



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL BASILICA PARISH

Thank you for joining us on this **SPECIAL DAY**
as we gather together with family and friends to joyfully celebrate Jesus' Birth.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THE BASILICA.

May He richly bless you and all your loved ones during this Christmas Season
and in the coming New Year!

Merry Christmas

This Coming Week In Our Parish Community

Monday – OH HOLY NIGHT! CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Mass for all of our **departed loved ones**

Tuesday – St. Stephen, the First Martyr

9:00 a.m. Mass for deceased members of the **Brewer & Sutton** families, Martin **Mate**, Michael & Peter **Parrell**

Wednesday – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

9:00 a.m. Mass for Melvin **Gallant**, Father John **Hanton** & deceased family members, Stephen & Elizabeth **Drake**

Thursday – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. Mass for Danny **MacDonald**, Al **Brennan**, Father Pat **Power** & deceased family members

Friday – Fifth Day Within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord

9:00 a.m. Mass for Elom & Edem **Attikpoe**, George **McCharles**, Moya **Griffiths**

Saturday – Sixth Day Within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord

9:00 a.m. Mass for Edward **Dawe**, deceased members of the **Picco** family, Hannah **Smith**

5:00 p.m. Mass for Carl **Gushue**, Julia **Morgan**, Billy **Lynch**

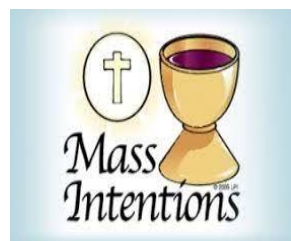
Sunday – New Year's Eve, Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

10:00 a.m. Mass for Gloria **McHugh**, Alexandra **Ferguson**, Richard **Delahaunty**

7:00 p.m., **VIGIL FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD** - Mass for deceased members of the **Baird & Nolan** families, Henry **Thistle**, deceased members of the **Chewing** family

Monday – New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00 a.m. Mass for Edward **Clemens**, Marie **Whelan**, Rosemary **Coady**



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Please join us in welcoming **Alexis Jean Snow** to our parish community. She was Baptized into our Church community last weekend. Please pray for this new Catholic, as well as her parents and family.

Christmas Message from the Parish Rector, Fr. Cecil Critch

Every year at Christmas we hear the prophet Isaiah proclaim “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” The Christmas story speaks to us of light that shines in the darkness and that the darkness cannot overcome. This promise of Christmas Light offers us hope as we continue to walk on our journey amid the darkness of wars and the challenges that we continue to face in our Church. The humble poor shepherds were watching their flocks during the night when the glory of The Lord shone around them and the angel told them “the Good News of Great Joy”, the birth of our Saviour. “Be not afraid.” God’s gift of light, mercy and healing shone in the face of the Child Jesus that night in Bethlehem, and it continues to shine for each one of us today. **At Christmas, we are invited to receive the greatest gift of all from God: Jesus, our Redeemer, the merciful and loving face of God, the Father.** Jesus wants to make His home in our hearts and homes this Christmas and every day. We, like Mary, are called to bring Christ to the world. In Baptism, we are all beloved sons and daughters of God, so we pray that the peace and love of Jesus will reign in our world. May we respond to our Baptismal call to be a light in the darkness of our world. Merry Christmas to each and every one of you, and may Jesus Christ bless you and your loved ones always. (Fr. Cecil Critch, VG, Rector, St. John the Baptist Cathedral Basilica Parish)

ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: The next course is scheduled for **May 4, 2024**, at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 200 Military Road, St. John's. Couples can register using the following link: [Marriage Preparation Registration | Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's \(rcsj.org\)](https://www.rcsj.org/marriage-preparation-registration) . Once registered, couples will receive additional information outlining the session and schedule.



CHURCH ENVELOPES FOR 2024: Church envelopes for the New Year have now been assigned and have been placed at the back of the Church for pick-up. If you are new to our Parish and would like a box of offertory envelopes, please contact the office (**709-754-2170**). As always, your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you, kindly.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT THE BASILICA - THE SEARCH PROGRAM: Another session of **THE SEARCH** Program will begin **January 18th** for 7 Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm until February 29th. Each session begins with a delicious meal, followed by a video presentation and small group sharing. **Registration is available online at <https://thebasilica.church/thesearch>**. If you are looking to find Jesus in your own life, or if you are struggling to find motivation in faith, this program is for you. Join us as we tackle life's big questions.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA): If you are an adult and wish to become fully initiated (a Baptized and Confirmed member of the Catholic Church), or, as a Catholic, you would like to learn more about your faith, please join our RCIA Program on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** Please call the office to register (**709-754-2170**).



PARISH FINANCIAL NEWS

All your weekly collections go *solely* to pay for parish operations – (heat, light, salaries, etc.).

For the weekend of December 10, 2023: **Advent** \$255.00, **Candles** \$828.72,

Christmas Hampers \$4,837.00, **Offertory Collection** \$8,855.00,

On-line Donations \$1,355.20, **Other** \$2,174.00,

Winter Financial Campaign \$1,610.00

Our current **monthly expenses** include: Archdiocesan Assessment \$8,516.31; property insurance \$16,622.92; salaries and benefits for clergy and lay staff \$21,287.19; supplies (average) \$3,000.00; and heat & light (winter months, average) \$8-10,000.00.

ALL donations, great & small, are very much needed & MOST appreciated.

Archbishop's 2023 Christmas Message

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

***How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns."***

(Isaiah 52:7)

This is the opening line of the first reading of the "Mass during the Day" on Christmas. Through it, the prophet Isaiah speaks to us of a God who wishes his people to find in Him great joy and peace and to be messengers of that joy and peace to our world.

With all the challenges, conflicts and difficulties presently facing individuals, societies and the international community, messengers and agents of joy and peace are needed now as much as ever.

In this year's "Living with Christ" missalette Christmas reflection, Bernadette Gasslein shares that her mind and heart are "boggled" at the depth and breadth of the mystery of the incarnation and she then goes on to state:

In response I can only cradle our God, whose flesh today is the refugee child; the homeless young adult searching for a dwelling place; the nurse tending the dying; the parent working three jobs; my limited, sinful self. And join the angels and shepherds in praise and thanks for grace upon grace.

Christmas can be at time of great joy and peace and happiness, but it can also be a time of great sadness, loneliness and despair. So much depends, not only on our situation, but also on our openness to the "great light" of God's love in our lives, and to the many ways, large and small, that this love is made manifest.

That "first Christmas" was not an easy one for Mary and Joseph and yet it was wonderful! They had each other, they had a new, healthy, baby boy, they had the visit of the shepherds, and they had a faith so deep and strong that they were able to see and trust in God's presence and work in all of it.

In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate a God who has come among us as one of us; a God who has shared our human condition and all the joys and sorrows, hopes and fears that are so much a part of it. Christmas is a time for us to bask in the light of His love and to recommit ourselves to sharing this love with others, especially those who seem to be "walking in darkness" and/or living through a time of sadness, hopelessness and fear.

With prayers and best wishes for God's blessings upon you during this Christmas season and always,

+Peter Hundt
Archbishop of St. John's.

