

**John was sent from God . . . to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.**

**John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

### **THE ADVENT BARBER**

Franz Jacob is a barber in a small town outside of Quebec. One of his regulars is six-year-old Wyatt Lafreniere. Wyatt is autistic - he has trouble sitting still and he's hypersensitive to being touched.

So Franz will follow Wyatt around his shop as needed. He'll crawl on the floor with Wyatt and clip the boy's hair a snip and a shear at a time. Wyatt will sometimes just lie down on the floor, so Franz will lie down on the floor, too, taking as much time as Wyatt needs.

Many barbers and hairdressers don't know how to deal with clients with disabilities like autism, but Franz Jacob has several regular customers with autism, Wyatt being the youngest. He's learned how to adapt to their needs. He schedules them for the end of the day so he can take the time he needs, as long as an hour to 90 minutes. "I lock the front door. It has to stay quiet," explains Franz. "I'm just being really patient because they are [the ones] driving those moments."

Franz Jacob also works with people who are terminally ill, who want to enjoy a last trim. "When you shave someone who is probably going to die within 48 hours ... it's indescribable . . . I'm really proud to be doing all this," he says.

To Wyatt's mom, Franz Jacob is a hero.

"He welcomes him like his best friend. To see that he accepts these differences is just fantastic," she says.

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Lafreniere published a photo she took of the burly, grizzly-bearded, tattooed barber lying on the floor of his shop giving her son a haircut. The photo was posted online and in newspapers throughout Canada, and made the barber a hero - but Franz says, "I don't see myself like that, but I'm just doing my best all the time for my community."

[CTVnews.ca; CBC]

**In what our Christian tradition has come to call the "Incarnation," the God of love becomes one of us so that we might become one with God. But Incarnation is not only an event but a practice: that we "embody" the love of God for the sake of others. A barber in Canada becomes the "incarnation" of God's love when he puts aside his adult world to bend down and crawl on the floor to enter the world of his young autistic client. May this Christmas be the beginning of our own "practice" of incarnation: to leave our own self-centered world to travel humbly in the world of those in need and, through our patience, understanding and generosity, to make the compassion and peace of God a reality in their lives.**

WWW.CONNECTIONSMEDIAWORKS.COM

# Sacred Heart Parish

**A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ**



### Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm

465 Curling Street  
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8

Tel: (709) 785-5025

curlingparish@hotmail.com  
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

**Reconciliation:** Wednesday after Mass, or by request

**Mass During the Week:** **Tues at 10:00 am** Wed, Thurs, Fri at 10:00 am  
First Fridays - 2:00 pm at the Lohnes Complex

**Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

**Holy Hour of Adoration:** Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

**Marriages:** Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

**Baptisms:** Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

**December 17, 2017**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

<b>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</b> (Dec. 9 & 10)	
Regular Collection	1722.00
Pastoral Dues	150.00
Building Fund	45.00
Advent Folders	65.00
Votive Candles	29.75
Sunday Missals	26.00
Donations In Memory of Mary Russell & Bernard Pike	70.00
Mass Stipends	70.00
Shepherds' Fund	70.00
St. Vincent de Paul	55.90

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
Dec 16	Dr. Dennis O'Connor Michael & Ada George
Dec 17	Parish Community
Dec 18	No Mass
Dec 19	Jack Neville
Dec 20	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hickey Brian & Thomas Griffin Sr.
Dec 21	No Mass (Fr. Jim Away)
Dec 22	Bill Baker
Dec 23	Dennis Murphy Sr. Mary Russell The Gillis & Keough Family Jerome & Elsie Beales
Dec 24	Parish Community
Dec 25	Parish Community

<b>CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE OF MASSES</b>	
<b>Saturday, December 23</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, December 24</b>	<b>11 am</b>
<b>Christmas Eve, December 24</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day, December 25</b>	<b>11 am</b>
<b>Saturday, December 30</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>11 am</b>
<b>New Years Eve, December 31</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>
<b>New Years Day, January 1</b>	<b>11 am</b>

<b>LITURGICAL MINISTERS</b>	
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<b>December 23</b>	
Carol Reid Basil English	John Carroll Joan Penney Gerard Brake
<b>December 24 – 11am</b>	
Mike Leonard Hedy Kenny	Calvin Gillis Margaret Dalley Patsy Payne
<b>Christmas Eve, December 24 – 7pm</b>	
Donna Eldridge Janet Jackson	Don Gallant Patsy Payne Anna House
<b>Christmas Day, December 25 – 11am</b>	
Amelia Dicks Wayne Dicks	Donna Mitchell Marie Byrne Frank Lewis
<b>Communion to the Sick – Joe &amp; Marie Byrne</b>	

#### **2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

These are now available at the rear of the church. Please note that some numbers have changed. To avoid confusion, please discard any unused envelopes from previous years.

#### **RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

We will be holding a reconciliation service on **Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

**Confessions will also be heard Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm.**

There will also be a reconciliation service at the **Cathedral, Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

There will be a number of priests available as confessors. **Please note that mass at Sacred Heart is moved to 10 am on this day.**

#### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

We ask that those who would like to bring in poinsettias for the altar at Christmas should have them brought to the church by Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> before noon.

**PARISH COUNCIL** The next meeting takes place on **January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

#### **WINTER WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

#### **HUMOUR: HEARING AIDS**

Santa is getting hard of hearing and realizes that he needs to buy a hearing aid, but he feels unwilling to spend too much money. "How much do they cost?" he asks the shopkeeper. "That depends," says the salesman, "They run from \$20 to \$2000." "Can I see the \$20 model," asks Santa. The salesman outs the device around Santa's neck instruction, "You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket." "How does it work?" Santa inquires. "Well for only \$20 it doesn't work," the salesman replies, "But when people see you wearing it, they'll talk louder!"

#### **RELIGIOUS CALENDARS**

We have 2018 calendars featuring beautiful religious artwork available for \$5. All monies received will be donated to Catholic Missions.

#### **4YOUTH**

Did you ever wonder about the pink candle on the Advent wreath? And did you notice that Father is wearing a pink chasuble today? Well, today is the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "Gaudete" is the first word (in Latin) of the Entrance antiphon for today's Mass and it means "rejoice". The priest wears rose vestments today and we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath because we want to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. This change in color from purple to pink is meant to encourage us to continue our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Keep praying as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. (Busted Halo's Advent calendar on the Internet is still a good choice!)

#### **YOUTH CONTEST**

Youth from 12-18 years of age are invited to send ideas ( draw a picture, describe in 10 sentences or less ) for a video game "What Caring for Human Life Looks Like." All ideas are welcome!!! First prize is your choice of either \$100.00 Steam or iTunes card, second prize \$50.00 Steam or iTunes, third prize \$25.00 Steam or iTunes card. Top prize winner claims their name on opening screen of video game . Contest closes Jan. 31st 2018 and winners will be announced on Feb.28th 2018. See contest details on line at [centreforlife.ca/lifecontest](http://centreforlife.ca/lifecontest).

#### **O ANTIPHONS**

Many cultures have a special Advent observance to help prepare spiritually for the birth of the Saviour at Christmas. Many of these observances begin in the final nine days of Advent. In Catholic prayer tradition, the recitation of the O Antiphons begins on December 17 and concludes on December 23, with a different antiphon being recited each day. These antiphons are sung before and after the Magnificat, which is sung during Evening Prayer. They are called O Antiphons because each begins with the letter-word O. Each antiphon is a name or title of Christ, one of His attributes mentioned in Scripture – Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, King of Nations, God with Us.

#### **BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE**

Dear God, two thousand years ago, you brought your son, Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice. As we raise this tree, we remember his birth and the meaning of his life for us. Bless this tree as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for his sacrifice. May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts you have given us. We ask your blessings upon our loved ones, this day and always. Amen.