

**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 2026.

**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 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Jeanne Dillon, Chair**

**Knights of Columbus - McCormack Council**

**To Brother Knights, Families & Parishioners**

Merry Christmas! May God's blessings be with you and your family and the light of Christ guide you and fill your home with peace.

**Alex Bracci, Grand Knight**

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

BAPTISMS	
Richard Hiltz	Lucas Earlan Magolona
Jack Anthony Samuelson	Charlie Lily Kay Samuelson
Jane Flora Warren	Garret Bailey
Shawna Chenier-Bailey	Evert Lynden Bailey
Noah Uriel Oliva	Alex Drei Cabinalon
Kai James McNiven-Winter	Bobbi Maree McNiven-Winter
DEATHS	
Ethel Kelly	Sandra Peyton
Margaret Penton	Mercedes Wall
Alfreda Barker	Archibald Stanford
Gordon Hogan	Stephen Hickey
Anne Hickey	Zeta (Sis) Purchase
Mary Elizabeth Dooley	Theresa Shaw
Lynn Jeddore	Angela Russell
Geraldine Primm	Stephanie Kelly
Stephen Kelly	Florence Freake
Maurice Kennedy	Madonna Ryan

**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 2025**



St. Joseph's Church  
Gander

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St. Anne's Church  
Glenwood

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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 my annual warm wishes of a Merry Christmas to all members of St. Joseph's and St. Anne's Church. Together in faith we celebrate this joyful Christmas season, my tenth year 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 vulnerable manner.

St. Theresa reflected "a God who became so small could only be mercy and love".

May this holy season be an opportunity for us to rediscover our own 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 these Holy Days and the approaching New Year 2026!

**kindest regards,  
Father Hearn**

**Merry Christmas to you!  
Happy New Year too!**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

Christmas 2025

*Silent Night, Holy Night  
All is calm, all is bright*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The lyrics to the well-known Hymn “Silent Night” were written by a young priest by the name of Joseph Mohr in 1816. The musical accompaniment was written by his parish Choir Director Franz Gruber. This hymn was first performed by Mohr and Gruber after midnight Mass, December 25, 1818.

In 1914 soldiers were having to spend Christmas Eve night on the battlefields of France during World War I. After only four months of fighting, more than a million men had already perished in the bloody conflict. On December 24, 1914, in the middle of a freezing battlefield in France, a miracle happened. Glowing trees appeared along the length of the German front. Henry Williamson, a young soldier with the London Regiment wrote in his diary: “From the German parapet, a rich baritone voice had begun to sing a song I remembered my German nurse singing to me.

*Silent Night Holy Night  
All is calm All is quiet”*

“They finished their carol and we thought that we ought to reply,” another British soldier wrote, “So we sang “The First Noël” and when we finished, they all began clapping. And they struck up “O Tannebaum” and on it went... until we started up “O Come All Ye Faithful” [and] the Germans immediately joined in .... this was really a most extraordinary thing — two nations both singing the same carol in the middle of a war.” It is recorded that enemy soldiers greeted each other in the no man’s land that was a killing zone the day before. The soldiers wished each other Merry Christmas and agreed not to fire their rifles on Christmas Day. The spontaneous cease-fire eventually embraced much of a 500-mile stretch of the Western Front.

But the miracle of peace was temporary. Slowly, under threats from their officers, the troops returned to the trenches and the recoils of rifles split the temporary “Silent Night.” Some soldiers admitted aiming so their bullets flew well above the heads of the “enemy.”

As I reflect on this story, I cannot help but think of our world today. So many people endure the horrors of war—in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Central Africa, and beyond. Innocent children and the elderly suffer. Families are torn apart, and the most vulnerable bear the heaviest burdens. The need for peace is as urgent now as it was in 1914.

We need a miracle of a “Silent Night”.

In 1914, on that battlefield in France, peace, however temporary, overcame war. It came spontaneously and unnegotiated. It came in song. It came because songs touched hearts. Peace came because of the One about whom the songs were sung – Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace.

This Christmas, let us do more than remember. Let us turn our hymns and carols into heartfelt prayers for peace. May our songs not be mere echoes of nostalgia, but fervent petitions for healing and reconciliation in our world.

Let us pray: “Silent night, Holy night” Amen.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and always.

In Christ

**Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels**  
**Bishop of Grand Falls**

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***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 2026 bring peace, happiness and blessings 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  
Members - Kay MacArthur & Bill Dumais*

***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***