

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1: 1-8

Deserts and Messengers

His job is his desert. He's good at what he does, but it's become pretty routine. The travel stopped being fun years ago. Making sales calls and pitching new clients are now second nature to him - but working up enthusiasm is becoming more and more of a challenge. He makes a nice living, great benefits - but the chance of owning his own business, of being his own boss, is slipping away. His messenger is his wife, who constantly reminds him of the good life he is providing for his family, who supports him when he gets "stranded" in his desert, who keeps the possibilities of "someday" alive.

Her desert is her in-laws. They're nice enough, but she knows they think their son married beneath him. Family gatherings are hard - she feels like an outsider, that she doesn't belong. Her messenger is her husband's great aunt. Fifty years ago, Aunt Priscilla was the "outsider" who married into the family. Priscilla knows what she's going through and, at every family gathering, takes her nephew's wife under her wing, where she finds welcome and love.

Their desert is their child's illness. Like every loving mom and dad, they're ready to move heaven and earth for their child - but what? Their daughter is making progress, but it's so slow. They worry about her future, about what they're overlooking in her care, about giving in to their frustration and fear. Their messenger is a nurse at the hospital, who stays in touch with them. She's always there to answer their questions, explain the hows and whys of various treatment options, and makes sure not only that their daughter is doing OK - but that Mom and Dad are OK, too.

Throughout our lives, we find ourselves lost in places of loneliness, of anger, of hurt, of bitterness, of fear - and in these deserts, if we listen with our hearts, we hear "the voice of one crying out" hope and possibility to us. God sends a "messenger" in the guise of a loving and supportive spouse, a wise and generous family member or friend, a dedicated and compassionate care-provider who help us "make a straight path" - smoothing, strengthening, leveling the way. This Advent, may we open our hearts to hear the "voice" of the "Baptizers" whom God sends into our deserts - and may we be the voice of God's "messenger" to those wandering in their own deserts and wildernesses of hopelessness and suffering.

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
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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 7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Fri at 10:00 am
First Fridays - 2:00 pm at the Lohnes Complex

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 10, 2017
2nd Sunday of Advent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Dec. 2 & 3)

Regular Collection	1842.25
Pastoral Dues	40.00
Building Fund	130.00
Advent Folders	20.00
Votive Candles	29.00
Bingo Revenue	947.05
Sunday Missals	95.00
Word Among Us	10.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Shepherds' Fund	80.00
St. Vincent de Paul	20.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 9	Sister Josette Hutchings
Dec 10	Parish Community
Dec 11	No Mass
Dec 12	Isabelle Barry
Dec 13	Clyde Molloy
Dec 14	William & Winnifred Lynch
Dec 15	James Park
Dec 16	Dr. Dennis O'Connor Michael & Ada George
Dec 17	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
December 16	
Victoria Murphy Dennis Bruce	Art Hall Joanne Connolly Frank Lewis
December 17	
Anna House Patsy Payne	Calvin Gillis Hedy Kenney Donna Eldridge
Communion to the Sick – Eileen Moore	

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.

CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday, December 23	430pm
Sunday, December 24	11am
Christmas Eve, December 24	7pm
Christmas Day, December 25	11am
Saturday, December 30	430pm
Sunday, December 31	11am
New Years Eve, December 31	430pm
New Years Day, January 1	11am

MEMORIAL MASS

We have scheduled a Memorial Mass for **Wednesday, December 13th at 7pm.**

At this mass, we will remember in a special way those who have died in this last year. We invite families to submit names of their loved ones who have died this year, and for the families to be present at that mass for a special act of remembrance. Please call Katie at the office to make sure the names of your deceased family members are on our list. **Please note that morning mass is canceled on this day.**

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

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

Confessions will also be heard Saturday, December 23rd at 3pm.

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

There will be a number of priests available as confessors. **Please note that there will be no mass at Sacred Heart on this day.**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

We are now holding registration for the **Confirmation Program – Year 1.** Our first meeting will be held after mass on **Sunday, January 21st.** Please contact Julia Hackett-Myles at 639-2265 or for more information or to register.

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

ADVENT FOLDERS are now available at the rear of the church. Please take one.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The regular monthly meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be held on Tuesday, December 12, at 7 PM in the basement of the Cathedral. Please note the change of day and location.

K OF C FOURTH DEGREE

Bishop O' Reilly Assembly will meet on Tuesday December 12th at All Hallows Parish Centre starting at 7:45 p.m. All Sir Knights, are asked to attend.

BINGO THANK YOU'S

We would like to thank everyone involved in our December Turkey & Ham Bingo. Together we raised nearly \$950! We thank Pat Jones, Carol Reid, Rosemarie Doody, Tony Griffin, Alvina George, Kay Hynes, Eddie Joyce, Maxine Staples, Patsy Hall, Annie Griffin, Mike Leonard, Linda Cashin, Eileen Buckle, Karen Buckle, Doreen Jones, Assumpta Roche, Edmund McGrath, Shirley McGrath, Tom George, Isabelle Gillis, Teresa Dobbin, Agatha Poole, Barbara Neville, Veronica Stone, Kay Musseau, Gerry Buckle, and Joanne Connolly for their generous donations.

HUMOUR

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But officer," the man began, "I can explain." "Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chef gets back."

"But, officer, I just wanted to say,"

"And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail!"

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."

"Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

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

4YOUTH

December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, a poor Aztec Indian named Juan Diego claimed to have seen a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Miracles were performed as a sign of her identity: roses bloomed in December, Juan's dying uncle was cured, and Mary's image came to be imprinted on Juan's shawl, an image which should have disintegrated within years but which still exists today. Our Lady of Guadalupe was named Patroness of the Americas and Empress of Latin America by Pope John Paul II in 1999. Because her image on Juan's shawl shows her as the God-bearer, pregnant with her Divine Son, she was also named Protectress of the Unborn Child. Why not say a special prayer this week for an end to abortion?

SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated annually on December 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council celebrates this day of prayer, solidarity and reconciliation by issuing an annual message. The focus of this year's message is to bring awareness to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. To read this year's message and the accompanying prayer, go to www.rcchurch.com

