

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 2023.

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 2023. 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.

Jackie 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 all Brother Knights and their families festive joy, Christmas peace, and lasting love and happiness. Have a blessed, happy and prosperous New Year of 2023.

Remember to 'Keep Christ in Christmas'!

Bill O'Rielly, Grand Knight

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

BAPTISMS

Dominic William Clarence Hodder

Ethan Ambrocio

Myah Audrey Humby

Ruby Elizabeth McNiven

Logan Leo Doyon

Aiden Sam Lijo

Hazel Lottie Brake

MARRIAGES

Robert Vognrinec & Catherine Power

Terry Nicol & Heather Philpott

Andrew Drover & Kaitlin Strickland

Michael English & Tammy Cooper

Darren Diamond & DeeAnna Harbin

DEATHS

Madonna Luter

Richard Dionne

Philomena Broderick

Emma Manuel

William Bursey

Douglas Rossiter

Gerald White

Robert Penney

Robert Griffiths

John Hinchey

Kay Williams

Joan Kelly

Eileen Rossiter

Terrence Samson

Doreen Samson

Harold Hillier

Margaret Hinchey

FAMILY PRAYER

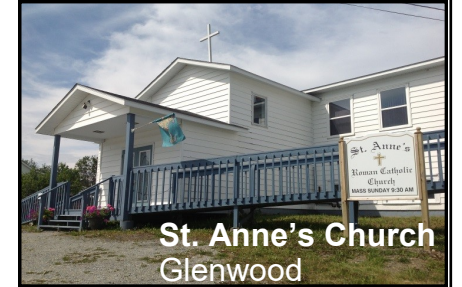
*May the mystery of God's love, made incarnate in the Child Jesus
and reflected in the home of Mary and Joseph of Nazareth,
dwell in your hearts and in your families throughout the coming year.*

Christmas 2022

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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 warm wishes of Merry Christmas to all members of St. Joseph's and St. Anne's Church. Together in faith we celebrate this joyful Christmas season, my seventh as your Pastor.

We reflect at this time upon the birth of our Saviour. He was born in a lowly stable. He was embraced by the love of his mother, Mary and her husband Joseph. The Son of God truly blessed families by being born in the flesh.

This Christmas we are more free to gather as a family of faith. There is less fear of the Corona virus due to widespread vaccination.

May this Christmas be an opportunity for us to rediscover our families as the cradle of life and love. May we rediscover also our faith family in Church as a place of acceptance, shared joy and celebration.

May the peace, joy and love of Christ our Saviour, reign in our hearts, in our families and communities during the whole of the Christmas season and throughout the New Year 2023!

**Kindest regards,
Father Hearn**

Merry Christmas Everyone!

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Christmas 2022

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Jn 1:1) And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At the celebration of Mass during the Night (Christmas Eve), the Church recommends the proclamation from either the Gospel of St. Matthew or St. Luke. These Gospels narrate the birth of Jesus and tell us 'how' Jesus came to be born. At celebrations of Mass during the Day (Christmas Day), the Church recommends the proclamation from the beginning of the Gospel of St. John. Known as the Prologue, St. John begins his Gospel telling us 'why' Jesus came to be born.

St. John reminds us that Jesus, the Word, is eternal, Divine, and is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He also reminds us that in Jesus, God became flesh and lived among us to reveal the Glory of God.

I have been reflecting lately both on 'how' Jesus lived among us and 'why' Jesus made his choice.

Think of all the possible ways that Jesus could 'live among us' and still truly become one of us: Jesus could have been born into a wealthy and powerful family. Or, he could have been born into a well-connected family. Or he could have been born into a Priestly or Rabbinic family. He could even have been born into nobility.

Rather, Jesus chose to be born into a simple, hardworking family; living in a remote, almost inaccessible village, with limited educational or career opportunities. His parents' marriage began in what many considered to be a scandal. Even the conditions of the moment of his birth speak of a life of hardship.

If this is 'how' Jesus chose to 'live among us', 'why' did he make this choice?

To answer this question, let me ask another: Did his choice of how to live among us in any way diminish his dignity as God or as a human being? Of course not!

Jesus' birth reminds us that a person's dignity is not found in their wealth or power or connections but rather our dignity comes from being children of God. And our dignity can never be diminished by any condition of life in which we find ourselves. Too often people are made to believe that if they do not live as others think they should, they forfeit their dignity and they can be excluded. The choice that Jesus made as to how to live among us condemns this thinking and practice.

Perhaps our reflection on the birth of Jesus will help each of us become more secure in the dignity we possess as children of God. Perhaps this reflection will help each of us to embrace our dignity and celebrate our lives.

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And perhaps our reflection on the birth of Jesus will help us as communities of faith to welcome all; to lovingly recognize and acknowledge the dignity of every person as gifted by virtue of being God's children. During our parish visits for our Synodal Journey, we heard over and over again that the Church needs to become more welcoming. We heard heart-breaking stories of how people feel excluded from the church because of the pastoral bias of some clergy or laity. We heard stories of couples being refused marriage because they are living together, of children being refused baptism because their parents are unmarried. We heard of the needs of poor people being ignored because of their poverty. We heard the disconnect between the Church and the LGBTQ community and of LGBTQ individuals being isolated because of their sexual orientation. But most of all, we heard a deep hope that our Church will become more lovingly welcoming of everyone as children of God.

As we kneel before the manger scene and reflect on the birth of Jesus may we rejoice that we share with Him the dignity of the children of God and ask for the grace to embrace the dignity of all we meet. Let us pray that in continuing the Synodal journey, individuals and the church herself, may become more aware of the dignity of every person created in the image and likeness of God shown by the birth of Jesus.

Let us pray for the courage to live out that belief.

Merry Christmas,

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels
Bishop of Grand Falls



St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council

Dear Parishioners and Families:

At this holy time of the year, as we celebrate the Birth of Christ, on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, thank you to parishioners for their financial contributions to the parish and to all those who continue to do ministry work during this pandemic time. We wish all families of the Parish a Holy and Happy Christmas filled with joy and love. May the New Year 2023 bring peace, happiness and good health to all!

Chair & Knights of Columbus Representative: Bill O'Rielly

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

Member - Kay MacArthur

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