

Pastor's Message

God's people waited for many years in darkness, but still in hope, that the promised Messiah would come and bring light and peace. When Jesus came, born as poor baby in a wayward sort of town, Bethlehem, many did not recognize Him as the long awaited one. Those who did included the simple and humble, like the shepherds tending their flocks by night, the prayerful such as Simeon and Anna in the Temple and the Magi, who despite their royal lineage, maintained a childlike heart.

Due to the Pandemic, we seem to have been walking in the darkness somewhat for almost two years now. We all hope, in the New Year, that things will change for the better. Regardless of the state of things in the world or in our own personal lives, Jesus, the one born in Bethlehem, our Saviour who sacrificed his life for us, is very near and waiting to make himself known to us. He wants to replace any darkness in our lives with his own wonderful light, peace and joy. May we, with simple, prayerful and childlike hearts welcome Jesus into our lives and families during these special Christmas days and in Him receive everything we need and all our longings.

It fills me with great joy and gratitude to be your pastor. Immersed in those sentiments, I offer you my best wishes and prayers for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with the choicest of God's blessings.

Fr. Jim ~ Pastor, Holy Family Pastoral Unit



The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas. God sent Jesus among us to show us the fullness of his mercy and love and to free us from our sins and failings. Why not take advantage of God's boundless grace and forgiveness and restore our friendship with Jesus? In addition to our regular confession times, please take note of these additional times:

Our Lady of the Assumption:

Tuesday, December 21 (after mass)

Wednesday, December 22 - 7:00pm
(3 priests will be available)

St. Joachim's:

Sunday, December 19 (after mass)

The Holy Family Pastoral Unit Office will be closed December 24 and December 27-29.

2022 Sunday Offering Envelopes are now available at the Church Entrances. Please pick-up your set. Please note that your envelope number may have changed due to fewer envelope sets needing to be ordered. If you are a new envelope user, please note your name and mailing address on your envelope for the first few weeks to ensure proper credit. Thank you.



Pre-Authorized Debit Plan forms are available at the Church Entrances, at the Unit Office or can be e-mailed to you upon request. Anyone wishing to donate via this method, please complete the form and return to Elaine with a void cheque or letter from your bank. Another donation option is via e-transfer to holyfamilypastoralunit@bellaliant.com.

Thank You for Supporting Your Parishes

St. Joachim's Offerings:	December 12	Assumption Offerings:	December 12
Sunday Collection	\$1,964.00	Sunday Collection	\$2,001.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 180.00	Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 485.00
Loonie/Toonie Collection	\$ 223.00	Capital Projects Fund	\$ 870.00

To receive income tax credit for donations to St. Joachim's or Our Lady of the Assumption, offerings must be received at the Unit Office by Noon on December 31, at which time the 2021 books will be officially closed. Any offerings left at churches outside the Unit will be credited to your 2022 total if they are not received from the Diocese Office by December 17. **Thank you!**



Holy Family Pastoral Unit

Pastor: Rev. James Willick
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Office Manager: Elaine Fraser



December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Registration Required for Christmas Masses:

As of bulletin printing time, a limited number of seats remain for the **8:00pm** Christmas Eve Mass at **St. Joachim's** and the **10:00am** Christmas Day Mass at **Assumption**. Sign-up is in person at each church.

Did You Know?

The Diocese, through the generosity of parishioners, has been able to donate \$60,000+ in the past two years in support of community groups like Blooming House, the Food Bank and Bedford MacDonald House. In addition, \$11,500 has been donated to the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth in support of their efforts to construct temporary shelters for the homeless. **The Diocese thanks you for your continued support!** As you know, the need for support is greater for many people this year. If you are able, please consider giving to local charities and efforts to support people in need at this time.

PEI Catholic Women's League invites Catholic girls and women attending colleges and universities to apply for the **Catholic Girls' Bursary** by the January 31, 2022 deadline. Applications available at your church or via www.cwlpei.ca.

St. Dunstan's Council 824 of the Knights of Columbus has created a new **Men's Book Club**. First book to be explored is *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos* by Dr. Jordan B. Peterson. Book Club will start in January with once-a-week gatherings for about 75 minutes. For more info or to sign-up, please e-mail: kofc824bookclub@gmail.com.

Catechism Teachers Needed at St. Joachim's:

In order for the Catechism Program to proceed in January, teachers are needed for the following grades: 1-4-5-6-9. If you can help, please contact Ellie Bruce: erbruce@rocketmail.com or (902) 218-1349.

Club 200 Lottery Tickets are available. Weekly draws begin January 8. If you wish to purchase a \$50 ticket, please contact Elaine. Project raises \$5,000 for Assumption Parish and pays out \$5,000 to winners.

From Cathy LeClair - Assumption Catechism Coordinator: At this point, there is no teacher for Grade 3. If we do not have a teacher, the class will be cancelled. I am also keeping an eye on updates from the province regarding the school situation in January which will impact the catechetical program.

Mass Schedule: December 20 - 26

Tuesday:		
10:00am	George & Peg Campbell & DFM	OLA
Wednesday:		
10:00am	Adrian, Leonard, Everett & Allan Shea	STJ
Thursday:		
10:00am	John P. Hughes	OLA

Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas Eve

4:00pm	Norah & Shawn Pickard James B. & Maria Willick	OLA
6:00pm	Lorraine Gallant Joan & Mark Johnston	OLA
6:00pm	Tom Gill	STJ
8:00pm	Morgen McInnis Fraser & Graham DFM	STJ

Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas Day

10:00am	Mass for the People	OLA
Sunday:	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	
9:00am	Marcellus & Lorna MacDonald	STJ
11:00am	Mass for the People	OLA