

**ADVENT SEASON:** “The season of Advent has a twofold nature: it is a time to prepare for Christmas, when we recall Christ’s First Coming among us, and it is a time when we look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of the ages. In this way, Advent is a period of devout and joyful expectation” (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year*, 39). During Advent, each Sunday’s Gospel has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the Apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.

**December 4 - Memorial of Saint John Damascene, Priest, Doctor:** Born in Damascus about 675, John became a monk and later a Priest near Bethlehem. The last of the Greek Fathers of the Church, John was a renowned scholar. One of his best-known works, *The Fountain of Wisdom*, had a great influence on later theology. John also wrote hymns and homilies in honour of the Blessed Virgin. He died about 750 and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1890.

**December 6 - Memorial of Saint Nicholas, Bishop:** In the early fourth century Nicholas was made Bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). He was famous for his charity and was so popular that he was chosen joint patron of Russia with Saint Andrew; he is also a patron of sailors and children. In many parts of the world, he still plays a role as Santa Claus.

**DECEMBER 7 - MEMORIAL OF SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR:** Ambrose was a catechumen who was later baptized and ordained, becoming Bishop of Milan. He became a remarkable preacher and teacher of the faith. His most famous student was Augustine of Hippo, whom he baptized. His literary works have been acclaimed as masterpieces of Latin eloquence, and his musical accomplishments are remembered in his hymns. In 1298, Ambrose was declared one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church (with Jerome, Augustine and Gregory I).

**DECEMBER 8 - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith. This dogma states that the Blessed Virgin Mary “in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin”. On this day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we celebrate our Diocesan Feast.



## ST. IGNATIUS PARISH

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

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

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

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This is the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the new liturgical year (Year B). There are three aspects of anticipation to Jesus' coming in the Advent season: the celebration of his birth some 2000 years ago (past), receiving Jesus in our lives today (present), and his coming again at the end of time (future). Today's readings emphasize the third aspect when Jesus comes again in glory. In the Gospel, Jesus says, "Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." Let us take time during this Advent season to examine our lives to prepare for that final day when we will meet God face to face.

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

#### **Weekend Liturgy: Sat-December 2 and Sun-December 3**

St.Alban's-Saturday-7:00p.m.St.IgnatiusChurch- Betty Hoskins & Theresa Pittman

St.Alban's-Sunday-10:30a.m.St.IgnatiusChurch—*ParishFamily*  
Conne River-Sunday-2:00 p.m. St. Anne's Church- Agnes Benoit

#### **Daily Masses Mon December 4 – Fri December 8**

Mon -11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Aloysius, Margaret, & Ally Collier  
Tues -11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Genevieve Farrell  
Wed -11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----John Long  
Thur-11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Charmaine Howse .  
Fri ---11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----No Mass

#### **Weekend Liturgy: Sat-December 9 and Sun-December 10**

St.Alban's-Saturday-7:00p.m.St.IgnatiusChurch—Deceased members of the Knights.of.Columbus

St.Alban's-Sunday-10:30a.m.St.IgnatiusChurch-----*ParishFamily*  
Conne River-Sunday-2:00 p.m. St. Anne's Church—George Melvin Drew

## MINISTRIES' SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND MASSES

Date	Sacristan	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Collectors
Dec 2	Mary S	Ann B	Father Tom Margaret H	Kevin O Monica K
Dec 3	Mary S	Valerie H	Father Tom Mary S	Anthony W George D
Dec. 9	Monica K	Pat P	Father Tom Christine H	Finton O Gerard S
Dec. 10	Monica K	Cindy B	Father Tom Valerie H	William M Ivan O

### Weekly Parish Income

St. Ignatius Church	\$788.00
St. Anne's	176.00
Mass Stipend	28.00
Funeral Stipend	200.00
Donations	140.00
50/50 Fundraiser (November 28, 2023)	3315.00

**Congratulations** to Wayne Willcott, winner of the November 2023 50/50 Fundraiser. (\$1657.50)

**Thank you for your continued support to the parish.**

### Knights of Columbus

On Saturday, December 9<sup>h</sup> at 7:00 p.m., the Knights of Columbus will have a special Mass for all their deceased members. The Church Christmas tree lighting will take place at this service.

**2024 Parish Envelopes** will be available during the next few weeks for anyone who contributed to the parish using 2023 Envelopes. Please make sure that the box you take has your name on it. If you did not use envelopes during 2023 but would like a box for 2024, extra unlabelled boxes will be available in December. If you take an unnamed box, please print your name on the recording sheet opposite the box number you take. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE NEW ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY, 2024.

### Advent Folders

Advent Folders are now available on the table located near the main entrance.

## 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*



**Note:** Requests must come from the recipients. Please leave your name and phone number. Your call will be returned.

**Christmas Flowers:** You are invited to make a donation for Christmas Poinsettias that will be used on our Altar this Christmas. The donation will act as a reminder to all of us of those who have gone home to the Eternal Lord as well as those who are unable to be with us this Christmas. The names of your loved ones will be printed in the Bulletin. Please use an envelope with your name, envelope number and the name of your loved ones with your donation inside and place in the collection basket or drop off at parish office.

**Condolences:** The parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish and St. Anne's Church extend to the family of the late Earl Willmott 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.

**Visitations In Central NL:** Fr. Patrick will be in Grand Falls-Windsor from Monday, August 14 until Friday, August 18. If anyone from the Bay D'Espoir area has a family member or someone they know residing in a retirement complex or healthcare facility and would like a visit from Fr. Patrick, please call the Parish office at (709)-538-3106 on Monday or Tuesday, August 14 and August 15 to arrange a visitation. Please leave a message and your call will be returned. The required information will be the person's name, residing address, a preferred time for the visit, and telephone number if applicable. Visitations can be arranged for facilities located in Grand Falls-Windsor, Bishops Falls, and Botwood.

**SOWING THE SEEDS**