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| ***Worship Calendar***  Sunday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**  11:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist**  4:00 p.m. **Blessing of the Creche & Holy Eucharist** (Ukulele Ministry)  7:00 p.m. **Holy Eucharist**  Sunday, December 31, **Sunday after Christmas**  10:30 a.m. **Christmas Lessons & Carols**  Sunday, January 7, **The Epiphany of the Lord**  10:30 a.m. **Family Eucharist**  Followed by a Cup O’Tea in the Parish Hall  7:00 p.m**. Evening Prayer** – Admiral’s Coast Retirement Home |

**A Note from the Treasurer:** Please ensure your **NAME & ENVELOPE NUMBER** are on

all financial **correspondence** so that we can credit your account for income tax purposes.

**Regular Parish Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Parish E-mail List** – We have begun e-mailing the Sunday Bulletin on the previous Thursday and will be sending other information of Parish Life from time to time. If you would like to add your name to this Parish List, please call the Office or email us at [**sjtetopsail@nfld.net**](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net)

***Service Roster:*** Sidespersons Sound Room

December 24th Gail T. Robert D.

December 31st John C. Philip G.

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| Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel Rose  Diocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene Taylor  Rector: The Reverend Canon Josiah “Jotie” Noel, T.S.S.F. (Third Order, Society of St. Francis)  Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa Cox  Organists/Choir Director: Stephanie Gavell, Amanda Dawe-Ledwell  Parish Wardens: Rex Hillier & Leanne Squire  Office Administrator: David Kelland |

**Parish of St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

**December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**[](file:///C:\url%3furl=https:\101clipart.com\clipart-3-advent\&rct=j&frm=1&q=&esrc=s&sa=U&ved=0ahUKEwj5qpbflYfYAhVG8IMKHXLjB5Q4FBDBbggmMAg&usg=AOvVaw1MQWqSMrvoh1butERp5wlV)**

[www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com](http://www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com)

Facebook: SJTE Topsail

Office email: [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net)

Office phone number: (709) 834-2336

Rector Email: [jotienoel@gmail.com](mailto:jotienoel@gmail.com)

Cell: (709) 325-2366

***Our Parish Mission Statement***

***We believe in nurturing a community of faith dedicated to inclusion, support and sharing the story of God's love with all people regardless of the stage of their spiritual journey***

*“They said to him (John), “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” (John 1: 19-220*

John is identified as a witness by descriptions of what he is not. John isn’t the light; he can only bear witness to the light. In verses 19-28 John answers the question of “Who are you?” with “I am not the Messiah, I am not Elijah.”

John says of the Christ, “he must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). John is a witness (martyría—1:7) who testifies (martyréo—1:7, 19) to the good news of Jesus Christ. These words are used more than forty-five times in John’s Gospel. The Christ comes, but not alone. Witnesses are needed, witnesses like John, witnesses like John’s gospel.

In a sense, John makes clear that he is of no special significance in himself but only in his relationship with Jesus. Throughout the gospel of John, on certain momentous occasions, Jesus will forthrightly declare, “I AM.” John straightforwardly says, “I am not.” Neither Messiah nor Elijah nor the source of light coming into the world, John identifies himself on the basis of how he identifies Jesus.

John points away from himself toward the one who comes. His sermon is short: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” We are told, in the opening of this gospel that the Word will be “The light [that] shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.”

This world is not left to its own gathering darkness, for a light shines. John points toward the light coming into the world. What do we need to do, in this time of Advent, to prepare for the coming of Christ? All we need to do, according to John the Voice, the witness, is to look for the light streaming in among us.

Can we give testimony that having received the light, through witnesses like John, we are sent out as witnesses to share the light? We are led to Emmanuel by the thoroughly human witness John. Might we see ourselves as thoroughly human witnesses through whom the Light of the World shines? That could be our proclamation for this Sunday as we stand upon the threshold of the Feast of the Incarnation, Christmas. Canon Jotie, T.S.S.F.

God of light,

who sent the Baptist to offer hope

and to face the world’s scorn:

open our ears to hear the cries from the margins,

exposing our fears, sharpening our vision and calling us to faith;

through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

(Prayers for an Inclusive Church)

**We invite prayers for those who are sick -** Patricia B., Elaine M., Benjamin C., Doug T., Tammy H., Jeanette P., Wally H., Trudy T.

**Set Sail - Life on Board** - A Bible Study Series based on suggested Lessons for Season of Creation 2023, “Let Peace and Justice Flow Down like a River,” will take place on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** - Matthew 18; 21-35 (Forgive is our Debts)

**Christmas Memorials -** The Parish office is now accepting Christmas Memorials. Because of the busyness of the office during the Advent and Christmas Season, **any memorials received after Tuesday, DECEMBER 19th at 1:00 p.m. will be published in the January weekly bulletin.**

**Parish Home Visits** – The dynamic of the times still provides many issues for clergy home visit ministry. As we continue to emerge out of the pandemic and still live with it, Canon Jotie is ready, willing, and able to visit you in your home. Under the circumstances, this offer comes with the understanding that he will respond to invitations. Please call him to invite him to visit your home if you wish for conversation, prayers, or Home Communion.

**2024 Envelopes -** If you need a new box of envelopes for 2024, please contact the parish office by email [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net) or call 834-2336. We also have the option of Pre-Authorized payment or e-transfer. To learn more about these options please call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Christmas Hours

In keeping with the Diocesan Synod Office Christmas hours, The Parish Office will be **closed** from **Thursday, December 21st to Thursday, December 28th**

We will open on **Friday, December 29th**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for year- end counting and deposit

The office will be **closed** from **Friday,** **December 29th 2023 to Monday, January 1st 2024**

Regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) will resume on **Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024**

A locked mail drop box is available at the office entrance for your convenience.

If you have an emergency during the Christmas season, please contact: Reverend Jotie @ 709 325-2366