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| ***Worship Calendar***  **Sunday, December 1, First Sunday in Advent, 10:30 a.m.** (Blue) **Family Prayers**, followed by a Cup O’ Tea In the Parish Hall (AG Team 2)  The Jesse Tree  **Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday in Advent, 10:30 a.m.** (Blue) **Advent Procession & Holy Eucharist** (AG Team 3) (EA – Gail Trewhitt)  Genesis 2: 4b – 9, 15 – 25 (Sandra Squires) Genesis 3: 1 – 15 (Shirley Butt) Exodus 3: 1 – 6 (Louise Smith) Isaiah 11; 1 – 10 (Sharon Smith) Micah 5: 2 -4 (Donald Sparkes) Isaiah 7: 10 – 15 (Glenda Tapp) Luke 1: 26 – 38  **Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday in Advent, 10:30 a.m.** (Blue) **Holy Baptism & Holy Eucharist** (AG Team 1) (EA – Donald Sparkes)  **Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday in Advent, 10:30 a.m.** (Blue) **Candles in Memory with Carols** (AG Team 2)  Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8, 11 (Robert Dawe) Philippians 1: 3 – 11 (Donna Dawe) Luke 1: 38 – 45 |

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

**Sunday Bulletins** - If you’d like to give a weekly bulletin to commemorate the life of a loved one or in Thanksgiving for an event in your life, please contact David in the office for the dates available.

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

December 8th John C. Robert D.

December 15th Ken C. Philip G.

December 22nd David M. Jim S.

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| Bishop: The Right Dr. 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 & Donald Sparkes  Office Administrator: David Kelland |

**Parish of St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

**December 1, 2024**

**First Sunday in Advent**



This Bulletin is given in Thanksgiving to Almighty God

for the Baptism of our two great-grandchildren:

Grayson Edward Victor Mugford

December 24, 2023

Oliver William James Mugford

October 20, 2024

by

Donald & Rosalind Sparkes

www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com

Facebook: SJTE Topsail

Office email: sjtetopsail@nfld.net

Office phone number: 709 834-2336

Rector Email: 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***

The Parish live-streams our regular Sunday Services and posts to Facebook

‘Happy New Year’ As we gather to celebrate the first Sunday in the Church’s year. I am grateful to have the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you as you attend our Morning Prayer in Advent with the Jesse Tree.

The season of Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day. It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and blue is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning.

Every good wish in Christ,

Canon Jotie, TSSF

***Hymns for Today***

Processional 109 CP When The King Shall Come Again

Sequence 88 CP Come, Thou Long expected Jesus

Offering 91CP People, Look East! The Time is near

Mission 599 CP Awake! Awake! Fling Off The Night

***Collect for Today***

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Jesse Tree** – The symbol of the Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1-2: “A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.’ Each branch of the tree is a story, one of the stories that make up the whole sacred Story of God’s relationship with His people, with us. It’s named for the father of King David because in a dark time—when the royal line seemed chopped down, cut off at the root—God promised His people that He would raise up a royal ruler for them. He would raise up His Messiah. A Jesse Tree helps us remember our story, the story of God’s people, who waited so long for the coming of Messiah, just as we are waiting through the dark days of December for Jesus.

**We invite prayers for those who are sick**: Patricia B. Elaine M., Benjamin C., Doug T., Tammy H., Wally H., Trudy T., Ruby H., Kelly R., Eva B., Hayden P., Cynthia W., Christine H., Danielle B., Denise P., Richard R., David R.

**Ordination to Priesthood** – This afternoon, Sunday, December 1, at 3:00 p.m. St. Augustine’s Church, Bishop Sam Rose will ordain two persons to the priesthood – The Reverends Gail Dick and Karen Mitchell. Everyone is welcome, please keep them in your prayers.

**Confederation 75** – Congratulations to Stephanie Gavell who was recently awarded the Confederation 75 Volunteer Medal and Certificate in recognition of her volunteer work in our community. Way to go, Stephanie!!!

**Parish Home Visits** – Reverend Jotie is ready, willing, and able to visit you in your home. Under the circumstances of time and place, 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.

**Bible Study, New Year** – Our next Bible Study will be in January as we continue our study of Luke’s Gospel.

**Candles in Memory -** Our annual candles in memory service will take place on Sunday December 22nd at 10:30 a.m. To light a candle or have a candle lit in memory of a loved one please call the parish office at 709-834-2336 or email sjtetopail@nfld.net **by Wednesday, December 18th.**

**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 Thursday, December 19th at 1:00 p.m**. will be published in the January weekly bulletin.

**Food Bank Christmas Hampers –** If you are interested in contributing to the Christmas hampers, please consider a monetary contribution; which would be greatly appreciated and are needed as soon as is possible. Cheques may be made out to the Paradise / CBS Food Bank or to the Parish of St. John the Evangelist with a notation directing the money to the food bank. Any questions please contact Gail Trewhitt at 709-834-3909

**Pilgrimage in the Park** – Join us for a prayer walk in Chamberlain’s Park on **Tuesday December 3rd, 10:30 a.m.** – Our theme for this pilgrimage will be Autumn.

Pilgrimage on any scale is an opportunity to awaken to the wonder and beauty of the world around us. In breaking from the daily routine, we are able to move out of our familiar ruts in order to re-examine our relationship with the MYSTERY OF LIFE. Our pilgrimages support opening and deepening awareness to the present moment, to our bodily senses, and to expanding conscious relationships with Creation as we seek and find in the Park.

*Chamberlains Park is a 16-acre wetland located in Chamberlains, Conception Bay South (CBS), NL. The Main Entrance is 1.5 kilometers east of Manuels Bridge on Route 60. From the Main Entrance, walk the 1 kilometer wheelchair-friendly trail of boardwalk, gravel and sidewalk which leads through the forest, across the park bridge to Chaytor’s Road, and along the Route 60 sidewalk back to the entrance. (Chamberlain’s Park Pamphlet)*

**Reverse Advent Calendar** - You are invited to participate in our Reverse Advent Calendar as we support our ministry to provide food to people who are hungry. See the blue insert in this bulletin and additional copies are also available in the back of the Church.



**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

This is the First Sunday of Advent and to begin our celebration of the Advent Season, we have the lighting of the first candle of our Advent Wreath. This first candle is The Candle of Hope. As we light this candle, we reaffirm the hope we have in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

**The first candle of the wreath is lit.**

**Candle Lighting Hymn**

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night**

**To welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world’s true light.**

**To welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world’s true light.**

**The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return.**

**We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.**

**We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory for ever.  You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfillment.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

May we be obedient to your call

and ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Bishop’s Advent Message**

**Advent 2024**

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, a time of great significance in our faith, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on its powerful message of hope. Advent, which means 'coming' in Latin, symbolizes a journey from darkness into light, from despair into hope, and from the longing of our hearts to the fulfillment of God's promises. It is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of our Lord.

In the hustle and bustle leading up to Christmas, it is easy to get caught up in the rush. However, remember that Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas. It is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord, allowing us to reconnect with the centre of our faith and the promises of Emmanuel - who is God with us.

As we light the candles of our Advent Wreaths this year, let each tiny flame remind us of the transformative power of hope that Christ brings into the world. Hope is not merely wishful thinking but the profound assurance that God is with us in joyful and challenging times. It is the belief that God's light can pierce through even the darkest moments, turning despair into joy and darkness into light. This hope, with its transformative power, should uplift our spirits, reminding us that we are never alone.

Our Diocese comprises diverse communities that face challenges and uncertainties in these times. Yet, I encourage you to hold fast to hope. Let us be a beacon of light for one another, reaching out in love and support, as Christ has called us to do. This can be realized through volunteering at local food banks, listening to those in distress, or simply sharing a kind word with a neighbour. Together, we can embody the grace and compassion that are the foundations of our faith, serving those in need and nurturing one another.

As we eagerly await the birth of Jesus, let us also remember our vital role in sharing that hope with others. Each of us is an essential part of Christ's mission, and our actions can bring hope to those who feel lost or alone. Let us reach out to them, reminding them they are never forgotten and that love is always within reach. This could be through a simple act of kindness, a listening ear, or a helping hand. Let us be the bearers of hope in our communities.

In this Advent season, I pray that you will find peace and joy and that your hearts will be open to receive the incredible gift of Christ—today and always. May the hope of Advent fill you with a renewed spirit and inspire you to shine brightly in the world, knowing that the birth of our Saviour is near and that His coming carries a message of hope and joy for all.

I offer an Advent Prayer from Henri Nouwen:

**Lord Jesus,**

**Master of both the light and the darkness,**

**send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.**

**We who have so much to do**

**and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,**

**We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.**

**We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.**

**We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.**

**We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.**

**To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!'**

**Amen.**

*- Henri J.M. Nouwen*

Wishing you and your families a blessed and hope-filled Advent season.

In Christ's love,



The Right Rev. Samuel Rose

Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador