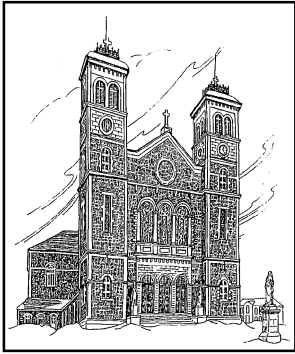


Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 25TH, 2018

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 pm.; Sunday at 8:30 am. & 11:00 am.

Weekday Mass DURING LENT: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT 12:10 PM.

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

Stations of the Cross: Friday at 7:00 pm.

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm.

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

<><><> PLEASE MAKE A NOTE ... WEEKDAY MASSES DURING LENT WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 12:10 P.M. IF THERE IS A FUNERAL - IT WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 10:00 A.M. EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WILL BE CELEBRATED AFTER THE 12:10 PM. MASS ON WEDNESDAY. OUR REGULAR WEEKDAY SCHEDULE WILL RESUME ON APRIL 2ND. <><><>

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

***** BAPTISM PREPARATION ***** The next Baptism Preparation will take place on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018 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.**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - FEBRUARY 25TH, 2018

The readings today remind us again of God's great love for each of us. In the first reading, we hear of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham lived among the Canaanites, a people who believed that God demanded human sacrifice - and Abraham, a loving father, apparently believed that God demanded human sacrifice - and Abraham, a loving father, apparently believed that God was asking this of him. But biblical scholars all agree that indeed the very opposite is true. God does not demand that we sacrifice human lives in his name as many fundamentalists in our world seem to be saying. We too often see tragic evidence of this in the horrors of war where young people are sacrificed in the name of a God who obviously does not will this. Indeed, the aim of the story is to evoke horror at the very idea of a loving Creator demanding such an abhorrent deed. In the gospel account of the Transfiguration today, we hear another Father and Son story. By now, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, and is likely fearful of the fate that befalls so many prophets - a violent death. In his efforts to bring healing and forgiveness to an oppressed people, he has been reviled by the very religious leaders who claim to have all the right answers. He must feel so alone and in need of a loving hand himself. And then he has his mountaintop experience. Although we can't know exactly just what happened at Tabor, we know that Jesus had an intense experience of the presence of God. He finally felt himself comforted and affirmed as a beloved son. As Paul says in the second reading today, with God on his side he could face whatever struggles were ahead. As we pray they too will experience God on their side as they face their struggles and find comfort and healing as beloved sons and daughters of God.

LENT has two major purposes: a) it recalls baptism or prepares for it b) it emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and more fervent prayer, believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal mystery. It is a preparation for Easter.

Lent ends on Holy Thursday, as we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum with the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening. Some parishes like to mark the end of Lent by making an announcement after all have gathered and standing for the singing of a Lenten hymn just before Mass. This hymn would be a favourite Lenten hymn of the parish and would ideally reference the season that is ending, eg. Forty Days. This would not be the entrance hymn of the Mass.

<> **Almsgiving** ... During Lent there are charitable actions parishioners can aid our neighbours in their spiritual and bodily needs. Giving alms to the poor is a work of justice pleasing to God. In our parish, food or money may be donated to Emmaus House to help the needy. In keeping with our communal almsgiving, parishioners are asked to bring '**TIN BEANS**' next Saturday/Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent.

LENTEN TREE (Emmaus Tree) ... at the entrance of the Basilica we will 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 parishioners to take a paper cross from the tree and on the following Saturday/Sunday bring back the specified item.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION DATES

Basilica confessions are held before Mass each Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. if you would like to attend a parish Lenten Reconciliation Service, here are the dates for the parishes in the city.... **ST. TERESA'S**, Mundy Pond Road - **Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 pm.**; **ST. PATRICK'S & CORPUS CHRISTI PARISHES COMBINED** - **Monday, March 19th at 7:00 pm.** at **Corpus Christi Church** on Waterford Bridge Road; **ST. PIUS & ST. PAUL'S PARISHES COMBINED** - **Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm** at **St. Paul's Church** on Newfoundland Drive.

A RETREAT DAY FOR ALL IN MINISTRY AT THE BASILICA PARISH

The Basilica Parish Pastoral Council invites all those in ministry at the Basilica to a Retreat:

SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH, 9:30 AM. - 4:30 PM. (concluding with Mass at 5:00 pm. in the Basilica)

The Retreat will be held in the Conference Room (enter through the staircase near the Marian Chapel)

Will we be fed? Of course -- in body *and* in spirit! Lunch is provided.

Who is invited? All involved in ministry in the Basilica Parish -- lectors, Eucharistic ministers, those in hospitality, outreach, catechesis, liturgy, music, bereavement, **ETC.**

How do I register? If you plan to take part in the retreat, please register! **We need to know how many** to prepare for. **To register, simply call the parish office at 754-2170 or by email: basilica@rcsj.org.**

Our Theme: Transfiguration In Lent, Jesus invites us to come away for a while, to rest and be rejuvenated, and to encounter Him in a new way. As God transfigured Jesus in the Gospel, God wants to transfigure us, too. God wants to draw each person, and our whole parish closer to God to transfigure us, so that we can better and more fully reflect and radiate the love of Jesus Christ in our world. Come ... spend a day with us entering into the Transfiguration. You'll be glad you did!

Our retreat facilitator: Anne Walsh, DMin. Special Assistant for Partnership in Mission, Redemptorist Conference of North America.

Share Lent ... During this second week of Share Lent, we focus on the organization Adyan, a Development and Peace partner that contributes to peace in the Middle East by fostering cultural and religious tolerance. Adyan offers a wide range of programs, including conferences, training sessions, and workshops on peace, reconciliation, and coexistence. In this part of the world wounded by past and present wars, Adyan's work is essential and your support is indispensable to them. "At Adyan we promote spiritual solidarity, which means integrating the other into my thoughts and prayers. I must integrate the suffering of others and understand it."- Nayla Tabbara, Director of the Institute of Citizenship and Diversity Management of Adyan.

YOUTH LENTEN FAITH FORMATION ... Chosen: *This is Your Catholic Faith* is a faith formation program that journeys through the entire Catholic faith. Stories from creation through salvation history, sacraments, prayer and discipleship are the main themes of the program. Youth 13 and up, are invited to join us for a Lenten Faith Formation Series. During these sessions we will have activities, videos and discussions aimed at learning about and deepening our faith. The sessions will run from 7:00-8:45 pm. and be held in the conference room at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, attached to the Basilica. There is no cost to attend these sessions and snacks will be provided! For more information or to register, please contact Sara at sbroderick@rcsj.org. To register please visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/chosen-this-is-your-catholic-faith-tickets-43074352548>.

SEASON OF LENT-EASTER ... This 90 day season, from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost Sunday, is one of renewal for each person and the whole church. At the heart of the season is the paschal mystery of Jesus. Lent prepares for it and Easter celebrates it for fifty days. Can a dialogue between this Paschal Mystery and the Universal Story yield new insights for living our faith today? We invite you to come to Presentation Sisters Virginia Waters Retreat House, 47 Parsonage Dr., Sundays from 4-5pm. until May 20, for an hour of contemplation, reflection and dialogue. Facilitators: Phil Lewis and Gerard Whitty. Please call 754-1582 to register.

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.

12 HOUR ADORATION of the *BLESSED SACRAMENT* ... St. Kevin's Parish is planning to have a 12 Hour Adoration beginning with 9:30 am. Mass on Wednesday, March 21st and concludes with Musical Adoration and benediction from 8:30 am. to 9:30 am. on Thursday, March 22nd.

24 HOUR ADORATION of the *BLESSED SACRAMENT* ... You are invited to spend an hour with JESUS from 9:30 am. March 22nd to 10:00 am. March 23rd at Mary Queen of the World Parish, 777 Topsail Road. We pray for all those in authority, especially our spiritual and political leaders, that they be filled and guided by the Holy Spirit in their decision making.

COLLECTIONS ... February 18, 2018

**Sunday Offertory .. \$5,509.65.; Ash Wednesday ... \$1,848.15; Assessment ... \$96.; Heat & Light ... \$40.;
Lenten Offering ... \$413.**

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.

... 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 placed in the Sunday collection.

Bingo! *Cowan Plaza – Corner of Topsail Road and Burgeo Street – Seven nights a week.*

Many thanks to our parishioners and friends who patronize the bingo at Cowan Plaza.

We just received a check in the amount \$2,900.00 - Thank you

Knights of Columbus - St. Clare Avenue every Wednesday and Sunday

Save the date - Thursday, May 31st .. Basilica Parish Flipper/Chicken Dinner .. K of C

Development & Peace ... Our solidarity visitor is from Lebanon this year, Nagham Tarhini, a Community Outreach Coordinator with an NGO named Adyan. Adyan promotes dialogue between Christians and Moslems in the Middle East. Come and meet her and hear her speak at The Lantern on Saturday, March 10th at 9:30 am. She will explain her work and enjoy meeting us as well. Dialogue and interaction is an important element in peace building between members of differing religious communities in Lebanon & Syria.

... The A/E.P. Roche Assembly of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 8 pm., meeting room of Mary Queen of Peace Church. All Sir Knights are invited and encouraged to attend. Rosary at 7:30 pm. with meeting to follow. Sir Knights are reminded to bring both their 3rd Degree and 4th Degree cards to the meeting.

**** Centre for Life Community Volunteer Income Tax Program** will be held on Mondays, March 5 - April 30 for seniors. Please call 579-1500 for more information and to make an appointment.

***** HOLY FAMILY PARISH,** Paradise, will be holding a **card game** on **Monday, March 6th at 8:00 pm.** (doors open at 7 pm.) at **Holy Innocents Church Hall, Paradise Road.** Lots of prizes, snacks provided. For tickets call Jim at 782-1123 or the parish office at 781-1696.

... Calling all graduates of Holy Heart class of 1979 a 40th year reunion is being planned for the summer of 2019. If you are not already in our Facebook group and want more information, email:

HHM1979.40th@gmail.com.

What Should I Do for Lent? Pope Francis' 10 Tips

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: What should I do for Lent? Who better to pick for your Lenten spiritual director than Pope Francis? He has some great ideas for you! Here are 10 of his best tips:

>1. **Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil** ... “[Lent] is a ‘powerful season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us.” - General Audience, March 5, 2014.

>2. **Do something that hurts** ... “Lent is a fitting time for self-denial, we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. **I distrust a charity that cost nothing and does not hurt.**” - Lenten Message, 2014

>3. **Don't remain indifferent** ... “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world, he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation.” - Lenten Message, 2015

>4. **Pray: Make our hearts like yours!** ... “During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: ‘Fac cor nostrum secundum co tuum’: **Make our hearts like yours** (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.” - Lenten Message, 2015

>5. **Take part in the sacraments** ... “Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive; the Body of Christ.” - Lenten Message, 2015

>6. **Prayer** ... “In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren, intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering.” - Homily, March 5, 2014

>7. **Fasting** ... “**We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth ‘satisfies’ us because it makes us feel good about ourselves.** Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him.: - Homily, March 5, 2014

“Fasting makes sense if it questions our security...” Pope Francis

>8. **Almsgiving** ... “Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps Us to experience giving feely, which leads to freedom from obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others.” - Homily, March 5, 2014

>9. **Help the Poor** ... “In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. **Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.**” - Lenten message, 2014

>10. **Evangelize** ... “The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experience darkness.” - Lenten Message, 2014

Your probably won't be able to take huge steps forward in all of these areas. Instead, pick a couple that stand out to you and try to find practical ways to grow in your love of God and your love of your neighbour.

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.

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 at 754-2170.

Second Sunday of Lent -- February 25, 2018 “If God is with us, who can be against us?” Is the Lord strengthening you to consider the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Father Jeff Kolonel at (709) 745-8183 or Father Ray Earle (709) 488-2525 or email: vocations@rcsj.org.

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.

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.

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.

... 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.

... 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.

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.

****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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - PANAMA ... January 2019. 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.

EASTER PLUS CAMP AT ST. BONAVENTURE’S COLLEGE St. Bonaventure’s College welcomes students ages 5-12, within and outside the St. Bon’s community, to join us this year at Easter Plus Camp. Easter Plus is a fun and engaging camp where children will participate in a variety of activities while making new friendships and enjoying new experiences. There are two sessions: Session 1: March 26-29 (\$160), Session 2: April 2-6 (\$200). To learn more about this camp, or to register please contact our Program Coordinator Ms. Allison Anderson at aanderson@stbons.ca or 709-726-0024, ext. 231.

RUAH COUNSELLING CENTRE located at The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road. . Individual, couple and family counselling available, call (709) 579-0168 or email ruah@rcsj.org , or go to www.rcsj.org for more information. “When you see RED - for Men (Tuesdays 7-9 pm., Jan. 16-Mar. 6); Support Group for End of Relationship, Separation & Divorce (Wednesdays 7-9 pm., Jan. 31-Mar. 28); Self-Empowerment for Women (Thursdays, 7-9 pm., Feb. 1-Mar. 22).

RUAH COUNSELLING CENTRE located at The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road. . Individual, couple and family counselling available, call (709) 579-0168 or email ruah@rcsj.org , or go to www.rcsj.org for more information. “When you see RED - for Men (Tuesdays 7-9 pm., Jan. 16-Mar. 6); Support Group for End of Relationship, Separation & Divorce (Wednesdays 7-9 pm., Jan. 31-Mar. 28); Self-Empowerment for Women (Thursdays, 7-9 pm., Feb. 1-Mar. 22).

<<< **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.

ARCHISHOP HOWLEY ASSEMBLY, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus - regular monthly meeting - Thursday, March 1st. There will be a complimentary buffet served at 6 pm. followed by the meeting. Please reply by February 24th at 726-1452, ext 201. All members are encouraged to attend.

NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT ... Join over 3000 Catholics across Canada and the USA for the new evangelization. The summit will be on April 27-28 and will feature 6 world-class Catholic speakers on the New Evangelization including Curtis Martin, Sr. Anne Shields, George Weigel, Patrick Madrid, Christy Dupuis and Michael Dopp. NES has been designed to inspire Catholics and help them live out their personal call to evangelize. We are incredibly excited to be a host site for the NES. The conference will be webcasted from Ottawa to St. Peter’s Parish, Mount Pearl. Be inspired, receive formation and connect with other Catholics. **Where:** St. Peter’s Parish, 110 Ashford Drive, Mount Pearl; **When:** Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th; Registration Cost: \$40 per person; **Other: Lunch will not be provided, for more information**, please contact catholicnl@gmail.com. Register now at www.newevangelization.ca.

**** THE CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY** is looking for a representative from each parish to train as a congregational representative. If you currently are a church representative or wish to be one please e-mail Gerry Donahue at gdonahue@crosbiejob.com or cell phone (709) 727-4513.

... **CATHOLIC RENEWAL SERVICES ...** Presents **seven sessions** of Catholic scriptural teaching on the Gospel of Luke by scriptural scholar Frances Hogan of Ireland. First session begins May 11th at 8:00 pm. at St. Teresa’s Parish Hall on Mundy Pond Road. For more information please call Gerry at 727-4513.

>> **Celebrate Family Conference...** Celebrate is a lively Catholic, faith-filled weekend for the whole family. Inspiring talks, children age appropriate streams, Mass, drama, worship, workshops. Fun for the whole family. Taking place in Corner Brook July 14-15, 2018. More information will follow.

<<< **Wesley United Church Soup Luncheon & Social** (Auction & Bridge), Thursday, March 15th, 12:10 pm. Tickets are \$12 available from Pheobe Sheppard at 726-1689, Marvin Barnes at 579-7900 or Church Office at 579-3682.

St. St. John's Choir annual Afternoon Tea will take place on Sunday, March 18th at 2:30 pm. at Cowan United Church on 141 Frecker Drive (doors open at 2 pm.). tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by calling Paulette at 747-4760, Linda at 579-6585 or at stjohnschoir.info@gmail.com

Irish Sacred Heart Messenger ... Anyone who is interested in the magazine can contact (709) 685-2208 for more information. This is a great magazine and would be a wonderful gift for any occasion.

... **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 senior's computer classes is ongoing. Please call (709) 579-1500 for more 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.

... **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.

... **The 12th Weekend of Grace for Women** ... April 13-15, 2018, Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax, NS Pre-registration Only / deadline April 2, 2018. For more information call (902) 405-9613 or visit www.weekendofgrace.com.

... **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.

*** **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.

./ PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND - May 19-June 2, 2018 Cead Mile Failte! Please join us for an inclusive, Catholic pilgrimage to the Ireland, including many key religious, historic, and cultural sites across the Emerald Isle. Registration includes all transportation to/from Halifax, attractions, breakfasts and dinners, daily Mass and a full religious program provided by Fr. Bryan Sabourin, CC (Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit - Lower Sackville). Spots are filling up quickly. \$4,895, pp/do. For more information call (902) 482-1173, email helene.makuch@joewalshtours.com , or go to www.joewalshtours.com.

***** 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.

***** The Wesley Men's Choir and Rev. Bill Mercer** along with **special guests Deborah and Keith Collins** will hold a service on Sunday, March 4th starting at 6:50 pm. with a sing-a-long. All are welcome.

--- 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.

*** 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

**** 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

<<< THE CONCERT CROWD celebrates its 50th anniversary! One night only ... is sure to entertain and not to be missed ... Saturday, March 3rd. Tickets are available at the Arts & Culture Centre Box Office ... \$25.00.

VOWR Presents: Spirit of Newfoundland's Dinner Theatre **"Idol Dies At You"** on Thursday, March 29th, at the Masonic Temple, Cathedral Street. Doors open at 6:30 m. Dinners starts at 7:00 pm. Show starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$75 per person with a tax receipt for \$25. Call VOWR at 579-9233, Wesley United Church at 579-3682 or Marvin Barnes at 579-7900. Reserve your tickets early so as to avoid being disappointed, they always sell out fast!

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

**** 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.*