

**"Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father . . . "**

Luke 1: 26-38

### **Welcoming the "holy" family**

In his book **Once Upon a Time in Africa**, Maryknoll Father Joseph Healey recounts a true story of a young couple expecting their first child.

Late on December 24, the young mother-to-be sensed something was wrong. The couple was alone: all their neighbors were away or busy with preparing for the great Christmas feast; some were involved in campaigning for the general election that was just a few weeks away. The couple went to the nearest maternity hospital, but there was no one to attend to her because the doctors and nurses were on strike and the watchman wanted a bribe before he would let them in.

On the way home, they met a homeless family who were living on the streets. They immediately recognized what was wrong and made a comfortable place for the expectant mother to lie down. Then they helped with her delivery. She gave birth to a healthy baby boy whom they named Samuel. Street children gave the newborn baby simple gifts, including their only toys: glue and a ripped ball. The couple made their way home, deeply grateful for the help offered by this homeless family.

Could Mary and Joseph and the Child Jesus have been better cared for?

**Remember this story today as you busy yourself with the final preparations for tomorrow - and keep in mind that those you welcome, those you share the holiday with, are Christ, and that the love of God is in your midst. Welcome them as you would welcome the Holy Family; offer them not only the hospitality of your table and hearth but welcome them with the compassion and peace of the heart that makes the simplest gift and fare celebrations of the love of God in our midst.**

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 7:00 pm 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 24, 2017**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS** (Dec. 16 & 17)

Regular Collection	1634.65
Building Fund	30.00
Advent Folders	80.00
Votive Candles	90.85
Sunday Missals	30.00
Mass Stipends	140.00
Needs of the Cdn. Church	5.00
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Calendar Sales	85.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Dec 23	Dennis Murphy Sr. Mary Russell The Gillis & Keough Family Jerome & Elsie Beales
Dec 24	Parish Community
Dec 25	Parish Community
Dec 26	Florance & Carmelita Greene
Dec 27	James Park
Dec 28	Edward & Anne Barry
Dec 29	William & Dorothy Barnes
Dec 30	Sister Josette Hutchings
Dec 31	Parish Community

**CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

<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>

**OFFICE CLOSURE**

The parish office will be closed from Friday, December 22 to Monday, January 1st. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd. Katie at the office wishes you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!! 😊

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
<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>	
<b>December 30</b>	
John Carroll Art Hall	Joanne Connolly Eileen Moore Joe Byrne
<b>December 31 – 11am</b>	
Debbie Allen Calvin Gillis	Amelia Dicks Wayne Dicks Don Gallant
<b>New Year's Eve, December 31 – 4:30pm</b>	
Basil English Janet Jackson	Art Hall John Carroll Eileen Moore
<b>New Year's Day, January 1 – 11am</b>	
Calvin Gillis Sherry Lynn Brake	Eileen Moore Gerard Brake Joan Penney
<b>Communion to the Sick – Gerard Brake</b>	

**WINTER WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

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

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

– as I write this note on Friday, December 22nd, I am overwhelmed to think that today the daylight will last 4 seconds longer than yesterday! That's right; even as we enter the depths of winter we already have the promise of spring – that promise that the days ahead will be better and better. It is our Christian faith that no matter how good or bad past days have been, better days are ahead. It is our faith that proclaims even in darkness light shines. Christmas is about the triumph of light. Jesus, the light, brings the promise of peace to the world. Jesus brings light to us. Christmas is about birth. It is about the birth of Jesus and about the birth of light in us. That is the faith that sustains us. That is the faith that sustains me and I pray it sustains you. May your days be bright, filled with joy and bring you peace. Merry Christmas to you and to your families.

**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

In his annual Christmas message, Bishop Hundt reminds parishioners that "Christmas is an excellent opportunity for us to consider our "riches", thank God for them and ask God to help us to know how to share these riches with those who have less" and he extends "best wishes for God's blessings upon you and your families during this upcoming Christmas season and always". To read the Bishop's complete message, go to [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)

**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.

**HUMOUR**

T'was the night before Christmas  
and all through the house,  
not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung  
by the chimney with care,  
they'd been worn all week and needed the air.

**RELIGIOUS CALENDARS**

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

**4YOUTH**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life". (Jn 3:16) As we recall and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ on that Christmas Day, may we find love, joy and peace in our hearts and in our lives. We here at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written to be a kind of secret catechism at a time when Catholicism was outlawed. Each verse refers to a teaching of church doctrine — with Christ being the partridge and the "True Love" being God the Father, who gave us all gifts. The twelve days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day, December 25th and end at Epiphany, January 6th.

- Partridge in a pear tree: Jesus.
- Two turtledoves: the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens: faith, hope and love.
- Four calling birds: the four Gospels.
- Five gold rings: the first five books of the Old Testament.
- Six geese a-laying: the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Eight maids a-milking: the eight Beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing: the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Ten lords a-leaping: the Ten Commandments.
- Eleven pipers piping: the eleven faithful Apostles.
- Twelve drummers drumming: the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.