

CHRISTMAS SEASON: The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. “Next to the yearly celebration (at Easter) of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ’s birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season” (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year*, 32). In the Roman Catholic tradition, the Christmas Season begins with the first Mass of Christmas and concludes with the last Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

DECEMBER 25 - SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:

Today we begin the Christmas season which celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. The word *Christmas* literally means *Christ’s Mass or the Mass of Christ*. Historically, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus of Nazareth to Mary, a young maiden from Galilee. Theologically, Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation of God in Jesus the Christ – the self-revelation of God to the world in human form for the reconciliation of humanity to God. Liturgically, the Christmas season begins with “Mass During the Night” on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus. **This day is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

DECEMBER 26 - FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR:

Stephen is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem at the very dawn of the Christian Church. He is also the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.

DECEMBER 27 - FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST:

Also known as John the Divine, the apostle John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. John was a fisherman, was very close to Jesus, and is the “beloved disciple” referred to in the Gospels. He was present at the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and the Agony in the Garden. He is remembered for the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation, and the three Epistles which bear his name. John is believed to have died at Ephesus in extreme old age. In Christian iconography, his symbol is the eagle.

DECEMBER 28 - FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS:

This feast commemorates the ‘Holy Infants’, the male children recorded slain by King Herod in Saint Matthew’s Gospel. This incident, along with the account of the flight into Egypt, presents the ancient tradition of the early Church: Jesus as the ‘new Israel’, persecuted and forced to flee, and the ‘new Moses’, marvellously rescued from the slaughter of the Hebrew children. This feast also points to Jesus as the Messiah and foreshadows the secular opposition which Jesus will later meet, culminating in his Passion.



ST. IGNATIUS PARISH

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH-ST. ALBAN'S ST. ANNE'S CHURCH- CONNE RIVER

Pastor: Father Tom **Administrative Assistant:** Doug Lambert

P. O. Box 38, St. Alban's, NL A0H 2E0

Parish House and Office: Phone (709)538-3106: Priest (709)674-1503

Email: st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca Website: www.stignatiusparish.net

Office hours: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In today’s Gospel, we hear the wonderful words spoken by the Angel Gabriel to Mary, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” Mary, learning that she is to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of the Most High, is much perplexed by this message. However, she puts aside her uncertainties associated with the future, into which she is being invited, and gives her wholehearted consent, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” As we draw closer to the birth of the Son of God into our midst, we can be thankful to Mary for her complete openness to God’s will in her life and pray that we will have that same openness of spirit in responding to God’s voice, realizing that we too are called to give birth to Christ in today’s world amidst the circumstances of our daily lives.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Liturgy: Sat-Dec. 23 Sun-Dec. 24 and Mon-Dec.25

St.Alban’s-Saturday-7:00p.m.St.IgnatiusChurch-Donald.Snook

St.Alban’s-Sunday-**8:00 p.m.**St.IgnatiusChurch—*Parish Family*

Conne River-Sunday-**6:00 p.m.** St. Anne’s Church- *Parish Family*

St.Alban’s Monday-**10:30 a.m.** St.Ignatius Church- *Parish Family*

Daily Masses Mon December 25 – Fri December 29

Mon -**10:30 a.m. St. Ignatius Church**-----*Parish Family*

Tues -11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Walene Benoit

Wed -11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel—Margaret & Larry Hudson and Genevieve
Smith

Thur-11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Everest Barnes

Fri ---11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Frances Kealey

Weekend Liturgy: Sat-Dec. 30 Sun-Dec. 31 and Mon Jan.1

St.Alban’s-Saturday-7:00p.m.St.IgnatiusChurch—James.Lambert

St.Alban’s-Sunday-3:00p.m.St.IgnatiusChurch-----*Parish Family*

Conne River-Sunday- **No Mass-(Next Service on Jan.7, 2024-Ricky John)**

St.Alban’s Monday-10:30 a.m. Parish Chapel- *Parish Family*

MINISTRIES' SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND MASSES

DATE	Sacristan	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Collectors
Dec. 23 7:00 p.m.	Edith O	Ann B	Father Tom Edith O	Finton O Gerard S
Dec. 24 8:00 p.m.	Edith O	Mitchel W Matthew W	Father Tom Genevieve T	William M Ivan O
Dec. 25 10:30 a.m.	Mary S	Cindy B	Father Tom Mary S	Anthony W George D
Dec. 30 7:00 p.m.	Patsy M	Pat P	Father Tom Margaret H	Kevin O
Dec. 31 3:00 p.m.	Mary S	Mitchel W Matthew W	Father Tom Mary S	Anthony W George D

Weekly Parish Income

St. Ignatius Church	\$742.00
St. Anne's	112.00
Donations (IMO Everest Barnes)	500.00
Donations (IMO Cecil & Johnny Organ)	500.00
Donations (IMO Edmund, Darrell, & Edmund Collier Jr.)	200.00
Mass Stipend	57.00
Christmas Flowers	365.00
Funeral Stipend	200.00

Thank You: St. Ignatius Parish would like to extend its thanks to Melita Barnes for her generous donation in memory of Everest Barnes.

Thank You: St. Ignatius Parish would like to extend its thanks to Mary Organ for her generous donation in memory of Cecil & Johnny Organ.

Thank You: St. Ignatius Parish would like to extend its thanks to Rose Collier & Geneva Kearley for their generous donation in memory of Edmund Sr., Darrell, & Edmund Collier Jr..

Thank you for your continued support to the parish.

WELCOME TO ST. IGNATIUS PARISH: ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH AND ST. ANNE'S CHURCH:

We are happy to have you here in our parish. It is our hope that you experience the presence of Christ during our worship.

"Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them" Matt 18:20

Home Visits and Holy Communion

If you or someone you know who would like to receive Holy Communion in their home, you are asked to please inform Father Tom at 709-674-1503 or call the Parish office at 709-538-3106 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Body of Christ is often such an important part of people's lives, so when they are sick or unable to attend Mass, I would greatly bring them Holy Communion....Father Tom Duffenais

Bay D'Espoir Community Food Bank

Location: St Alban's Community Centre

Hours of Operation: Tuesday & Friday 10:00 am-12:00 pm (by appointment only)

For more information please contact: The Bay D'Espoir Community Food Bank now has its own telephone #: **(709) 538-7936**. Messages can be left on an answering service. Please leave your name and telephone number and someone will return your call during the hours of operation. Thank you. Please feel free to drop off donated food items at the back of the Church in the labelled Food Bank Box. Some items that are in need include teabags, coffee, and canned vegetables. Thank you for your continued support.

2024 Parish Envelopes By now, you should have picked up your 2024 envelope box . Remaining named boxes are on the table at the back of the church. If there is no box with your name, feel free to take one of the blank boxes. If you do, don't forget to record your name opposite the box number you took. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2024.

Condolences: The parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish and St. Anne's Church extend to the family of the late Paula Collier of St. Alban's their profound sympathies. We join you in prayer for the repose of your loved one. May God bless you and console you.

Christmas Flowers have been donated in Loving Memory of:

In memory of Jim Howse, Mary Collier, Clara Caines, and deceased family members from Helen Howse
In memory of deceased members of the Hull & Collier families from Mary Collier (Anthony)
In memory of Eric, Nathan, sisters Martha & Audrey and family from Mary Blake Collier
In memory of Howard & Agnes Barnes and Luke & Mary Farrell from Bernadette & Isadore
In memory of Joseph Willcott from Betty & family
In memory of George & Theresa Collier from their children
In memory of Robert, Irene, & Pauline Snook from Joan Hanson
In memory of Wallace & Sara Willcott from George, Wayne & family
In memory of Rosalie Stokes from Kevin & Jean Organ
In memory of Nicodemus, Beatrice, & Dulcie McDonald from Callistus & Brittany McDonald
In memory of deceased members of the Hoskins family from Michael Hoskins
In memory of deceased members of the Willcott & Collier families from Paul & Matilda
In loving memory of Donald Snook from wife Marie & family
In memory of deceased members of the Collier & Davis families from Audrey & Bill Davis
In memory of Barry Cox, Margaret, Leonard, & Benny Long, and Mike & Donna Wheeler from Margaret Wheeler
In memory of Margaret, Leonard, & Benny long from the Long family
In memory of the Cox & Farrell families from Robert & Margaret Farrell
In memory of deceased members of the Organ & Croft families from Finton & Edith Organ
In memory of Wallace & Sara Willcott from Rose, Elizabeth, Wayne, and Sandra
In memory of the Davis, Pelley, and Organ families from George & Brenda Pelley-Davis

Christmas Flowers have been donated in Loving Memory of:

In memory of deceased members of the Organ & Collier families and the Farrell & Barnes families from Jenny Collier
In memory of deceased members of the Hull & Howse families from Theresa Howse
In loving memory of Norman West, John R. & Nora Howse, Jacob, John, Bern, Blaise, and Charmaine Howse, Tom & Lori Gardiner, Evelyn & Reg Organ, and Randy Cranford from Don, Nora, & Christopher Howse
In memory of Raymond Barnes, Norman & Madonna Hull, and John Hull from Phyllis
In memory of Marie & Alfred Collier and Sam & Genevieve Blake from Bill & Mildred
In memory of Clarence & Roxanne Collier from Julia Collier
In memory of Owen & Allan Collier and Aloysius & Cecilia Barnes from Matilda
In memory of Rita Sutton and Norma Sutton Rotchford from Sadie Sutton
In memory of deceased members of the Murphy and Davis families from Elizabeth Murphy
In loving memory of Kathleen & Dennis Collier, Kathy & Chesley Snook, Donald Snook, and Eileen & Bill Hartery from Jennifer, Lenora, & Frances
In memory of Margaret & Leonard Long and Agnes & Fred Collier from Leonard & Bernice Long
In memory of Benny Long from wife Frances Long
In loving memory of Joclyn Crant from Bert Willcott
In memory of John, Winnifred & Joe Willcott, Mary French, and Robert & Irene Snook
In memory of deceased members of the Strickland & Collier families from Bert & Mary Strickland
In memory of Albert Morris from Anne & Helena
In memory of deceased members of the Harding & Organ families from Roy & Theresa Harding
In memory of Edith & Tom Collier, Eugene & Genny Nugent, and Mary & Hugh Nugent from Ellen & Dave Nugent

Holiday Liturgical Schedule:

Christmas Eve Mass: Sunday December 24th

St. Anne's Church Conne River 6:00 p.m.

St. Ignatius Church St. Alban's 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass: Monday December 25th

St. Ignatius Church 10:30 a.m.

Saturday December 30th:

St. Ignatius Church 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Mass: Sunday December 31st

St. Ignatius Church 3:00 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass: Monday January 1st

Parish Chapel 10:30 a.m.

Note: There will be no Mass at St. Ignatius Church on **Sunday morning, December 31st at 10:30 a.m.** Mass will be celebrated instead at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31.** Also there will be no Mass in Conne River on **Sunday, December 31st.**

2024 Initial Envelope The first envelope in your box is labeled **INITIAL OFFERING.** This envelope has two purposes: 1) the proceeds are meant to help cover the parish cost currently about \$5 per box of envelopes and 2) by putting your name on this envelope, it allows us to check the accuracy of our parish records by comparing this name with the name on file. **If you DO NOT use the initial envelope, then please put your name on the first 2024 envelope that you DO USE.** Thank you.

St. Ignatius Team Survivor Knockout:

Congratulations to the winning team of the St. Ignatius Survivor Team Knockout Challenge. Team members Malcolm Cox, Steven Cox, Robert Hoskins, Wayne Murray, and Damian Collier shared a winning prize of \$3700.00 (\$740.00 each). Thank you to all who participated and supported this fundraiser.

St. Alban's Clover Farm Christmas Fundraiser: Congratulations to Mildred McDonald - winner of the \$500 1st prize, Jeff Collier - winner of the \$300 2nd prize, and Jerome Power - winner of the \$200 3rd prize. St. Ignatius Parish would like to thank St. Alban's Clover Farm for conducting this fundraiser and for their donation of the second prize. Thank you to all for your support of the Parish.

Christmas Message

SOFTLY, EVER SO GENTLY HE COMES. MAY HIS SILENT COMING TOUCH YOU WITH LOVE, ENFOLD YOU IN PEACE AND FILL YOU WITH HOPE.

May your **Christmas** be filled with the true miracles and meaning of this Merry time. May the joy and peace of **Christmas** be with you all through the New Year. Wishing you a season of blessings from heaven above. May your world be filled with warmth and good cheer this Holy season, we wish you a joy-filled **Christmas**.

Merry Christmas to all and May God Bless You