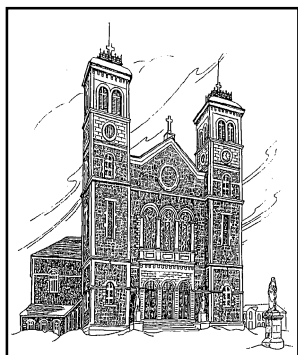


Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

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

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.

Mass schedule ... Tuesday, December 26th (Boxing Day) 12:10 pm.; **Wednesday & Friday, December 27 & 29 at 10am;** Thursday, December 28th at 12:10 pm. **New Year's Eve: 5:00 pm.; New Year's Day: 11:00 am.** We return to our regular Mass schedule on Tuesday, January 2nd. (Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10:00 am., Tuesday and Thursday at 12:10 pm.)

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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.

***** The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and St. Patrick's Mercy Home** invite you to celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the opening of St. Patrick's Mercy Home on January 8, 2018 @ 7:00 pm. in St. Pius X Church, Smithville Crescent. Reception to follow at St. Pius X Parish Hall - RSVP Lana Morgan at 752-8732 or email lane.morgan@easternhealth.ca.

To Members, Parishioners and their Families ... May Peace, Joy, and Hope and Love fill your hearts and homes this Blessed Christmas Season. Basilica Catholic Women's League

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Parish Christmas Hampers for the needy of our Parish this Christmas. We appreciate your continued generosity we thank the volunteers at Emmaus Food Bank for their ministry to the needy. Our Parish contribution is \$7,000.00 and we have not met our goal as we only have \$3,650.00 far in contributions. Any financial support you can still give would be appreciated. **Thank You.**

A Christmas Message

Christmas is a time to be lost in the wonder and awe of God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. God sent His Son as His special gift for the world, a special gift of love, peace and hope for each of us. At Christmas, Emmanuel, God-with-us arrives poor, vulnerable, homeless, exiled, unwelcomed at the inn. Christ is God's covenant with us, God's declaration of His love for us. Each one of us was created for a purpose. Each one of us was created to glorify God and to accomplish what we have been created for by our Creator. Like the Star in the East, we point the way to Jesus. We do that with the example of our lives, being Christ for others in the ordinary moments of our lives.

Our prayer today for you is that you may have the courage and strength to bring the hope, justice, peace and light of Christ into the darkness and despair of the world. What is the challenge of Christmas? It is best summarized in this poem by an unknown author:

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, the work of Christmas begins: ‘to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers and sisters, to make music with the heart’.

The power of the manger scene is the power of the message that Jesus brought into the world: *The great God of heaven and earth is our loving Father and we are to be loving brothers and sisters.*

This powerful message of love is God's Christmas gift to each one of us. What we do with it is our Christmas gift to God.

A Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year, filled with the peace, joy and love that only Jesus can bring.
Father Cecil Critch, Pastor *Father John Costello*, Associate Pastor

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - BASILICA COUNCIL ... Thank you to all who purchased/sold tickets on our recent draw for the quilt and the Nativity Set. Congratulations to the lucky winner - Jessica Furey, #00573.

... Thank you to our Catholic Women's League for their donation of \$1,000.00 towards our Christmas Hampers. God's blessings on your ministry, Father Cecil

<>< **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.

This Sunday lights were lit for: Wayne Bailey, Tom Bennett, Margaret, Jean & Gloria Butler, Channing and Carew Families, Jean Coache, John & Kathleen Conran, Francis & Doris Dillon, Ted Dillon, Doherty Family, Clarence Doyle, Joan Doyle, Joan & Bill Escott & Butch, Edward Finch, Gannon Family, Mary Goff, Janet Murphy Goodridge, James & Mary Greene, Betty Sellars Hibbs, Margaret Higgins, Roy House, Deceased members of Kavanagh & Craig Families, Marjorie Kelland, Rick Leggo, Irene & John McCrate, Bill Melee, William & Mary Melee, Sharon Murphy, Oliver Family, Theresa Oliver, Theresa & Ralph Oliver, Theresa O'Rielly, Gus Redmond & Theresa, Jack Redmond, Margaret & John Redmond, Joseph & Ron Roche, Maryanne & Thomas Roche, Nicholas & Jean Roche, Alice & Len Sellars, Ann Sellars, Leonard Sellars & Family, Rose Snelgrove, Francis & Frances Snow, Erin Tilley, James & Elizabeth Tracey, Chris Trammell, Mary Turner, Bernard Viscount, William & Violet Viscount, Anne Marie (Melee) Zwolman,

PLEASE NOTE ... The 2018 offertory envelopes are available at the back of the church.

COLLECTIONS ... December 17, 2017 - Sunday Offertory .. \$2,465.75.; Advent Offering .. \$45.;

Dues ... \$500.; Lights of Love .. \$287.; Hampers .. \$1,107.; Flowers .. \$160.

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

**THERE ARE ONLY TWO PAGES OF THIS CHRISTMAS BULLETIN
PRINTED BY THE PARISH. THE FRONT COVER IS PRE-PRINTED AND
PAGE FOUR IS THE LETTER WITH GREETINGS FROM
ARCHBISHOP MARTIN W. CURRIE. THE LETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON
THE ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITE - www.rcsj.org**

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PUBLISHED BULLETIN

***** 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.

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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**

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -MASS TIMES

Boxing Day, Tuesday, December 26th: **12:10 p.m.** (regular schedule for rest of week - Wednesday & Friday: 10:00 am.; Thursday: 12:10 pm.)

Saturday, December 30th, (Feast of the Holy Family): **5:00 p.m.** (Reconciliation: 3:30-4:15 pm.)

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 & Thursday at 12:10 pm.

PLEASE NOTE Recordings of the Basilica's 21st Annual Advent Festival of Carols and Scripture, held December 3, are available in DVD and CD format, \$10 each. Please contact the parish office (754-2170) if you would like to purchase a copy.

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.

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.

2018 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES ... 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.

. 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

... RENEWAL PLAN UPDATE ... The implementation of the Archdiocesan Renewal Plan “A Promise of New Life ... Courage to Renew” has begun. We have hired a full-time Coordinator, Mr. Peter Whittle and a new Implementation Committee, with Monsignor Francis Puddister as Chair and Dr. Rick Singleton as Co-chair, in moving the challenging process forward. Discussions in the first Zone - St. John’s East (St. Pius X, Mary Queen of Peace, St. Pauls & St. Francis of Assisi) are going very well. We will begin work with the Mount Pearl-Goulds-Petty Harbour and CBS zones in January. Your support of this process will ensure the renewal of pastoral life in our Archdiocese. We pray for the courage and guidance of the Holy Spirit and thank all of those involved in the planning and implementation process for their dedication. For more information and further updates go to www.rcsj.org.

../.. 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.

*****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.

***** 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.

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)

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.

--- **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.

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.*