

Christmas Message from St. Anne's Parish Council

As we begin this holy and joyful season, may the blessings from on high fill your home with joy, love and peace. St. Anne's Church Committee members wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025.

Irene Broderick, Vice-Chair

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Women

At this joyous Christmas season, may our hearts be filled with gratitude for God's love and the many blessings we have received. May the gifts of good health, peace, happiness and love be abundant for you in 2025. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jeanne Dillon, Chair

Knights of Columbus - McCormack Council

To Brother Knights, Families & Parishioners

Let us celebrate life in its fullness as we ring out the joy of the birth of the Christ Child. Glenda and I wish you a Christmas filled with your favourite things and all that Christmas brings. May it be a celebration that stands out from the rest, bringing Brother Knights and all families festive joy, Christmas peace, and lasting love and happiness. Have a blessed, happy and prosperous New Year of 2025.

Remember to 'Keep Christ in Christmas'!

Pat Woodford, Grand Knight

We remember with love those important events that have touched our families since last Christmas.

BAPTISMS	
Evelyn Frances Sharon LAKE	Auden Louis JANES
Edith Margot WHITE	Joni Marian Elizabeth WHITE
Maya Grace Louise DROVER	Asher Wynn P TALABING
Rose Margaret MERCER	
MARRIAGES	
Rex BURTON & Joyce Lorraine ALINSANGAN	
DEATHS	
Catherine SIMMS	Sheila KENNEDY
Alvin MOULAND	Ruby (Betty) KENNEDY
Ronald FIELD	Theresa POWER
Maxine SMITH-BRIGGS	Mary O'RIELLY
Deborah POWER	Claude POIRIER
Mary LUSH	Bernice MERCER
Judith HILTZ	Greg DWYER
Rivlyn GALWAY	Lisa WHITE
Patrick HAMMOND	Gloria PENNEY
Donald BLACKMORE	Barry JEDDORE
Martina KNOX	

FAMILY PRAYER

May the mystery of God's love, made incarnate in the Child Jesus and reflected in the home of Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, dwell in our hearts and in our families throughout the coming year.

Christmas 2024



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Gander

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St. Joseph's Parish

**"Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
for our Saviour is born to the world."**

Christmas Message from our Pastor

A Saviour has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord. In light of this Good News of great joy, I extend my annual warm wishes of a Merry Christmas to all members of St. Joseph's and St. Anne's Church. Together in faith we celebrate this joyful Christmas season, my ninth as your Pastor.

We reflect at this time upon the humble birth of the Lord Jesus. He was born in a lowly stable. He was embraced by the love of his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary with blessed Joseph, her spouse. The Son of God truly blessed families by coming to us in such a human manner.

St. Theresa reflected "a God who became so small could only be mercy and love".

May this holy season be an opportunity for us to rediscover our own families as the cradle of mercy and love. May we rediscover our Church as a place of acceptance, shared joy and celebration.

May the peace, joy and love of Jesus our Saviour, reign in our hearts, in our families and in our troubled world, throughout these Holy Days and the approaching New Year 2025!

**Kindest regards,
Father Hearn**

**Merry Christmas to you!
Happy New Year too!**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

NATIVITY OF THE LORD – 2024

*“For a child has been born to, a son given us;
authority rests upon his shoulder;
and he is named Wonder Councillor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
(Isaiah 9:6)*

Dear SISTERS and BROTHERS in Christ,

When the Prophet Isaiah foresaw the birth of Jesus as our Saviour, he called Jesus by four names; each name having its own meaning.

Wonder Councillor – Isaiah sees Jesus as the one who will unravel the mysteries of God’s life for us and his teaching will help remove the veil that keeps God hidden.

Mighty God – Isaiah sees Jesus as the co-creator and co-ruler of all things; the one who merits our praise, respect, and loyalty.

Everlasting Father – Isaiah sees Jesus as the one who will reveal God as our Father and promotes a relationship of love and closeness as between a parent and child.

Prince of Peace – Isaiah sees Jesus as the one who bestows peace, both in the hearts of all his disciples but also teaches us the way to peace between nations and people.

These names are intended to be transformative; changing how we see our relationship with God and with one another. These names also remind us that Christmas is not just a single day to celebrate the birth of Jesus but, rather, is a lifelong journey of renewal in faith and discovering new meanings in life.

Pope Francis, in keeping with the tradition of the Catholic Church, declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year using the theme: Pilgrims of Hope. Jubilee Years, held every 25 years, are opportunities to examine our relationships with God, others and creation.



The Holy Father will open the Jubilee year on December 24, 2024. It is his action of Opening the Holy Door in Saint Peter’s Basilica, Rome, which indicates the essential connection between the gift of Jesus, which we celebrate at Christmas, and our ongoing need to renew our relationship with God, others and creation.

In union with the whole Church, the Diocese of Grand Falls will begin our year-long celebration of the Jubilee year with a live-streamed mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Grand Falls-Windsor on December 29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family. Local opportunities to participate in and celebrate the Jubilee Year will happen throughout the Diocese in 2025.

Continued...

In early March, the Priests and Pastoral Leaders will gather to plan our local celebrations of the Jubilee Year.

As we celebrate the two-fold event of the Nativity of our Saviour and the beginning of a Jubilee Year, we pray that the Lord will make each of us pilgrims of Hope in our diocese, parishes and homes.

Merry Christmas,

**Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels
Bishop of Grand Falls**

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our
hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven
and a new earth, when, with the powers of
Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,
Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the
treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace
of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

St. Joseph’s Parish Pastoral Council

Dear Parishioners and Families:

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, thank you to parishioners for their participation in liturgical celebrations and ministry work and for their financial contributions to the parish. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we wish all people of the parish a holy and happy Christmas filled with joy and love. May the New Year 2025 bring peace, happiness and blessings to all!

Vice Chair: Annette O’Rielly

Finance Committee Chair: Dan Mahoney

Liturgy Committee Chair: Ed Blackmore

Catechesis: Alice McCarthy

RCW Representative: Jeanne Dillon

St. Anne’s Representative: Irene Broderick

Members - Kay MacArthur & Bill Dumais

Catechesis Program

On behalf of the Catechists of St. Joseph’s Parish, I extend greetings of joy, love and peace during the Christmas season. May the “Light of Christ” reign in your hearts and homes as you celebrate with family and friends. Merry Christmas!

Alice McCarthy, Coordinator