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| ***Worship Calendar***  **Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist With the Imposition of Ashes**  Joel 2: 1 – 2, 12 – 17a \*\* Psalm 103: 8 – 18 2 Corinthains 5: 20b – 6:2 \*\* Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 - 21  **Sunday, March 9, Lent I, 10:30 a.m.** (Purple) **Holy Eucharist (BCP)** (AG Team 2) (EA Iain Hollett)  Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11 Sharon Smith Psalm 91: 1 – 2, 9 – 16 Romans 10: 8b – 13 Glenda Tapp Luke 4: 1 – 13  **Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday in Lent – Compline & Address**  **Sunday, March 16, Alongside Hope Sunday (PWRDF), 10:30 a.m.** (White) **Holy Eucharist** (AG Team 3) (EA Gail Trewhitt)  Ukulele Family Ministry – Amazing Grace – My Chains are Gone  Hebrews 13: 2 – “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers”  Deuteronomy 24: 17 – 22\*\* Psalm 146 Ruth 1 – 2\*\* Matthew 25: 31 - 46 |

**2025 Envelopes -** If you need a new box of envelopes for 2025, please contact the parish office by email [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net) or call 709-834-2336. We also have the option of Pre-Authorized payment or e-transfer. To learn more about these options please call the Parish Office.

**A Note from the Treasurer:** Please ensure your **envelope number is on** all financial **correspondence** so that we can credit your account for income tax purposes.

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

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

March 9th Tracey C. Andrew B.

March 16th Betty H. Jim S.

March 23rd Don S. Philip G.

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| Bishop: The Right Reverend Dr. 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 |

**Welcome to the**

**Parish of St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**March 2, 2025**



This Bulletin is given to the Glory of God

and in Memory of

**Maizie Carter**

**March 3,1925 – February 12, 2013**

Forever loved and always missed by your 4 girls, Elizabeth, Judy, Peggy & Alice

and their families.

This would have been your 100th birthday

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

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

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Rector Email: jotienoel@gmail.com

Rector’s 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

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. Matthew 17. 5

Jesus takes a couple of his disciples – Peter, John and James – to a mountaintop.

There, Jesus is transfigured before their eyes.

Then they return to the valley where they encounter a worried father and his son.

As disciples of Jesus, we follow him down the narrow way of the cross.

Yet in worship, in those wonderful moments of prayer and praise, we are sometimes given a vision that sustains us, which enables us to resume life in the valley transfigured, changed, encouraged for the road ahead.

“To pray is to build your own house. To pray is to discover that someone else is within your house. To pray is to recognize that it is not your house at all. To keep praying is to have no house to protect because there is only One House. And that One House is everybody’s Home ... That is the politics of prayer. And that is probably why truly spiritual people are always a threat to politicians of any sort. They want our allegiance and we can no longer give it. Our house is too big.” – Richard Rohr, “Prayer as a Political Activity”

O Christ, who upon the mountaintop was transfigured before amazed disciples,

show us your glory.

We have come here today, to this time of worship, from many different places.

Some of us have come here confused; transform our confusion to firm assurance of your power in our world.

Some of us have come here full of doubt; transform our doubt into sure belief.

Some of us have come here fearful of what lies ahead for us in the future; give us that quiet confidence that comes from our faith in your lordship.

Some of us have come here tossed to and fro by various kinds of temptations; offer us the strength we need to resist temptation in whatever forms they present themselves.

We have come here this morning seeking you because,

in numerous ways we have felt you in our lives, seeking us.

Show us your glory, Lord,

transform us into the disciples you would have us to be. Amen. (ACC)

**We invite prayers for those who are sick**: Cassidy B., Patricia B., Elaine M., Doug T., Tammy H., Jeanette P., Wally H., Trudy T., Ruby H., Kelly R., Eva B., Hayden P., Cynthia W., Scott S., Don M., Colin C.

**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.

**The Laying on of Hands** – In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 10; 30 a.m. we have started our Confirmation Class. Confirmation Candidates should currently be in Grade 6 or older. Please contact the Church Office to register or for more information 709 834-2336 or [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net)).

We are ready, willing and able to prepare adults for Confirmation if you may be interested. Please contact Canon Jotie for details.

***Family Ukulele Group*** - The Family Ukulele Group is a music ministry of the parish and is open to ALL ages. No prior musically knowledge or experience is needed. Practice lessons are the **second** and **third** **Sundays** of each month immediately following the 10:30 service. We resume lessons in January 2024.  Ukuleles are available for purchase through the office for approximately $50. To register for the group call David at the office. Be sure to let him know if you will be needing a Ukulele. If you are unable to purchase one, please contact Canon Jotie.

**Bible Study** - We are meeting on Thursday mornings, at 10:30 upstairs in the Church, for a more comfortable setting. as we walk through the Gospel of Luke. We will provide a copy of the Lesson for this study. All are welcome.

**Annual Meeting –** The annual meeting for the parish will be scheduled shortly; This is reminder for all groups and organizations to prepare their reports and submit them to the office as soon as is possible.

The **Anglican Church Women** are undertaking an Outreach Project during February month. We will be collecting Personal Hygiene items for the Gathering Place to be delivered the first week of March. Items could include any of the following: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Kleenex, bathroom tissue, socks, underwear, face clothes, hand towels, etc. If you would like to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. A carton will be placed at the back of the church for your convenience. Thank you for your past and continuing support.

**World Day of Prayer 2025 -** All are invited! Thursday, March 06 @ 7 pm., St. Edward’s Parish at St. Thomas of Villa Nova, Manuels. The theme: “I Made You Wonderful”, prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands (located in the Polynesian Triangle of the Pacific Ocean).

Following the service, all are welcome to a time of Food and Fellowship!

***“So, Who Needs a Church Anyway?”***

The Church, the community of the faithful, as we know it today, has evolved over time. Whether we view the Church as an unchanging rock or an ever-flowing stream, a quick study through the history of faith communities reveals a transformation peculiar to time and place. The commitment of the faith community to the gospel of Jesus Christ has shaped a wide and varied expression of what it means to be Christian.

Our present dynamic of Diocese and Parish structure has evolved over time. The reality, locally, is one where more than 80% of those who claim a loose connection to a faith community are not actively or officially part of Parish life. The 80% do not worship regularly, or at all, nor do they offer a thank offering to the local community. This is a rather peculiar situation.

By Church, I am referring the institutional Church – Diocese and Parish structure within which the faith community lives. With less than 20% of those claiming some active membership in local Church structure, we all might ask, “So, Who Needs A Church Anyway?”

There is a real and intrinsic value to have a local faith community, a gathering of those who have dedicated their faith and life to the teachings and life of Jesus Christ, function within the context of a Diocesan and Parish structure. My intention as part of our mid-week sermon course is to demonstrate this starting with the faith community in the Early Church.

The genesis of this undertaking is directly related to the Diocesan Set Sail Program – Goal 1 - To invite every baptized person to renew their own personal faith through regular examination of the Baptismal Covenant.

In 2024 our focus was on Prayer as we considered the first three questions of the Baptismal Covenant, exploring how we pray to grow our relationship with God through various prayer exercises – Devotion, Silence, Lectio Divina, Breathing and The Jesus Prayer.

This year we will focus on ‘For the Love of the Faith Community’ as we consider the second three questions of the Baptismal Covenant. Reflecting on the dynamics of the faith community as a fellowship that worships and lives in the world might enhance our appreciation for parish life.

***“So, Who Needs a Church Anyway?”***

**Wednesday in Lent 1, March 12** - *The Faith Community Waits* – Patience – Patience was the highest of all virtues, that was particularly Christian. The slow intentional growth strategy was consistent with the faith community’s primary objective. Patience was the main topic of three major works (Tertullian, Cyprian, & Augustine)

**Wednesday in Lent 2, March 19** – *The Faith Community Learns How to Live* – Habitas – The faith community’s habitual behaviour, rooted in patience, was distinctive and intriguing. When challenged, Christians pointed to their actions believing their embodied patient behaviour was an offshoot of their faith. (Think of Christian as a verb).

**Wednesday in Lent 3, March 26** – *The Faith Community Goes to School* – Catechesis & Worship (Prayers & The Eucharist) – The early Christians emphasized catechesis – careful formation and teachings – in preparation for Baptism. They saw the impatient habits of the Greco-Roman world. If they wanted to develop patient reflexes, they needed time, the friendship of mentors, and the time to grow in patient ways of living.

**Wednesday in Lent 4, April 2** – *The Faith Community Perseveres through Sin, Repentance & Restoration* – This new and novel concept: Sin, Confession, Forgiveness, and Restoration was a primary belief based on the life and teachings of Jesus. The concept needed understanding for it referenced the Christian’s relationship with God, and the Christian’s relationship with their neighbour.

**Wednesday in Lent 5, April 9** – *The Faith Community Proclaims by Word and Example* – Ferment – The patient growth of the early Church was a pace that could not be sped up. There was a bubbling energy – a bottom-up inner life – that had immense potential. This ferment of patience was impacted as the Church attempted to control change and force its pace.

*Flowing Spirit, living water, Mother of creation:*

*refresh our hearts, inspire our gifts,*

*indwell our gathering and make us a sign of all the world’s vocation to communion with you;*

*through Jesus Christ, who quenches our thirst. Amen. (ACC)*

**Bishop’s 2025 Lenten Letter**

**“A Transfigured Lent”**

Dear Beloved Disciples,

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally known as Transfiguration Sunday. This is intentional, as Lent is a season in which we are called to see God and our faith in a new and transformative way - like the disciples saw Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

In the Gospel passage from Luke 9:28-43, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain to pray, and while they are there, something extraordinary happens – Jesus somehow changes, and the disciples see in him something they have not seen before. Shortly before this, Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, and now he sees something amazing and inexplicable that confirms his declaration. Moses and Elijah appear alongside, and a voice from heaven says that Jesus is the Chosen One, God’s Son, to whom we must listen.

This encounter gave the disciples a new vision of God, a new way of seeing and experiencing God. It was new ground, and it left people feeling different. Peter was excited and desperately wanted to hold on to the moment. He wanted to stay in that place, experiencing God's glory. Peter's encounter with Jesus revealed God in a new and transformative way, and he was forever changed.

This Lent let us approach the journey with a sense of excitement and eagerness. How can we discover new ways to meet with God and grow in our faith? If we’ve been Christians for many years, we can become stale and even cynical about trying new things – believing that the way we like to meet God is the only way. But just as Peter thought that he knew all there was to know about God, we too can discover new things, and God can be further revealed to us through our experience of the Holy Spirit.

One of the most significant obstacles to being a Christian is the failure to understand Jesus. Oh yes, you can know that he was an attractive teacher who lived two thousand years ago. If such people only read the Gospels, they discover he can’t be written off so quickly. Jesus challenged people to commit to faith in God and live in a self-sacrificing way. He challenged us to turn the other cheek, take up our cross, and share the knowledge of God’s love with others. He foretold his death, describing it not as a disaster but a triumph. He offered eternallife to everyone with faith because he had a special relationship with God, whom he described as his heavenly Father.

Lent is an excellent time to seek more of God as we follow Christ on his journey to the cross and beyond. So, what might we do to experience God in a new way? Let's be open to change. Perhaps we could get to grips with the Bible, read some parts we don’t know so well, revisit some of our favourite passages, or read them in a new translation. Perhaps we could read a spiritual devotion, Lenten book, or Bible Study. We could learn to pray more regularly – or in a new way. Changing our pattern of prayer can have remarkable results as we meet God in new and surprising ways. Why write down every time you are aware of God at home or work or stop to reflect when you experience God’s grace each day – that can be very illuminating and humbling.

How about meeting God in the beauty and wonder of creation in a new way? Try learning something new about God’s incredible universe. Maybe it’s time to review your stewardship. How we use our money, time, and gifts says much about our relationship with God. Have you tried fasting? This is traditionally the time to give up something, to go without, so that others may benefit and we may grow, too.

Whenever we meet with God, we are changed. We may not notice any difference, but others will and do. We should be able to see it in one another glimpses of the glory of God shining out from each other. Peter and the disciples were changed. We also can be changed. This Lent, let Jesus meet you in a new way or a new place. Let Jesus surprise you and others as he reveals more of God to you, calls you deeper into himself and changes you more and more into the person you are called to be as you grow into his likeness.

Do you want to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Don’t try to avoid the challenges, but climb the mountain with your hand in Jesus’s hand and trust him. Then the difficulties will evaporate, your understanding will be transformed, and you’ll listen to Jesus's words as if God were speaking to you.

Wishing you a blessed and transfigured Lent



The Right Rev. Samuel Rose

Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador