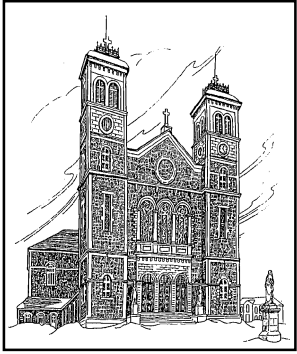


Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

200 Military Road, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 2E8



Archbishop of St. John's: Most Reverend Martin W. Currie

Parish Priest: Father Jerome Hann

Secretary: Anne Carew

Music Director: Kiera Galway

Custodian: Brian Penney

Parish Office: Tel. 754-2170 Fax: 754-5608 - open Monday - Friday 9-12 Noon; 1-4:30 pm.

E-mail basilica@rcsj.org

Website: www.thebasilica.ca

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist is the furtherance of the Church's mission of salvation, as a community of Christian people worshipping the Lord together, proclaiming the word and responding to human needs. We acknowledge the common priesthood of all baptized, wherein all members of our faith community are called to share in the ministries that serve the Church's mission.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 5, 2017

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 p.m.; Sunday at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT 12:10 P.M.

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after the 12:10 pm. Mass for one hour

Stations of the Cross: Fridays after the 12:10 pm. Mass

Rosary: recited in the Basilica weekdays one half hour before Mass.

Music Rehearsal: Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 pm. New singers & instrumentalists welcome.

Sacrament of Baptism: Once a month, except during Lent & Advent. Baptism Preparation must be completed before the Sacrament is celebrated.

Sacrament of Marriage: At least six months notice must be given.

Mass at Bonaventure Retirement Home: Third Thursday of each month

Prayer.... *We ask that you remember the sick of our parish...* Bernadine Brake, Gerard Carey, Joan Doyle, Rose Phillips. **Lord, comfort them in their time of sickness and bless those who care for them.** If you would like to have a friend / family member named in the Bulletin & remembered at our Eucharistic celebrations please call the Office by Wednesday noon.

Funerals We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of the late

JAMES McGRATH, JAMES BAMBRICK

May the Lord console you and grant eternal rest to the soul of your loved one.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE -

TIMES OF MASS IN THE BASILICA DURING LENT

Monday through Friday at 12:10 pm. Funerals will be celebrated at 9:30 am., the 12:10 pm. Mass will go ahead as scheduled.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 5TH, 2017

Today we hear about temptation in both the First Reading, and in the Gospel passage and in both we see that choices had to be made. The setting of our first reading from the creation story in Genesis is a wonderful garden of plenty – and yet, Adam and Eve want more. It seems that this is part of our human nature ... and yet Jesus shows us another way. The setting for the Gospel reading is a barren desert, but Jesus – who has nothing and is offered everything –refuses even a bit of bread. Hearing these stories should make it clear to us that temptation is a part of the human condition and is not sinful – it is the way we act upon them that determine their morality. We also know that the choices we face are not always clearly right or wrong.. our biblical ancestors chose to eat the nourishing but forbidden fruit, and Jesus chose the more difficult path of self-denial in keeping with his perception of God’s will. Today’s world presents us with many difficult choices from the tree of knowledge – economic globalization, end of life issues, our response to hate crimes, poverty in our streets, among many. We need to educate ourselves on many levels so that our own choices, both globally and personally, will reflect the face of our just and compassionate God. The cross – the Tree of Life – reminds us that God has been with us throughout all human history, and is with us now in this 21st century. Rather than giving up in despair as we become more and more aware of the deep rooted problems that beset our world, we need to continue to trust in God’s covenantal love. The psalm this week asks God to “have mercy on us” – as we gather with our community each Lenten Sunday, as we retreat to our own desert places in time of need, we are assured that we can go to our God of mercy for discernment in our choices and forgiveness from unhealthy choices. We pray that in a world plagued by violence and by the false gods of unbridled power and wealth, our God will hear our prayer, ‘dona nobis pacem’ and grant us peace.

PARISH SOCIAL -- SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH

The Basilica Parish is continuing its efforts to build our Parish as a welcoming community. With this in mind we are planning to have Socials after the 11:00 am. Mass on the first Sunday of each of the next four months. We are hoping that these events will provide an opportunity for Parishioners to get to know each other and also to learn more about the many Ministries in our Parish. The first Social will be held in the ambulatories of the Basilica after 11:00 am. Mass Please join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a light snack. All Parishioners are encouraged to attend on **Sunday, March 5th**

Your help is needed to ensure that our church has beautiful flowers – especially for the major festal seasons of Christmas and Easter. We have set up a *‘flower fund’* in which you are invited to participate.

Our hope is that this will minimize the expense to the parish, and at the same time ensure that the **festive joy of the ‘Great Fifty Days’ of Easter will be apparent in our Easter flowers from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost.**

We ask that you place your donations in an envelope marked **‘Flowers’** and place it in the collection. You are also invited to make your donation in memory of a loved one. Their names will be included from time to time in the bulletin. We have made envelopes available for you on the tables at the entrances to the Church.

“Lenten Reflection: Lent – a time for prayer and reflection. We invite you to explore with us the story of the EUCHARIST and how it connects with our life story and the Unfolding Story of the Universe. Presentation Sisters Retreat House, 47 Parsonage Drive,. St. John’s, each Sunday of Lent beginning March 5th, 4-5:30 pm. facilitators: Gerard Whitty, Philip Lewis and Mary Dower. To register please call 754-1582. Donation gratefully accepted.”

SOME HELPFUL HINTS ABOUT PRAYER IN THE HOME

It is important that there be some time for prayer every day, but there is no best time. Indeed, in our too busy world, family life is such that the time may change from day to day. Prayer time should be a natural extension of daily family life, rather than an interruption of activity.

- Meal time is a popular occasion or all the family to come together. This is a good time for a brief family prayer, a little extension, perhaps, of the usual prayer of thanks. If you have young children, this would be a good time to let them say a special prayer.
- Prayer at home should express the praise, thanks and needs of this family at this time.
- Prayer is a two-way conversation, and so moments of silence for listening to the Holy Spirit are important. In some family situations silence may be difficult to achieve, but even the attempt is worthwhile.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed in the Marian Chapel on Friday after the 12:10 pm. Mass.

LENTEN TREE At the entrance of the Church we have our Lenten Tree decorated with little paper crosses. Written on these crosses are the names of different items which could be donated for the personal care of the needy. We invite you to take a paper cross from the tree and on the following Saturday/Sunday bring back the specified item.

EMMAUS HOUSE In keeping with our communal almsgiving, parishioners are asked to bring **SUGAR** for Emmaus House next Saturday/Sunday, the Second Sunday of Lent.

An Evening with the Archbishop Dinner & Auction As part of the Archbishop's Appeal, the Basilica Community Builders is planning to put together an auction item of a gift card tree. This worked well last year and we're hoping it will this year, too. We are looking for **contributions of \$20 gift cards** from places such as Tim Horton's, Starbucks, Second Cup, the liquor store, Sobey's, Dominion, Coleman's – in fact from any place that you think will appeal to people. The following people will be happy to receive your contribution: Bernie Conran, Cathy Hickey, and Dianne O'Mara. If you don't happen to know these people or don't see them when you are at the Basilica, just call Bernie at 722-6379. She will gladly arrange to get your contribution.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE ... Supporting women is a priority for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. For this year's Share Lent campaign, we invite you to listen to the voices of women who are working to build the world of tomorrow – Women at the heart of change. You will find testimonials from the four corners of the globe inside our mini-magazine, distributed in church starting today. Don't forget to get your copy!

Women have always been at the heart of our organization! Did you know that in 1979, Development and Peace led a campaign to support the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, in Argentina, whose children and grandchildren disappeared under the military dictatorship?

An Evening with the Archbishop Dinner & Auction ... It is that time of year to start planning for our 9th Annual Dinner & Auction scheduled for May 17th, 2017. Last year's event was a great success & allowed the Archdiocese to continue and improve its many Outreach Programs. We look forward to your continued support & participation for this year's event knowing that it takes a team effort to continue our work in this area. More information will become available on the Archdiocese website (www.rcsj.org) or by calling the Archdiocese Pastoral 726-3660. Again, thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated.

Remember that when you leave this earth you can take with you nothing that you have received – only what you have given.” (St. Francis of Assisi)

WHEN YOU DO YOUR ESTATE PLANNING, PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR CHURCH.

COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, February 26, 2017

Offertory ... \$5,515.25; Lenten Offering ... \$376; Assessment ... \$38

Acknowledged with many thanks. Your continued support of the Basilica Parish is greatly appreciated.

Income Tax receipts for 2016 donations to the parish are available for pick up at the Parish Office. If you would like to have your receipt mailed please contact the office at 754-2170 or basilica@rcsj.org.

.. DID YOU KNOW? ... If you attend weekend Mass at a church other than your own Parish Church and use your parish envelope for your weekly offering, that offering will be returned to your own Parish.

**Bingo! Knights of Columbus - St. Clare Avenue every Wednesday and Sunday
Cowan Plaza – Corner of Topsail Road and Burgeo Street – Seven nights a week**

* **LENTEN PARISH MISSION ...** The Redemptorists have invited Dr. Megan McKenna, a Scripture scholar and storyteller, to lead a parish mission – Sunday, March 5th – Tuesday, March 7th, 7:00 pm., St. Teresa Church on Mundy Pond Road. Come and start your Lenten journey by encountering Jesus in scripture, in story, in our world and in your life.

... Holy Family Parish, Paradise, are hosting a card game on Monday, March 6th, 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 pm., Holy Innocents Church Hall, Paradise Road. Lots of prizes, snack provided. For tickets call Jim, 782-1123 or the parish office 781-1696.

^^ PRAYER REQUEST EZRA Chaplaincy is a non-denominational Christian ministry which serves the Church in outreach ministry to workers and their families in challenging industrial workplaces and other unique circumstances, including, for example, ministry to those working offshore. They received a request asking that the Church Community offer a special prayer intention today for this ministry, remembering their Chaplains, leadership, trained members and the people they serve in our community.

***** Centre for Life** extends an invitation to view the documentary “**The Euthanasia Deception**” produced by Euthanasia Prevention Coalition on **Sunday, March 12th at 2 pm.** in **St. Teresa’s Parish Hall** on Mundy Pond Road. This event is sponsored by St. Teresa’s Knights of Columbus Council #7702. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. A thought provoking, emotionally-gripping film that will impact hearts and minds. It effectively dismantles the fallacies of euthanasia proponents’ appeals to compassion and autonomy. Dr. Richard Weikart, Professor of History at California State University, Stanislaus, and author of *The Death of Humanity: And the Case for Life*. Any inquiries please call 579-1500.

^^^^ Centre for Life Seniors Tax Clinics: The Centre for Life will be participating in the CRA Community Volunteer Income Tax Program offering tax preparation for seniors. **For information or to make an appointment please call 579-1500. Clinics will be held on Mondays.**

******* Wesley United Church will hold a Fish & Brewis Dinner** with dessert, tea & coffee on St. Patrick’s Day, Friday, March 17th starting at 6 pm. following the dinner will be a presentation by the musical group *Fiddlidiae*. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased by calling Marvin at 579-7900; Pheobe at 726-1689 or the church office at 579-3682.

... R.C.E.C. (Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation) is seeking an individual for the part time position (24 hours per week – Monday to Friday) of Cook/Housekeeper for O’Dwyer Apts. in St. John’s to prepare an evening meal for residents (currently 7) on Monday to Friday and to prepare two weekend meals in advance. Common area cleaning also required. For full description of the position please visit the Archdiocesan website at www.rcsj.org. resumes to be forwarded to Theresa Whiffen, HR Manager at twiffen@rcsj.org or faxed to 709-726-3615. Closing date is Monday, March 13th, 2017.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PUBLISHED BULLETIN ...

Prayer For Our Parish... O God, you have made us the Church of your Son. Make our parish a family of one heart and one mind in love toward you. Grant that our common life and witness may be an example to all about us. Guide our pastor and his assistants in their ministry. Listen to the prayers of John the Baptist, our patron, and keep us secure in your love. Teach us to reach out to other parishes less fortunate. Give us a great love for all the Church, for our Holy Father, for our bishop, and all those who serve. Help us to be a haven of joy and peace within the human family. Bring us all together to life eternal. **Amen**

... We would like to get to know you! If you would like to become a registered member of the Basilica Parish please complete a Parish Census Form. The forms are available on the tables at the entrances to the Basilica or can be picked up at the Parish Office. When completed, the form can be dropped off at the Parish Office or in with the Sunday collection.

WELCOME ALL VISITORS ...We extend a warm and cordial welcome to all visitors to our historic Parish and city. We hope you enjoy the warm hospitality of the Newfoundland and Labrador people and that your stay will be met with many blessings.

***** BASILICA & PARISH OFFICE OPENING/CLOSING TIMES**

The Basilica is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am. – 4:00 pm.; Saturday 8:00 am. until after the 5:00 pm. Mass; and 8:00 am. – 12:30 pm. on Sunday. The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 9:00 am. to 4:30 pm. – closed for lunch 12 Noon to 1 pm. daily. Guided tours of the Basilica and the Basilica Museum are available upon request by contacting Mr. Rene Estrada at 726-3660, etc. 223 or restrada@rcsj.org.

SNOW CLEARING ... during the winter months when there is a heavy snowfall the east and west doors of the Basilica will be the first to be cleared. These entrances are to be used by all attending daily Mass. The main entrances will be cleared only after the east and west have been cleared. A reminder - when the schools in the city are closed because of inclement weather, the Mass for that day will be cancelled. Of course sometimes it does snow on the weekend ... if in doubt about whether or not Mass is being celebrated ... please tune in to the local radio stations and/or call the parish office (754-2170).

THE CATECHETICAL OFFICE at the Basilica provides parents with the resources to form their children in faith and prepare them to celebrate the sacraments. This process has two foci, namely, the home and the parish. This year we will provide some materials for families to use at home. We will invite families to get involved in the various liturgical ministries at the Sunday liturgy, namely, present the gifts of bread and wine, prepare the altar, carry cross and candles and proclaim the readings. The catechetical formation at the Basilica will also emphasize the liturgical year, especially the seasons of Advent, Christmas—Epiphany as well as Lent-Easter-Pentecost because they are extremely important for faith formation. This year we will celebrate a rite of welcome for children and families who are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and first Eucharist. Part of this celebration will be to present the child with a copy of the lectionary because the Word of God is very important in the faith formation of every Christian. If you would like to enroll your child in this process of preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, please email me at Gerard.whitty@nl.rogers.com or call the Basilica office at 754-2170.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK ... The Basilica Parish is in the process of rejuvenating our Ministry of Communion to the Sick. We have an aging population in our Parish. We are receiving more and more calls from Parishioners who can no longer get out to Sunday liturgy and would like to have the Eucharist brought to them. We would sincerely like to be able to fulfil their request. To accomplish this, we need parishioners who are willing to sign up for this Ministry. It is also suggested that family members or relatives may also be able to bring Communion to their sick or elderly loved ones. Of course, the Parish will provide training in this area. If you are able to contribute to this vital Ministry, please call Anne at the Parish Office, 754-2170.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: I need your help to appoint two new members to the Finance Committee. It is for a 3 year term, but can be extended for another term. If you know of anyone, or if you have knowledge of finances, please let me know. A CA would be helpful on the committee but not necessary. I hope you will be able to give me the names of some people I can approach. **Thank You.** *Father Jerome*

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE BASILICA PARISH basilica@rcsj.org

AT THE LANTERN, 35 Barnes Road, 753-8760 --- **Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction** is a well-respected and researched program developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn, now offered all over the world. The Course is a powerful approach to stress management. It teaches mindfulness practices that help focus on the present moment to change the way we handle stress, pain, illness and the overall challenges of daily life. Facilitator: Maureen Barry MSW, RSW Mindfulness. Dates: Free Information Session: Tuesday, March 14th, 7-8 pm. (register by email). 8 Week Course Schedule: April 6th – May 25th, Thursdays, 6:30-9:00 pm. Day Retreat: TBA. Course Cost: \$325 (includes the MBSR workbook with guided m3p meditation practices, and day retreat and lunch). Location: The Lantern (course and information sessions). To register and/or information please call 685-6027 or email: mbsr.stjohns@gmail.com

GROWING IN FAITH SERIES 2016-2017 Saturday, March 18, 2017: Roots and Wings: Exploring our Irish Roots and Celtic Christian Spirituality, **9:00 AM. – 12:00 NOON**, Basilica Museum in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre. To cover expenses, a nominal fee of \$5 is suggested. To register call MaryLou Sweetapple at 726-3660, ext. 280.

<< **Rosary, Mass, and Holy Hour ...** St. Kevin's Parish is inviting people to come pray for the Archdiocese and the Strategic Planning Committee each Tuesday evening. There will be Rosary at 6:30 pm., Mass at 7:00 pm., and Holy Hour immediately after Mass. Please come and join us in prayer. (Please check Parish office at 745-8183 or email stkevinsparish@gmail.com prior to coming, as Mass to be cancelled if funeral that day)

.... **GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR LIFE** -- Friday, April 14th, 9:00 am., St. Pius X Church on Smithville Crescent. The Centre for Life invites the community to gather in a spiritual fellowship to pray for all human life, especially the most vulnerable members of our society. For more information please call 579-1500.

*****Latin Mass** – Missa Cantata ... the Latin Mass is celebrated at St. Pius X Chapel, Smithville Crescent, Sundays at 5:15 pm

24 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mary Queen of the World Parish, 777 Topsail Road. You are INVITED to spend an hour with JESUS from 9:30 am., April 6th to 10:00 am., April 7th, 2017. We pray to the Holy Spirit for an increase in vocations to the priesthoods, in our archdiocese, and spiritual support of existing vocations.

// **Centre For Life Save The Date:** Thursday, April 6th, 7-8:30 pm. (doors open at 6 pm.), Cineplex Cinemas Mt. Pearl Studio 1. Living in a society that has been “pornified” by a porn industry that is as ever-changing as modern technology allows this problem has become an epidemic, a public health issue that must be addressed. Children, teens and adults all over the world desperately need to understand the science, and research that is coming out daily on the harmful effects of pornography and its’ link to human trafficking. This engaging address focuses on exposing these truths using only science, facts, and personal testimonies. If you are a parent, or an adult seeking insights and powerful tools for dealing with pornography in today’s world this presentation is for you.

Presenter: Craig Bakker, Program Director, Fight the New Drug www.fightthenewdrug.org. Admission: Free will donation to the Community Food Sharing Association. For more information contact centreforlife@centreforlife.ca or call 579-1500.

^^^^^ **Be Part of the Celebration !!!** This year, our Catholic Church’s international solidarity organization, Development and Peace is entering its 50th year. To celebrate this milestone, Development and Peace is holding a 50th Anniversary Dinner on Friday, May 5th, 7 pm., Knights of Columbus. Tickets are \$20 each and are available by contacting Evelyn Lundrigan at emlundrigan@hotmail.com or 368-4450. Speakers for the evening will be Archbishop Martin Currie, Archbishop of St. John’s and Josianne Gauthier, Director of the in-Canada Program for Development and Peace. Entertainment will be provided.

***** Monthly French Mass – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** Usually third Sunday of each month, 1 pm., Basilica Marian Chapel. Access to Marian Chapel may be gained by behind St. Bonaventure’s College. For details please contact Celia at infomfsjnl@gmail.com or 763-5757.

.... **Elevate – Steubenville Youth Conference** --- join hundreds of other youth from Atlantic Canada in Halifax from July 7-9, 2017 as we celebrate and learn more about our Catholic faith. The Steubenville conferences are held across North America each year and offers young people an opportunity to meet new people and hear fantastic speakers and music while learning more about the Sacraments and our church. For more information or to register, please contact Sara at sara_broderick@yahoo.com or visit www.steubenville.ca.

INNER HEALING MINISTRY: Do you feel your life is out of control? Do you want to spend an hour in praise of worship? A time for peace and a time to settle! Call Roger at 895-3499 or come to Wesley Auditorium on Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm. to see if this is what you are looking for. Everyone is welcome.

<< **“For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”** (Rom. 7:18). If we don’t seem able to control our harmful eating habits we may need help. If willpower is not enough, Overeaters Anonymous might be for you. For more info visit oanl.org or -709-738-1742.

Winter 2017 Group Offerings – Ruah Counselling Centre, 35 Barnes Road, (The Lantern).

Please call 579-0168 or go to www.rcsj.org for more information: >Support Group for End of Relationship, Separation & Divorce (Mondays 7-9 pm. until Mar. 13); >>Parenting Children (Tuesdays 7-9 pm. until Feb.28); >>>When you see RED (for women) (Wednesdays Noon-2pm. until Mar. 15); >>>>Stress Management (Wednesdays 7-9 pm. until Mar. 1); >>>>>Self-Empowerment for Women (Thursdays 7-9 pm. until Mar.16).

ALPHA YOUTH PROGRAM ... We are very excited to be offering the Alpha program for youth in our Archdiocese! The Alpha Youth Film Series is a 9 week program designed to engage youth in conversations about life, faith and Jesus. It invites youth to learn about, and reflect on, the basic truths of the Christian faith. Each session will start with food, followed by a short video and discussions. This series has been used internationally and has received amazing reviews. Our program will run during February and March and our leaders will be Catholic Youth Ministers from different parishes in our diocese. There is no registration fee for this program and it is open to youth from grades 6-12. For information on this program, please contact Sara at sara_broderick@yahoo.com.

<<< **CHAPLAIN MUN/COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ..** The MUN chaplains are also CNA Chaplains! Our office is room B113B, inside the common room. At MUN weekday Masses are Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs at noon in UC4011; Friday 11 am. at St. John's College chapel with adoration until 11:45 am. For more info contact Fr. Joe Mroz, 743-0468, ej_mroz@yahoo.ca.

Update for The Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee's Recent Consultation Meetings

... the committee completed its promised consultations meetings as of December 2016. As you know, we recorded the discussions and feedback received about the Pastoral Zone proposals and committed to post all of the information on our website. The committee is currently organizing the feedback so that it reflects a maximum effort to present this significant amount of information in a manner that allows everyone to better understand and benefit from the feedback received at all 17 meetings. Please visit <http://rcsj.org/strategic-planning-2> for more information on this update. Strategic Planning Committee, January 25/2017.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND LOURDES, October 8-17, 2017 ... there will be a 100th anniversary pilgrimage to Fatima led by Father Cecil Critch and will include visits to shrines in Barcelona and Lourdes. Highlights include – Barcelona-La Sagrada Familia, Marian Shrine, **Montserrat**, Carcassone, **Lourdes**, Grotto of Massabielle, Cathedral of Burgos, Monastery of Santa Maria Real de las Huelgas, **Fatima**, Aljustrel, Santarem. For details call Colleen Williams at Harvey's Travel at Pearlgate Mall 747-5018 / cwilliams@harveystavelcwt.com.

... **Teaching People How to Pray?** Do you want to know how to pray? Call Roger at 895-3499.

WEEKEND OF GRACE FOR WOMEN ... April 28-30, 2017, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Pre-Registration Only – Registration: \$185.00. Deadline for registration is April 17, 2017. Pre-registration form available online at www.weekendofgrace.com/women/regform.html. Accommodations available at Lord Nelson Hotel, guest room availability is limited. Preferred rates are guaranteed only until Friday, April 7, 2017. To reserve your room online <https://res.lordnelsonhotel.com/booking/default.aspx?Group-27239>; by phone 1-800-565-2020 (toll free) or (902)423-6331 / Group ID: 27239. For more information call (902) 405-9613 or visit www.weekendofgrace.com. (Poster in the entrance to the Basilica)

... **CFUW Great Big Used Book Sale** .. supporting Scholarships, Outreach & Educational Programs. Book collecting – Woodgate Plaza, 58 Kenmount Road – use entrance west of Toys R Us - every Sunday from 2-4 pm. and every Saturday from 11 am.-1 pm. until further notice. Weekday times TBA. (we cannot take Encyclopedia, Readers' Digest Condensed Books, Textbooks, Magazines, & outdated Technology Manuals). We will sell your books at the Arts & Culture Centre, Tuesday, March 28- Thursday, March 30, to help fund scholarships and other educational/community outreach projects. Details TBA. Sponsor: Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Contact: cfuwstohns@gmail.com. We appreciate the community's continued support, as do the students who receive our scholarships!

√√√ **May 5-15... Pilgrimage to MEDJUGORJE and PORTUGAL, with Fr. Robert Savoie for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.** A not-to-be-missed experience of a lifetime! Cost \$2895 (+ airport taxes security, fuel surcharges \$650) and includes return airfare from Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodations, daily breakfast & dinner, tours per itinerary, professional English speaking local guides, all entrance fees to places of interest. **Due to the already very limited seats a deposit of \$1,500 is now required to reserve.** Info: Hector & Cecile Caissie (506) 857-2295 or hectorcaissie@hotmail.ca.

?? Thinking of Volunteering ?? If you have two hours to spare during the week, your service would be greatly appreciated at St. Patrick's Mercy Home. Volunteers are required between 10 am. and Noon, Monday through Friday to porter residents to and from the Chapel.

... **Are you concerned about OVEREATING?** Researchers at MUN are looking for men and women ages 19 and over who struggle with overeating to take part in a study to help people stop overeating. As part of this study, you will be provided with information and strategies aimed to decrease overeating and improve well-being. For more information, or to find out if you are eligible to take part, email munstopovereating@gmail.com.

***/*/ INNER HEALING MINISTRY:** Do you feel that life is getting you down? Do you need to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Would you like to come to worship, praise and prayer on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. - Wesley Church basement. For more info call Roger Maunder at 895-3499 or just drop by. This is opened to all walks of life ... come as you are!

***** Women to Women Empowering Leadership** is a unique career development opportunity for professional women of all ages, presented and lead by some of the strongest, and most accomplished women leaders in our province. You will participate in research-based presentations on *Understanding Yourself as a Leader*, *Navigating the Labyrinth of Leadership*, and *Understanding Yourself as a Change Agent*. Each session also features an insightful story-sharing experience in which an accomplished woman shares her own leadership story with the intent of supporting other women who have an interest in developing their own leadership potential and aspirations. For detailed information and to register please visit www.w2nl.ca.

***/* Life and Light Campaign** As a response to St. John Paul II's warning against the "culture of death" and the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on Euthanasia, join the Life & Light Campaign to pray for the prevention of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide and the end to Abortion in Canada. Every Friday, 7:00 pm., followed immediately by Holy Hour (with Rosary), Corpus Christi Church, 260 Waterford Bridge Road. Please come join us in prayer.

GROWING IN FAITH SERIES 2016-2017 ...

Saturday, March 18, 2017: Roots and Wings: Exploring our Irish Roots and Celtic Christian Spirituality

Saturday April 8, 2017: Lenten Retreat

Saturday, May 13, 2017: Mary: First Among Disciples , A Look at Mary and Marian Devotion Today

Saturday, June 17, 2017: Finding balance in life: Does the Church offer any help with this?

All are welcome to the sessions, and people can avail of just one session, or a number of them, or all of them, if they wish. Sessions are held in the Basilica Museum in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre. To cover expenses, a nominal fee of \$5 is suggested. To register call MaryLou Sweetapple at 726-3660, ext. 280.

ALL SESSIONS ... 9:00 AM. – 12:00 NOON

/... Grief and Bereavement Spousal Support Group .. Tuesday nights, 7:00-8:30 pm., St. Peter's Hall at Upper Gullies.

*****St. Clare's Mercy Hospital Auxiliary** has openings for day time volunteers in their Gift Shop. If you have a few hours a week that you are willing to offer providing customer service to our patients and visitors please call Volunteer Resources at 777-5539 for further information.

... Spousal Grief and Bereavement Support Group - supported by Eastern Health and Daffodil Place - meets on Monday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 pm., Daffodil Place, 70 Ropewalk Lane. If you are experiencing grief due to the death of your spouse, please join us at this time. This support group provides an opportunity for individuals to meet and discuss the loss of your spouse; provide support to each other; and share information that may help during the grieving process.

***** MEN, WOMEN & YOUTH** are invited to serve as Eucharistic Ministers at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and/or the L.A. Miller Centre. There is a schedule and you would serve at least every fourth Sunday. You will need to be registered with the Eastern Health volunteer service - to register please contact Debbie Oakley 777-6959 or debbie.oakley@easternhealth.ca. You may contact Sr. Diane Smyth 777-5470 for more information.

AVAILABLE a limited number of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis **"Amoris Laetitia" The Joy of Love**, at our religious articles store and at the Parish Office \$12 each.

*****Welcome to New Immigrants ...** Are you a new immigrant to Canada or new to St. John's? Would you like to be connected to a larger Multicultural Catholic Association? Please contact Celia Quadjovie @ 763-5757 or email mcca.diversity@gmail.com. or if you want to talk to a Multicultural Catholic Priest call 689-9647.

NEW WEBSITE ... The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's is proud to launch our newly redesigned website, www.rcsj.org the updated site includes changes to navigation, with menus that can now be viewed with the same design features on any type of screen, whether it is a desktop, laptop, or mobile device. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, such as articles, blogs, newsletters, and bulletin announcements, along with services that we provide. We hope you find the new website fresh and modern.

➤➤➤**If** you are a student, staff or faculty at the College of the North Atlantic, this is for you. CNA approached the chaplains at MUN to see if we could spend some time at CNA and we jumped at the chance! Details aren't worked out yet. In the meantime your Catholic Chaplain is me - Father J. Mroz, SJ. I live t St. Pius X with my brother Jesuits. My phone number is 743-0458 and my email is ej_mroz@yahoo.ca. I've started a facebook group called CNA Catholic Community. Let's get something great going!

***** Have 2 hours to spare each week????** St. Patrick's Mercy Home is seeking volunteers to assist with chapel services, mainly portering residents to and from the chapel. The requirement is just 2 (two) hours per week between 10 am. and noon, Monday to Friday. Anyone who is interested or would like further information, please call Judy Cook at 753-8705. *Volunteering is a gift that you give and receive!*

***** A Notice from the St. John's Hospital Chaplains to parishioners ...** A reminder for persons entering the St. John's Hospitals and who would like to see a chaplain during your stay ... make sure you or a family member tells the admitting clerk "I would like to see the chaplain during my time in hospital". You will then be asked your religious affiliation and will receive a visit from the chaplain within a day or two.

**** Seniors Resource Centre's "Friendly Visiting Program"** offers seniors a new and supportive friendship, a link to community programs and services, and regular visits from a volunteer. The Friendly Visiting Program coordinator matches a senior with a volunteer based on their shared interests. For information call Sharon at 737-2333, email: fvc@seniorsresource.ca or visit www.seniorsresource.ca

... EMMAUS HOUSE is in need of supermarket bags and twist ties. If you have any at home you may drop them off at Emmaus House, Monday to Friday 1-3 pm. or you may bring them to the Parish Office. Your support of the needy of our Parish is greatly appreciated.

**** Seniors Resource Centre's "Mall Walkers Club"** This program helps seniors increase their level of activity while having fun, making new friends, learning about healthy aging and connecting with programs and services of the Seniors Resource Centre NL. Volunteers walk with seniors and help to serve refreshments after their walk. For more information call Sharon at 737-2333 or visit www.seniorsresource.ca

**** On the occasion of the death of a loved one,** please consider a donation to our Heritage Foundation in memory of the deceased. Keep their memory alive in the restoration of our beautiful Basilica. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes are available at the Funeral Homes and in the Basilica, or you can call the Parish Office at 754-2170. We still require approximately \$600,000 to meet our goal.

.. DIRECT DEPOSIT If you are interested in using the pre-authorized automatic withdrawal please call the Parish Office at 754-2170.

"Secure your vehicle while in Church" Over the past number of years many incidents of vandalism to parked cars have taken place on the Basilica grounds during Church services. As of late there has been an increase in vandalism. Please ensure that when parking your vehicle that there is nothing left visible, that everything is secure.

... SCENT FREE! ... In today's society, in many public institutions, we see the sign "no perfumes/scents allowed" because people with allergies are often very severely affected by scents. We have recently received letters and phone calls asking that we strive to make our churches scent free. As a Church we care for the good of all so we ask your support and cooperation in our efforts to make the Basilica a scent free environment.

Stewardship Prayer Creator God, at Baptism, we accepted the call to follow Jesus. Be with us as we move along on our faith journey. Send us your Holy Spirit, that we might have wisdom for the journey. Help us to develop and share our gifts as good stewards, that we may use them in love and service in your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.