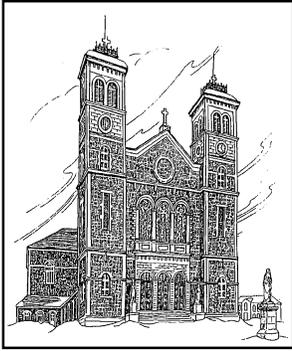


Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

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



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

Pastor: Father Cecil Critch, P.P., V.G.

Associate Pastor: Father John Costello

Secretary: Anne Carew

Music Director: Dr. 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.

Congratulations to our chief pastor, Archbishop Martin W. Currie on the 10th anniversary of his ordination as Archbishop on Thursday, November 30th. Please continue to remember Archbishop Currie in your prayers.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

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

Weekday Mass: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 10:00 a.m.; Tuesday & Thursday at 12:10 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after the 10:00 a.m. Mass for one hour

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

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

Music Rehearsal: Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 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

On Monday, December 4th the students of St. Bon's will join us at the 10:00 am. Mass as they celebrate their Advent Mass. Archbishop Currie will be the presider.

PARISH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE WITH CONFESSIONS --- On Monday, December 11th at 7:00 pm., we will hold our Advent Penance Service and Confessions. We will begin with a Penitential Service followed by the opportunity for individual confessions with various available priests.

Baptisms EVA MARY LUCAS, LILAH GAIL OSMOND You have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. May you always grow as children of the Light.

Prayer.... We ask that you remember the sick of our parish... Bernadine Brake, Gerard Carey, 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

Today we celebrate the First Sunday in Advent . the season of Advent is about waiting in prayerful hope for the return of the Lord and the return of the Kingdom in all of its richness, fullness, peace, and beauty. Advent is also about trust - trust that the wrongs of this world will be righted, that evil will perish and justice will prevail. The scripture readings for Advent gather our preoccupied thoughts, and focus them once again on the coming into time and space and human flesh of Jesus, not merely as a past event but also as a present experience and future joy yet to be fully realized. He who was borne of Mary, who lived and died and rose again to reveal the ways and will of God to humanity, remains present in the Sacred Word; in the Living Bread; in the sacramental moments which mark the passage of our lives; in the midst of the community gathered in his name; and in the abiding power of the Holy Spirit.

***** BAPTISM PREPARATION ***** The next Baptism Preparation will take place on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Room.** To register, please call the Parish Office at 754-2170 or visit our website - www.thebasilica.ca as soon as possible before this date. We encourage expectant parents to register early in their pregnancy. This will allow you to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism shortly after the baby's birth. **The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated ONCE A MONTH ... except during Lent and Advent.**

THE GOSPEL OF MARK YEAR B ... In our new Liturgical Year B, beginning today on the First Sunday of Advent, we listen to the Gospel of Mark in our weekend Liturgies. Last year we heard from the Gospel of St. Matthew in Year A, and in the next Liturgical year, we will hear from St. Luke in Cycle C. Most scholars say Mark was the first Gospel written perhaps between 65-70AD (ACE) after many Christians were killed in Rome under the persecution of Emperor Nero. Sts. Peter and Paul were among these martyrs. Maybe that was the reason why Mark found it important to write a written record of Jesus - who he was, what he did and what he taught. The writer John **Mark**, mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as a companion of Barnabas and Paul on their missionary journey, was not one of the original apostles. It has been tradition to say that Mark went to Rome with St. Peter and he heard all about Jesus from Peter. Mark is believed to have written the Gospel in Rome and so his audience would be Roman Christians and Gentiles. So Mark's Gospel would tell us what Peter said about Jesus Christ, Son of God. Mark's Gospel is fast paced. There is no mention of Jesus' birth or childhood and begins with John the Baptist and Jesus's Baptism and Jesus' 40 days desert experience of temptation. Mark's Gospel is a simple and yet vivid account of Jesus' ministry, emphasizing more what Jesus did than what he said. Mark's Jesus is the most human Jesus. He is easy to relate to, shows his feelings, is very approachable, and is always surrounded by crowds. One of the main themes of Mark's Gospel is the messianic secret. Jesus does not admit to or reveal his messiahship in the first half of the Gospel but acknowledges it after Peter's confession. It reaches its pinnacle when the Centurion at the cross says: "Truly, this was the Son of God." Mark also focuses on the Kingdom of God and discipleship.

THANK YOU to all those who signed up for ministries on our Ministry weekend. Various ministry coordinators are planning training and meetings for new volunteers so we will contact you as soon as we have the group meetings organized. Thank you, again for your generosity.

<>< **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS** >< <> Each year the Basilica Parish distributes Christmas Hampers to the less fortunate in our community, you have demonstrated in the past a genuine Christmas spirit of sharing for the needy. Once again, you have an opportunity to contribute to this worthy, charitable cause by providing a monetary offering. Envelopes are provided at the entrances to the Basilica for your contribution. Income tax receipts will be issued for your donation. Thank you for your continued support.

><<> **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** <>>< This year again we shall be decorating our beautiful Basilica for the Christmas liturgies. If you wish to make a contribution to the decoration, you may leave your donation at the Parish Office or put it in with your Sunday offering. For your convenience we have provided envelopes marked "**Basilica Flower Fund**" at the entrances to the Basilica. Thank you.

BASILICA PARISH 21ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND SCRIPTURE

Back in 1997, our Music Ministry here at the Basilica started doing something new for us -- similar to the Anglican Service of Lessons and Carols, yet different. There was emphasis on the anticipation of the Incarnation, as recorded in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, and actualized in our lives through word and song.

This is our 21st year presenting this service that for a short time lifts us out of the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle. This year the emphasis is *'Listen'* - to the world around us - through music, scripture, and reflection. Whoever comes to the Advent Festival at the Basilica leaves uplifted. So, please, join us this **Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 7 o'clock - the First Sunday of Advent**. Admission Free- although donations are welcome. And join us for a mug-up after the service.

<>>< ***LIGHTS OF LOVE*** ><<> Again this year the Basilica Parish will hold this special project during the Christmas Season. Lights will adorn a tree on the Basilica grounds and will be lit from the first Sunday of Advent to the end of the Christmas Season. You can remember a loved one by making a donation to have a bulb lit in their memory. There will be a special prayer in the intercessions at the Mass on Christmas Day, and we will place your loved one's name in a book, which will be on display in the Basilica until the end of the Christmas Season. The tree will be lit on December 3rd.

This Sunday lights were lit for: Gilliam Megann-Barrowman; Fred Brazil & Family; Donald Butler; Theresa & Jack Butler; Kevin Callahan; Michael Callahan; Sadie Callahan; Paul Joseph Carey; William & Mary Chafe & Family; Vernon Collett; Eileen Cody; Margaret & George Dodd; Thomas & Elizabeth Doheney & family; Mary Doran; Michael Doran; Doyle, Griffin; Ryan & Stoyles Families; Evans & Donovan Family; Joseph & Violet Evans; Elizabeth Fewer; John Fitzgibbon; Anita Foley; Donald Foley (2 bulbs); James Foley, Jr.; James Foley, Sr. ; Martin Foley; Marie & James Fuller; Rev. David Heale; Harold & Mary Heale & family; Geraldine & Tom Hickey; Jean Howlett; Philip Keough; William Keough; Lacey Family of Prospect Street; Thomas, Patrick & James Linehan; Deceased members of Linehan & Molloy Families; Michael & Katherine McDonald; William McDonald; Michael McHugh; Deceased members of the Mahon Family; Brenda Malone; Lloyd Miller; Maud & Emmanuel Miller; Kevin Moore; Elizabeth Murphy; Patrick J. Murphy & deceased family (2 bulbs); Kelly Nugent; O;Toole, Butt, Murphy, Reardon, Bavis, McDonald, Thompson, Gerol, Oliver, Keating families; William & Marie O'Toole & family (2 bulbs); George Perry; The Phelan Family; Robert, Elizabeth & Anna Pittman; Claude Power; Ted Prowse; Cyril Riche; Joan Callahan Riche; Dorcas Rowbotham; Edward St. Croix; Dorothy Sellars; Maria St. Croix; Mary Thorne; Rosemary Tilley (2 bulbs); Rosemary B. Tilley; Rosemary Bernadette Tilley (2 bulbs); Deceased members of Wakeham family; Helen A. & Kevin T. Wall; Walsh & Fitzgerald Families; Kenneth Walsh; Michael & Agnes Walsh; Mary Webber; John Wilson; Winnifred E. White (2 bulbs);

>>> **ADVENT TEAS -- THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 7TH, 14TH, & 21ST** After the 12:10 pm. Mass. Teas will be served in the Parish Room. Come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship. Come and see old friends and make new ones!

AWAY IN A MANGER - NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD Where? The Basilica Museum (immediately west of the Basilica) When? December 3rd - 23rd. Times? The exhibit is open every day from 1:00-4:00 pm. and evenings by request. Please call to book a visit if you are bringing a large group. **ADMISSION: A GIFT FOR A NEEDY CHILD** (you can leave the gift under our tree). For more information please contact Mr. Rene Estrada at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre (726-3660, ex 223 or restrada@rcsj.org) or Anne Walsh (726-3660, ext. 233, or e-mail awalsh@rcsj.org)

PLEASE NOTE ... The 2018 offertory envelopes are available at the back of the church. The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order of your last name. Please make an effort to pick up your envelopes. If you do not currently use offertory envelopes, but would like a set, please fill in the form on the table and they will be available for you the following weekend. Thank you for your continued support of the Basilica Parish.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - BASILICA COUNCIL ... The Council is selling tickets in the front of the Church near the Religious Articles Store after the 5:00 pm. Saturday Mass and the 8:30 am. and 11:00 am. Sunday Masses. **The tickets are on a Homemade Quilt and a Nativity Set; \$1.00 per tickets. The proceeds are in support of the Basilica Christmas Hampers. The draw will take place at the Basilica on December 17th.** Contact persons: Harriet @726-3079, Rose @576-0369, Shirley @579-6691 and at the parish office. We appreciate your support.

Gifts of Presence: As a Parish community, we are endeavouring to find ways to further our 'presence' at Bonaventure Retirement Home (formerly Margaret's Manor). With Christmas just a few weeks away, we have decided to promote a Christmas project called "***Gifts of Presence***". It involves giving a gift to the men and women who reside at Bonaventure Retirement Home. We are simply looking for Christmas neckties for the men and Christmas scarves for the women. These items will represent '***gifts of presence***' in that each necktie and each scarf will hopefully send a message to the recipient that says 'you are in our thoughts ... we care'. We are inviting parishioners to make this a truly community affair by actively participating in this way: purchase either, a Christmas necktie, or, a Christmas scarf, and drop it to the Parish Office no later than **December 8th**. These items should be **NEW** and should not be wrapped as the organizing committee will do that! This project needs lots of help to get off the ground ... are you able to help? Perhaps others would like to purchase one of the items as a family? There are countless ways to make this happen! For more information, call Kay Barrington 576-6026.

,,, Candlelight Vigil to remember those who died by Suicide ... Sunday, December 10th, 3 pm., St. Patrick's Church, Patrick St., parking available in Church parking lot. Vigil is held to remember those who died by suicide and to support family and friends who are survivors of suicide loss. Gather in music, poems, prayer and candle lighting. Everyone is invited to bring a framed photograph of their loved one to be displayed during the vigil. Please feel free to bring along cookies/cake for tea following the vigil. Everyone welcome! For more info contact Kim 864-8101, 691-8978or kakelly@mun.ca; or Tina 726-4223 or tgdavies99@gmail.com.

***** INVITATION TO ADVENT REFLECTION:** All are welcome to come join us for Advent Sunday Reflections, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th from 4-5 pm. at Presentation Retreat House, 47 Parsonage Drive, St. John's. Theme: Who do people say I am? Who do we say Jesus is? What new insights are emerging for us today to reflect on and contemplate? Facilitators: Gerard Whitty and Philip Lewis. To register please call 754-1582.

.... CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA In Canada? Really? For over 100 years, Catholic Missions in Canada has provided support to Catholic missionaries serving throughout our country of Canada. Their ministry? To extend the blessings of the Catholic faith to every remote, and often poor, community in Canada. In 2017, 24 of Canada's 70 dioceses in Canada are in need, requiring over \$4 million to support the work of the church and its priests and ministers. A special collection in aid of the Missions will take place next weekend December 9th and 10th. To receive your free Catholic Missions In Canada magazine and 2018 calendar, call toll-free 1-866-937-2642 or visit cmic.info.

.... Sign the Development and Peace - Caritas Canada Action Card Today ... A sincere thank you to the people who signed the Action Card in Church last weekend. If you did not have that opportunity, please sign the one attached to this bulletin and send it off to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. By promoting "Women for Peace" we can make a contribution to the Peace that Christ came to bring to earth. **NO STAMP REQUIRED.**

***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 ... November 26, 2017

Sunday Offertory .. \$5,380.50.; Dues .. \$1,584.; Assessment .. \$80.; Hampers .. \$240.; Lights of Love .. \$565.
Flowers .. \$170.

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

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

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PUBLISHED BULLETIN

BASILICA PARISH 21ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND SCRIPTURE Sunday, December 3rd, 7:00 pm. in the Basilica

***** 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. – 4:00 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.

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**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Advent: **5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24th: **8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.** (NOTE: NO morning Masses this day)

CHRISTMAS DAY, Monday, December 25th: **11:00 a.m.**

Boxing Day, Tuesday, December 26th: **12:10 p.m.** (regular schedule for rest of week)

Saturday, December 30th, (Feast of the Holy Family): **5:00 p.m.**

Sunday, December 31st, (Feast of the Holy Family): **11:00 a.m.**

NEW YEAR'S EVE, Sunday, December 31st: **5:00 p.m.** - Anticipated Mass for New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and World Day of Peace

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Monday, January 1st: **11:00 a.m.** (Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and World Day of Peace)

Our **regular weekly Mass schedule** will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd - .Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10 am.; Tuesday & Friday 12:10 pm.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK ...

The Basilica Parish is trying to rejuvenate 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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ...

The Christian community has a role in Christian Initiation of Adults. The Christian community supports the candidates by love, prayer, and witness and by testifying that they are ready to complete their initiation. Some members of the community help to instruct them in the faith of the Church. Candidates are also assisted by sponsors who walk with them in faith and present them to the community during the liturgical rites.

At present we have one adult who is asking to be received as a candidate for Confirmation. We ask you to keep him in your prayers.

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.

... 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.

... 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 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.

... 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.

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.

*****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.

<>< **Christmas Caroling & Social Remembering Our Loved Ones** -- In the spirit of the season and in an endeavor to build our parish community spirit, we will be having a Christmas Carol sing and social on December 10th at 7:00 pm. in the church for St. Paul's and on December 17th at 7:00 pm. and for St. Francis with the social in the annex. Put the stress of holiday preparations aside and come and relax and enjoy beautiful music to reflect the true meaning of Christmas, followed by a social. Carols may be requested in honour of a loved one (living or deceased) for a \$5 donation per name. All names will be entered into a Christmas Caroling book to be kept in the church during the holiday season. Sign-up sheets and pledge envelopes to request carols for loved ones are available on the table in the foyer of St. Paul's and the back of the church for St. Francis. Envelopes can be left with Carol in the Parish office or placed in the collection. Hope to see you there!

*** **ADVENT REFLECTION** (Facilitator: Robyn Hamlyn) The season of Advent ignites many emotions that may include excitement, worry, anticipation and joy. As we share in the joys and pressures of the season let us gather together to reflect on the meaning and mystery of the Advent season. Like Mary and Joseph let us be guided by a star, as we recognize our own cosmic connection and learn to listen to and follow the great mystery in and around us. Come join us Thursday, December 7th, 10 am. - 12 Noon at Ruah Counselling Centre located in The Lantern building, 35 Barnes Road.

GRIEVING: Coping with the Holidays (for St. John's Region)...Eastern Health's Pastoral Care and Ethics Dept. invites you to "**Grieving: Coping with the Holidays**". This event is designed to provide people who are spending their first couple of holiday seasons without a loved one with helpful information and suggestions. Two time slots are available: Tuesday, December 5th from 7-8:30 pm or Wednesday, December 6th from 2-3:30 pm. Location: Health Sciences Auditorium, St. John's. For more information please contact Rev. Dr. Jacintha Penney or Paul Grimes at 777-6959.

<<< **HOLY HEART OF MARY ALUMNAE CHOIR**, directed by Dr. Valerie Long, presents their annual Christmas Concert & Sing-A-Long on Sunday, December 3rd, 3:00 m., St. Teresa's Church. Admission by good-will offering. 50-50 draw will be held. All proceeds in support of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

... **Topsail United Church Men's Club Annual Breakfast with Santa** will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 8 am. until 11 am. Usual great menu. Cost \$8 adults, children under 12 \$4. Face painting, colouring and pictures with Santa. All are welcome.

--- **Coastal Sounds Choir Association** invites you to celebrate the season with our 10th Annual Holiday Concert! Featuring Coastal Sounds Community Choir, Aurora Women's Choir, and a presentation of the 5th Annual Christmas Cantata with Orchestra and Massed Choir, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 7:30 PM., ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, FOXTRAP tickets \$20 regular, \$18 Students/Seniors, 12 & under FREE. Available at www.coastalsounds.ca, Taylor's Fish Market, from choir members, or reserve at 700-6715. Donations for the CBS Food Bank appreciated. Please note all CSCA events are free.

<>>< **CANTUS VOCUM CHAMBER CHOIR** presents *NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS*, an afternoon of beautiful music for the holiday season with special guest KARL WELLS reading from Dickens' classic A CHRISTMAS CAROL, Sunday, December 17, 4:00 pm., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Queens Road at Long's Hill. Tickets \$20/\$15 are available from the choir or at the door. www.cantusvocum.com. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter.

***** Bible Study at Wesley Church ...** Rev. Bill Mercer will be holding a Bible Study each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. at Wesley United Church, 101 Patrick Street. All are welcome to attend.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER RELIC PILGRIMAGE ... A major relic of St. Francis Xavier is coming to Canada from Rome. There will be opportunities to venerate the relic on **Friday, January 5th at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist**. Schedule of events at the Basilica: 12:10 pm. Mass, with the relic present. All afternoon Veneration will be open to the public, 7:00 pm. Archdiocesan celebration of Prayer Service, Confessions and Veneration of the Relic.

Who was St. Francis Xavier? St. Francis Xavier was a famous Jesuit missionary to India and Japan, bringing hundreds of thousands of people to faith. It is said that he was the greatest missionary since St. Paul the Apostle. The major relic that will be venerated during the pilgrimage is his right arm, usually venerated at the Gesu Jesuit church in Rome. It is rare that this relic leaves its usual home, and so this is a unique opportunity to venerate and to thank God for the work of this great missionary, and for the gift of faith.

EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN TO HELP ROHINGYA REFUGEES ... In light of Tuesday's announcement that the Canadian government is launching the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada has announced an emergency campaign to help Rohingya refugees. <https://www.devpc.org/en/pressroom/2017/comm2017-11-01>. A new section has been added to the website for the emergency campaign, which provides information about the crisis, latest news, and resources to assist animators and parishes in mobilizing our supporters: <https://www.devpc.org/en/emergencies/bangladesh> Anyone wishing to make a donation that will be matched with funds by the Government of Canada should contribute directly to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; you may also place a donation in the collection plate in an envelope, marked with your envelope number. The parish will forward donations received to Development and Peace.

Irish Sacred Heart Messenger ... Anyone who is interested in ordering the Irish Sacred Heart Messenger magazine can contact (709)685-2208 for more information. This is a great magazine and would be a wonderful Christmas gift for your friends or your loved ones!

<<< **Matthew 25 Outreach Inc. Annual Christmas Project.** Supporting Gideon's orphanage and school in Kenya. Help us put a smile on a child's face this Christmas. Suggested donation : \$25. For more information or to donate please contact Margie Stead 709-746-6492.

../.. VIDEO GAME CONTEST ... Are you between the ages of 12-18 years of age? Do you like playing video games? The Centre for Life is looking for your ideas to create a video game "**What Caring For Human Life Looks Like**". First prize is your choice of either \$100 Steam or iTunes card, second prize \$50 Steam or iTunes, third prize \$25 Steam or iTunes card. Top prize winner claims their name on opening screen of video game. **Contest closes January 31st, 2018** and winners will be announced on February 28th, 2018. See contest details on line at <http://www.centreforlife.ca/lifecontest/>. Any questions please email info@centreforlife.ca.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - PANAMA ... The next World Youth Day will be held in January 2019 in Panama. This pilgrimage is for young adults aged 18-35 and the theme will be "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word". (Lk 1:38) If you would like more information on this pilgrimage, please contact Sara at sbroderick@rcsj.org.

<<< **Diploma in Theology & Ministry at Queen's College**

Do you thirst to know more about your faith? Are you searching for help in your prayer life? Do you hear a call to deepen your faith and do you have what it takes to answer? Do you seek a sound theological foundation for the ministry you offer in the Church?

The Diploma in Theology & Ministry is a lay formation program offered by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's and Queen's College. Interested? For more information talk to your parish priest or contact Anne Walsh at awalsh@rcsj.org.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND CHAPLAINCY MUN Catholic Chaplaincy is open for the new academic year. If you are at MUN, drop by UC 3006 and meet Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ. Daily Mass location to be determined. We have a Facebook page at MUN Catholic Community and my email is ej_mroz@yahoo.ca.

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

... **THE CENTRE FOR LIFE** offers free, confidential, professional pregnancy and post-abortion counselling. Please email counsellors@centreforlife.ca or call (709) 579-3818. Registration for the Fall senior's computer classes is ongoing over the summer. Please call (709) 579-1500 for more information.

... **April 25- May 6, 2018: Medjugorje Pilgrimage** with spiritual retreat on KRK Island with Fr. Zlatko Dusac, renowned stigmatist. Cost of \$3230 includes airport taxes, security fees, fuel surcharges, round trip airfare from the Maritimes, twin accommodation, daily breakfast and dinner and professional local guides. INFO: Marie Desjardins at mariedesjardins1949@gmail.com or (207) 868-5027.

... **St. Clare's Mercy Hospital Auxiliary** has openings for **daytime** 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.

***** 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.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION (CWLF) is accepting applications for its initial Leadership Program for Canadian Catholic women. The Program will be facilitated by the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa. For more information about CWLF, the Leadership Program and to complete an application form visit www/cwlfcanada.ca. you can also contact Rita Janes, Chair, CWLF by phone (709) 722-3860 or by email (ritacjanes@gmail.com)

--- **Volunteers** are a wonderful asset to Nursing Homes and greatly enhance the lives of residents. Volunteers welcomed in assisting with a variety of social activities for residents at The Agnes Pratt Home. Meal Time companion, recreation, friendly visiting, community companions and pastoral care. If interested please call Judy Cook, Coordinator Volunteer Resources, Longer Term Care St. John's at 752-8705 or email judy.cook@easternhealth.ca.

... **YOU ARE NOT ALONE ANYMORE!** No matter what your problem with food -- compulsive overeating, under-eating, food addiction anorexia, bulimia, binge eating or over-exercising -- we have a solution. Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members. For a current list of meetings and to get additional information either visit our website oanl.org, or email us at info.oa.nl@gmail.com, or by phone 709.738.1742.

WEBSITE ... The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's, www.rcsj.org. 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 website fresh and modern.

Canadian Blood Services ... New donors are critical to meeting Canada's future blood needs. It can be challenging to collect blood leading into long weekends and holidays, such as Easter. Many people travel and are busy with family, yet the need for blood remains constant. Canadian Blood Services is now open on Saturdays from 9 am. – 1 pm. for your convenience. Visit blood.ca for information or to book an appointment.

***/*/ 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!

***/*/ 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.

... **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.

***** 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

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

** **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.

"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.

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.*