

**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 2024.

**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 2024. 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 all Brother Knights and their families festive joy, Christmas peace, and lasting love and happiness. Have a blessed, happy and prosperous New Year of 2024.

**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**

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Adeline Shirley Frances Hodder | Wilder Sol Cook              |
| Weston Wilfred Stoyles         | Neveah Julia Theresa O'Keefe |
| Drew Raymond Hodder            | Henry Michael Eugene Walsh   |

Lila Victoria Kelly

**No MARRIAGES in 2023**

**DEATHS**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Marjorie Lane     | Dennis Hynes        |
| Reuben Hillier    | Nicholas Broderick  |
| Angela Quinlan    | Patrick Kane        |
| Ivan John         | Carol Ann Nichols   |
| Gregory Kelly     | Robert McNiven      |
| Mary Lambert      | Kevin Quinlan       |
| Barbara Walbourne | Elizabeth Lacharite |
| Daisy Ford        | Bernadette Maloney  |
| Ian Broderick     | Mary Quinton        |
| Annik Wheeler     | John Ezechiel       |
| William O'Rielly  | John Ducey          |
| James Dwyer       | Rosemary Loewen     |

Nancy Briffett

**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 2023**



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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 eighth 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 Christmas be an opportunity for us to rediscover our 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 the Christmas season and the New Year 2024!

**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 – 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you know, the Celebration of Christmas is too great a feast to be limited to a single day. Instead, in the tradition of the Church, the Celebration of Christmas is an Octave – eight days of celebration. On the fourth day of the Octave, we honour the Holy Innocents whose lives were taken by the ruthless and evil King Herod.

Scripture scholars debate the historical accuracy of the account of the slaughter in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 2:13-18). However, we do know that King Herod was capable of such evil, after all, he killed one wife and three sons because he thought they were plotting to overthrow him and take his throne. Could he not have unleashed similar evil when he heard from the Magi that a child was born in Bethlehem who was destined to be the ‘King of the Jews’?



It may seem strange to us that this horrific event is remembered by the Church in the midst of our celebration of the Birth of Jesus. The two events seem completely at odds with each other – and they are. Could that be the point? Is it possible that we are being asked to consider that the birth of one sacred child can remind us that every life is sacred?

All of this has come to my mind this Christmas because we seem to be surrounded daily by slaughter of innocent people around the world. In the war in Ukraine and the war in the Holy Land we are witnessing children, women and the elderly killed every day. People who are fleeing persecution are being killed while seeking refuge in safe countries. Unborn children are dying because they are unplanned and unwanted. Lives are being ended out of fear for the painfulness and difficulties of the future. Homelessness, starvation, children living in poverty; all these evils lead to the deaths of innocent people.

The slaughter of the Holy Innocents is shocking and horrific proof that the people living at the time of Mary, Joseph and Jesus needed a saviour. Jesus came to bring new and eternal life to those killed by Herod. Jesus also came to teach people to value and protect all life. Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus demonstrated by his words and action his deep and unwavering love for everyone – especially the poor, outcast, and those living on the fringes.

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What we are seeing in our world and in our communities reminds us that we too need a Saviour. Our celebration of the birth of Jesus is not about a nostalgic look at the past. Our celebration of Christmas must be about representing the teachings and actions of Jesus here and now – especially about the sacredness of all life.

We can make a difference. We do have a role to play in promoting the sacredness of life and standing up for the lives of the most innocent and vulnerable among us.

This Christmas we remember that, of all the gifts we have received throughout our lives, the greatest gift is the Birth of Jesus. Can we find ways to give the gift of life?

Merry Christmas,

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels  
Bishop of Grand Falls

### *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 2024 bring peace, happiness and good health 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*

*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***