & Mary Fitzpatrick
Altar Servers		Volunteers
Lector	Sue Inkster	Andrew Lawlor & Andrea Yamane
Sacristan		Debbie Heustis

Resilience The Catholic Women's League celebrated 100 years of service in 2020. The resilience over the next 100 is in your hands. Come and be part of the journey.

Our Lady of Peace Parish Adoration Schedule

Thursdays at 11:30 am at St. Theresa's Church before 12:00 pm Mass *

Fridays at 9:30 am at St. Anthony's Church before 10:00 am *

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at St. Theresa's (1 hour) * If Mass is cancelled so is Adoration.



ADVENT OUTREACH: THANK YOU! With your overwhelming generosity, we helped multiple charitable groups in our community bring joy and support to people in our community. This year we supported; Youth in Transition (Chrysalis House), Women in Transition, Fredericton Homeless Shelters (Grace House and St. John House), Gignoo Transition House and Just Friends Food Bank.

Your Pastoral Council would like to thank you for involvement and contributions to this outreach endeavor! ***Together we can make a difference in our community!***

Advent Resources on FORMED ~ Please be sure to check on FORMED for Advent resources for the whole family. This suggest week's suggestions are:

- The Story of Christmas – Benjamin Cello Christmas Special
- The Christmas Pageant that Almost Wasn't

“Beautiful Eucharist” Thank you to all who joined us this Advent season for our discussions on the book “Beautiful Eucharist”. The quality of the conversation was truly outstanding, and it was inspiring to witness the engagement that people had with the book, your individual insights and reflections enriched our time together. If you picked up a copy of the book, please feel free to keep it or pass it along to others. You may drop books off at church for others to read.

Message from our Pastor - At Christmas, we celebrate the seemingly impossible, or at the very least, the implausible: our belief that what we call God (a force that contains all the power and guiding principles in the universe and beyond; an essence that is thread through every single molecule that makes up what we can perceive – from the mysterious inner-workings of our souls where identities are forged, to the millions of vast nebulae spread throughout our galaxy where billions of stars are lit into being; a Being, a force, a presence that somehow exists beyond all time and space and is mostly beyond of our power to comprehend or describe) entered into our human experience.

Taking on the most basic of human conditions, His life revealed the worth and dignity of all people, in all generations, for all time. He emptied Himself and became human. A baby carried by his mother for nine months, born in a stable and laid in a manger (a trough for feeding animals), he would become bread for the life of the world. By fulfilling a promise. Jesus revealed what a life lived in the Spirit can be: the Truth, that our God is One, and He is with us, and we are in Him. We are not alone. In Christ, our desires and yearning become hopes for something more than we can see, for something that God alone can give us. Rather than removing struggle, He gives us the grace to see how love can bring us through struggle. Rather than denying our free will and humanity, he reveals the fullness of power possible for us to be called children of God.

You are beloved. You have dignity and worth beyond measure. Your body yearns for something that the soul is only just coming to understand. Your life matters because our Creator loves us. It is not another person that gives you dignity, it is God loving you in that other person that reveals who you are. It is not your actions that make meaning, but God's love for you that gives your actions meaning. In every moment of our lives, it is not our success we celebrate, but rather we celebrate our souls finding their greatness in a fuller expression of who we are called to be in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity this Christmas season and all the seasons of the year to bring joy and smile in people's lives. Thanks to Parish Councils who organized Christmas outreach to help Grace House, Women in transition house, Youth transition House, Chrysalis house and Gignoo in Fredericton. Thanks to Knights of Columbus who organized to collect mittens, gloves, scarves and winter clothes for the homeless shelter. Thanks to all the committees and CWL members, a big thanks to Choir members for bringing heartbeats to our souls. Heartfelt gratitude to altar servers, thanks to beautiful readers and Art and Env. committee for decorating the manger and the church so adorable, all ministers in the parish, our parish staff and volunteers. Thanks for all the presents and prayers.

Fr. Maria Arokiam

Our Sacred Stories

Mary: Bearer of God & First Disciple

Here we are entering the week of Christmas. It came so fast for most of us, but for our littlest ones it was undoubtedly painfully slow. As we begin this week, it is time to reflect a bit on what it is that we celebrate with this feast day and the season around it. Christmas is one of our significant feasts. It ranks with Easter at the foundation of our Christian faith.

The figure of Mary looms large as we come to this season. She is the Bearer of God. It is through her that the mystery of the Incarnation takes place. In the Incarnation God reaches out to touch our humanity. The wonder is the way in which God has done this, for divinity and humanity have come together in the person of Jesus. In the Incarnation, Mary becomes an instrument of God's plan, the one who bears God into our world.

Mary is also often regarded as the first disciple of Jesus. As mother, it was she who raised him and saw him into manhood. As he carried out his ministry of announcing the Reign of God, she was part of the disciples who heard the proclamation and learned its meaning. In John's Gospel, we see Mary identified among those who stood with Jesus at the cross. She was a faithful disciple of her Son to the end.

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Advent our attention turns to Mary. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all present us with the figure of this woman of faith and of courage. In doing so they set out the good news that God has a plan that we could never possibly have imagined. Luke tells of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth (Lk.1:38-45). There, the news that is shared takes us into the story of Christmas and the Incarnation.

With Mary we can be surprised by the way God comes to us. We will not always understand it, but we can certainly be amazed by it. In the Old Testament God reached into Israel's story through prophets and people of all kinds. In the New Testament, God steps into our history in the Incarnation. God surprises us in the way he does it.

The surprise of the Advent-Christmas season has one of its briefest and most direct expressions of it in the Prologue, the beginning of the Gospel of John (1:1-18). This is the Gospel we read on Christmas morning. In verse 14 of this passage, we hear these words: *The Word was made flesh, he lived among us* [an alternate translation reads: "he pitched his tent among us"]. What an image of our loving, life-giving God for all humanity – God lives among us.

Beginning with Mary, we see that God's attention is directed to the whole of humanity, from the least to the greatest. The stories we will hear and celebrate at Christmas will be of people and places that are small and ordinary. Mary, Joseph, Nazareth, Bethlehem. These are not the great of their time. But God has chosen to be with the small and the vulnerable. In doing so, He has called us, like Mary into a relationship of care and compassion for all the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of our world.

Can I be a disciple of Jesus - an advocate for peace, compassion, justice and mercy in my world?

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas John Jennings



The Knights of Columbus Council 8654 in conjunction with Our Lady of Peace Parish want to continue collecting for those in need in our communities. We will be asking for any donations through to the end of December. All items will be distributed to local clothing banks and shelters.

Birthright of Fredericton would like to extend warm Holiday wishes to all the Parishioners of Our Lady of Peace Parishes. Have a Blessed and Holy Christmas