

Saint Mary Magdalene Parish

St. Columba †
Fredericton Junction

Sts. John & Paul †
New Maryland

St. Dunstan's
Fredericton

Father Bill Brennan

Father Peter Osborne

Phone 506-444-6001 Email: stdun@stdunstansparish.ca Office Hours Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

December 25th, 2020 – Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Message from Fr. Bill:

This Christmas Season brings with it much HOPE and signs that our God is truly 'Emmanuel' / 'God-with-us'. Our many scientists and skilled technicians using their God-given talent, knowledge, courage and effort have brought us vaccines that give us a great light that the pandemic will be less of a threat.

We have all drawn on the many capabilities that God has seeded within us and helped us to develop and bring them forward to meet the challenges of the past year. People have worked tirelessly and courageously to attend to those infected, to meet the challenges of raising families, to keep our faith lives nurtured, to adjust the education structures and systems, to work collaboratively as political leaders, to keep reaching out to the most vulnerable and to make personal choices to keep safe and assure the safety of each other.

We are aware of tragic deaths and distances that loved one's have experienced and we are weathering these storms as gracefully as possible and with the assistance of 'Grace'. We have been creative (another God-given ability) in finding ways to love, support, reach out, celebrate, enjoy, delight and take on new adventures.

At times, we are not always the best version of ourselves, in particular, when life is challenging and stressful. This Christmas may we find our way in not being too hard on ourselves and others in our human limitations. Let's be extra kind with each other as one of the Christmas Gifts we offer this year.

Thank you for the way you have supported, encouraged and 'jumped in' to help our parish keep on with our Mission. I would like to thank Fr. Maria and Fr. Peter as well as the parish staff who have made major adjustments to work at home for a period of time, keep our buildings in good shape, take on extra phone calls, email connections, website enhancement and developing and maintaining list after list as we adjusted to ever-changing protocols so we could gather safely in our homes with 'on-line' services and in the three churches.

Have a Blessed and Creative Christmas as we ponder any good that we are able to enjoy and share is because our God is indeed 'within' and 'with' us.

Merry Christmas, Fr. Bill Brennan

Christmas Message from Fr. Peter:

It's easy to get lost in the flurry of activity during Christmas time. May you get a chance to take in the beauty and true meaning of the season and have a Merry Christmas. Jesus our salvation is born!! I'm so happy to be with you this Christmas, I've been enjoying my time here with you. My fervent wish for you is that 2021 is a wonderful and healthy year! I'm looking very much forward to the end of Covid and finally being able to meet you and see your lovely faces!! And remember ... You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights. Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year to you all.

Father Peter

MASS INTENTIONS

St. Columba Church Site

Thur 24th 6:00 pm Donnie Butler
 Sun 27th 9:00 am Madeline Crilly
 Jan 1st 9:00 am Veronica White
 Jan 3rd 9:00 am Frances O'Keefe

Sts. John & Paul Church Site

Thur 24th 4:00 pm Jackie Dionne
 8:00 pm Joan White
 Sun 27th 11:00 am Jean Marie Burns
 Thur 31st 5:00 pm Special Intention
 Jan 3rd 11:00 am Edgar Savoie

St. Dunstan's Church Site

Sat 19th 5:00 pm Leo and Susan Losier
 Sun 20th 9:00 am Dec Members of Landry
 and Godin families
 20th 11:30 am Antonio DiPasquale
 Thur 24th 4:30 pm Rosemary Thomas
 24th 7:00 pm Bob Shaw
 24th 9:30 pm Ron Gallagher
 24th 12 midnight Joel and Isabel Mercer
 Fri 25th 11:30 am John Bliss
 Sat 26th 5:00 pm Leona Parent
 Sun 27th 9:00 am Daniel Lockhart
 27th 11:30 am Lourdes Connell
 Fri 1st 11:30 am John Romanus-Thompson
 Sat 2nd 5:00 pm John Harper
 Sun 3rd 9:00 am DFM Girard & Martin
 families
 3rd 11:30 am Salem Masry

Mass Intentions: Contact Marlita Chase (Parish Office 444-6001). Indicate at which Church Site that you want the Mass celebrated. stdun@stdunstansparish.ca.

NECROLOGY

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------|------|
| Dec 21 | Evelyn Mary Adams | 1985 |
| | Louise Winnifred Howes | 1985 |
| | Yvon Duran | 2002 |
| | Patricia Boudreau | 2003 |
| | Elizabeth Josephine Owen | 2018 |
| Dec 22 | Barry John Burns | 1999 |
| | Joseph Aurelle Michaud | 2003 |
| | Joseph Arthur Steever | 2012 |
| Dec 23 | Rebecca Hazel Carten | 1994 |
| | Brendon Layden Oreto | 1998 |
| Dec 24 | Artemas Knee | 2004 |
| | Violet Evelyn Adams | 2008 |
| | Andrew Michael Christie | 2011 |
| Dec 25 | Eva Powers Cyr | 2000 |
| Dec 26 | Roger McKay | 2001 |
| | Helen Evelyn Hughes | 2004 |
| Dec 27 | Joseph Felix Caissie | 1989 |
| | Richard John Arseneau | 1996 |
| | Michael MacAfee | 2005 |
| Dec 28 | Helen Hind Ramey | 1984 |
| | Delcina Francois Hanies | 1990 |
| | James Layton Sullivan | 1992 |
| | Robert Hugh McLaughlin | 2014 |
| Dec 29 | Cecil Perley Elliott | 1990 |
| | Sunvie Catherine Kelly | 1994 |
| | F Tracey Carten | 1997 |
| | Caroline Frances Graham | 2002 |
| | George Henry Tracey | 2006 |
| | Sarah Marie Adams | 2013 |
| Dec 30 | Raymond J Burgoyne | 1986 |
| | Marie Doris Perry | 2002 |
| | Lloyd Douglas Burke | 2005 |
| | Hanora Kathleen Hurley | 2006 |
| Dec 31 | George Lorne Grant | 1998 |
| | Helen Mary Kenny | 2003 |
| | Lillian Helen Mclvor | 2003 |
| | Giovanni Persello | 2008 |
| Jan 1 | Yvon Joseph Aurele Alain | 1988 |
| Jan 2 | Edward Joseph George St Onge | 1972 |
| | Dr Milena Vavra | 1972 |
| | Bernadette Timmins | 1975 |
| | Leslie DeLong | 1988 |
| | John David Smith | 1996 |
| | Luis Z. Magtibay | 2007 |
| Jan 3 | Noreen McQueen | 2014 |
| | Geraldine Gertrude Flynn | 2015 |

Mass times for Christmas are:

St. Dunstan's Site: Christmas Eve - 4:30pm, 7:00 pm, 9:30 pm 12:00 midnight and 11:30 Christmas Day.

Sts. John and Paul Site: Christmas Eve – 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm

St. Columba Site: Christmas Eve – 6:00 pm



News Years Masses:

New Year's Eve- 5:00 pm Sts John & Paul Church Site

New Year's Day: 9:00 @ St. Columba Church Site

New Year's Day: 11:30 am @ St. Dunstan's Church

Note: There will not be a pre-registration.

Readings for December 27th

1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

2nd Reading Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Luke 2:1-16

Readings for January 3rd

1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

2nd Reading Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Luke 2:1-16

LECTORS SCHEDULE FOR STS JOHN AND PAUL CHURCH SITE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lectors</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Dec 24 th – 4 pm | Cathy Seguin |
| Dec 24 th - 8 pm | Mary & Fred Farrell |
| December 31 st | Lynda McNeil |

Note: There will not be a pre-registration.

Volunteers needed for Masses at St. Dunstan's Site: We need 6 attendants at each Mass to welcome, screen, collect your contact information, offer direction about sanitizing, offertory and seating as you arrive for Mass. This is all an essential aspect of gathering safely according to government guidelines as we live this pandemic reality.

If you are interested and able to assist please choose one of the three Weekend Masses and you will be assigned on a rotating basis so as not to be tied up each weekend. There will be training for the role and it will require arriving for Mass 45 minutes before Mass begins. To sign up please phone or email the Parish Office and give both your phone number and email.

2020-2021 Sunday Missals (\$4.00 each) are now available to pick up in the Monsignor Boyd Family Centre Parish office from Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm. Please phone before you come, the Missal will be brought to you at the back door. Please have the correct change.

Missals are available at the entrances of ALL the church sites. An envelope is inside the cover of the missal for your donation. Just put it in the offertory box.

Parents of children/youth (Kindergarten to Grade 9): If you still want to register your child/youth in our Religious Education Program for 2019-2020 please see the note from Fr. Bill at the back of the bulletin for details. The letter gives a link for registration for this coming year. If you have not received it, please see the note at the back of this bulletin.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT AT STS. JOHN & PAUL SITE:
There will be NO Adoration on Dec 24th
and 31st. Resuming on Jan 7th.
at Sts. John and Paul Church Site from
1 pm to 5 pm with Fr. Peter. Government
mandated protocols will be followed.**

**Holy Communion distributed in your vehicle
between 10:15 am and 10:30 am Regular Sunday
Mass at St. Dunstan's site**

Note to all parishioners at St. Mary Magdalene Parish:

Protocols for attending Mass in the Yellow Level:

We are now in the yellow level of our COVID 19 protocols in Zone 3. This means that we can have more than 50 people attend Masses as long as the space is large enough to physically distance. With this change there will not be a pre-registration to attend weekend Masses at any of our Church Sites. At St. Dunstan's Site you will fill out an 'attendance sheet' and place it in a box as you enter the Church. At Sts John and Paul your name will be checked off the 'list we have for each site' or added when you arrive.

To assure everyone's safety, please do not attend if you or someone in your household bubble is waiting for a COVID 19 test result or have been asked to self – monitor for symptoms over a 14-day period and are still within that time frame. Please do not attend if you or someone in your household bubble is self-isolating for 14-days after being out of the Province. As well, please do not attend if you have any flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, runny nose).

It is most important that everyone is screened with all of the questions and that you sanitize your hands and allow the attendants to seat you in the places they are asked to sit you. This requires us to be patient and kind with each other. The volunteers who are screening, signing you in, asking you to sanitize your hands and sit you have been carefully instructed as to what they need to do to keep everyone safe. They have been coming early for Masses for many weeks now to care for us in this way. Cooperation and BIG THANK-YOUS are most important for them to receive from each of us. They have been wonderful in their generosity and we can not thank them enough.

CAN WE HELP?

During these days we all need to be conscious of what people are living with so we can be of assistance. We never know when we may need to know contacts for ourselves or others who need help, protection, safety and direction. Our Parish Bulletin is an instrument available to us to be informed. Domestic Violence is one such area to be well informed about and so please become familiar with the following:

The following community organizations are connections to provide support and guidance on how to recognize domestic or intimate partner violence, how to seek assistance if you are a victim, a child or a bystander who wants to help. The following organizations have professionals trained in how to assist and link people to the appropriate resources within our community. People who are in the midst of a threatening or violent event are reminded that 911 is the first option.

- Transition House for Abused Women and Children: 459-2300 (24 Hour Crisis Line), 457-2770 (Daytime Business Line)
- Gignoo Transition House: 458-1224 (24 Hour Crisis Line), 458-1236 (Daytime Business Line)
- Chimo Helpline (Provincial Crisis Line) 450-4357 <http://www.chimohelpline.ca>>www.chimohelpline.ca



Christmas Message 2020

Dear faithful,

This year will be a Christmas like no other! As a world, we have grown a little weary, and with good reason. We are in the midst of a pandemic, and many are suffering as a result, from contracting Covid-19, to the loss of loved ones, or from the consequences of lockdowns and restrictions, including loss of employment, missed medical care, a rise in cases of mental health issues, drug overdoses, fear and anxiety, and separation from those closest to us. The pandemic remains a constant concern, never far from our thoughts. In all of this, we must remember that Jesus does not abandon us. He is Emmanuel – God with us - to satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts, lift us from our weariness, and be the hope we so desperately need. We need Him now more than ever to illumine these days.

The promise of a long-awaited Messiah was fulfilled when “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” (John 1:14) When Mary gave her “fiat” (her yes) to bear the Son of God into the world, our lives were changed forever. Let us not allow the unusual circumstances we are enduring to take away our wonder at the miracle of the Incarnation. The birth of Jesus is not confined to a moment in history but continues every day. Do we believe this is possible? Even now during a pandemic? Let us not allow the current disruption in our lives to distract us from the true meaning of the Christmas season. Jesus is the reason for the season! Jesus is the Word made flesh! If you have difficulty encountering God’s presence, then ask Him to show you that He is real, that He is alive! How different our lives would look if we lived from the awareness that God is with us! If nothing else, the difficulties of this pandemic should highlight even more how much we need Jesus. He is the one we can count on to meet us in our sufferings, and we encounter Him most powerfully in the Eucharist, which is the sustenance we so desperately need. Let us return to Him often in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, so He can renew us with His love.

The Christmas season always draws to our churches people who have been absent for a while. As people approach Mass for the first time in weeks, months, maybe even years, uncertainty may accompany them. Returning to Mass, after being away, may be both physically and spiritually challenging.

People are longing for a sense of community and stability, and for the opportunity to encounter or re-encounter the God who cares deeply for us, speaks to us out of love, and reveals His “face” in Jesus – true God and true man. I urge our regular churchgoers to be particularly welcoming of these brothers and sisters who will be visiting our churches for consolation and comfort. Our pandemic protocol committees continue their noble efforts of keeping our churches safe. I urge everyone to co-operate with them in charity, just as I urge our selfless volunteers to truly reflect the love and innocence of the Christ-child, adopting a welcoming and joyful disposition before all who will be gracing the doors of our churches this Christmas. Let us remember that hospitality is not a measure of what we do but a condition of the heart, as we seek to evangelize and provide consolation during a difficult time.

God is not distant but close to us in every way. As we celebrate Christmas, let us be aware that Jesus – God made flesh and dwelling among us – is the hope we seek. He alone satisfies our deepest longing for meaning and purpose, and is the fulfillment of all desire. God has given us so much - the greatest gift of all – His Son. The greatest gift we can give Him now in return is to let Him be born in our hearts over and over again. Let us open our hearts wide to welcome our Saviour this Christmas so that we can truly experience the peace and joy only He can give. Let us give God permission to transform us, our perspectives, our way of doing things so that we could become more and more the person He has called us to be from our baptism. Let us share that joy, peace and love with the people around us so that all may know the true meaning of Christmas!

Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us! St. Joseph, pray for us!

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John

December 15, 2020

Hi parents and guardians, (Religious Education/Faith Formation)

As we indicated in a letter in late August, our religious education/faith formation program will be done at home this year. Included below are two options that offer lots of flexibility. They're meant for you to do whatever you can, so don't worry about covering all of the material.

If your child is in grade 2, they will be preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

If your child is in grade 3 (or older) and has not made their First Communion, please phone Fr. Bill at the Parish Office (444-6001) and he will give you directions on what is required to prepare them.

If your daughter/son is in grade 7, 8 or 9, they will be invited to do Faith Formation on-line with youth leaders from the Fredericton Parishes. More information will follow in the near future for these grades, **please note that books are not required to be ordered for these grades.**

If your child is in Grade 9, they will be preparing for Confirmation. Confirmation sessions will be announced at a later date via e-mail.

Registration this year will be on-line. Please follow this link (or copy it into your browser), fill out the required information and submit (sample form included below).

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ReligiousEd1/CFFRegistrationFall2020>

The fee per book is \$20 – date for pick-up and payment will be confirmed by a separate e-mail

We are offering the following options:

Option 1 - Be My Disciples Program:

This is the program we have been using for a number of years. It's easy to use at home with the student books as your guide. There are 24 chapters in each book/year level that cover all of the essential themes of our faith lives in the Church. It would be ambitious to do all 24 chapters, so you might find yourself doing less than that. It will be important to do at least 10 between October and May.

If you have several children close in age, you can use one book for both children. Every book comes with a code that allows you to access the book on-line.

Each chapter has a page titled, "With my Family". You might choose to let this page be your guide and use the references in that page to direct you to other parts of the chapter for more content.

Option 2 - Heritage Program:

This is a supplement to the "Be My Disciples Program". It's often given to parents to use as a "catch-up" for children who are beginning Religious Education for the first time. It is also easy for parents to use at home. There are 10 lessons that cover the life of Jesus, the central beliefs of the Church, all of the Sacraments, making Christ-centered decisions (Morality), and Catholic prayers and practices. There is one book for ages 9-11 and one for ages 12-14.

Thank you all for your continued support for the faith of our youth.

Sincerely, Fr. Bill



Our Sacred Stories

Christmas – The Wonder and Awe of God’s Love (Fr. John Jennings)

*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord forever;
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.*
(Ps 89:1)

How ready, how able am I to bless the Lord God, at all times? Am I able to stand in wonder and awe at the immense love of our God for humanity and all creation? Am I ready to recognize Christmas as a celebration this great love?

Wonder makes everything new. It is the gift of every small child. Watch the eyes of the little ones. Their world is ever new. It is a world of discovery at every moment, in all they encounter. To them, nothing is ordinary or familiar.

Young couples manifest the same. A wedding, for all the busyness and the trappings that surround it, is essentially about a loving couple. They may be nervous, they may be excited, but as they look into each other’s eyes and express their love, nothing else matters. They stand in wonder and awe of each other.

They have embarked on a journey of discovery, standing in a world of wonder with each other. Moved by their love, the awe in which they hold each other causes them to glory in their companionship.

As we move into the Christmas season our gaze turns to Mary (Luke 1:26-38). Her encounter with the Angel Gabriel leaves her in wonder and awe. Everything is new. Nothing can be ordinary or familiar for her. She is now the servant of the Lord as she brings God’s dream to fulfillment in the world. Can we have the spirit of the little child, the sense of discovery of the young lovers, the awe of Mary?

The God of our faith is an awesome God, not because of power, nor of immensity. Our wonder comes from the reality that God has come to us where we are – in what we so often take for granted, God’s love for us all. God touches us in what we see as so familiar and ordinary. We stand in awe of our God who has such love.

Ilia Delio, a Franciscan nun, theologian and scientist expresses how our God is so awesome and why celebrating Christmas is so significant for us: *We can read the history of our 13.7-billion-year-old universe as the rising up of Divine Love incarnate, which bursts forth in the person of Jesus, who reveals love’s urge toward wholeness through reconciliation, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. Jesus is the love of God incarnate.... Christian life is a commitment to love, to give birth to God in one’s own life and to become midwives of divinity in this evolving cosmos.*

We are to be wholemakers (unity builders) of love in a world of change. (Quoted by Richard Rohr, [Online Reflection 7 Dec 20](#))

Somewhere in the midst of the ordinary and familiar of our lives we discover this great gift of awe and wonder. This is what we celebrate in Christmas – Emmanuel, God is with us.

Please continue to tune into the **Live Stream Mass** through our Website on Sunday at 9 am. It will also be uploaded to the Homepage so you can view it at another time. To live stream, google St. Dunstan’s Church Fredericton and look for a ‘click here’ button right below the two Video Screens. The Mass will be uploaded to one of those Video Screens.

Live Stream Link to Website:

<https://stdun7.wixsite.com/stdunstansparish>

St. Mary Magdalene Facebook

Other Links:

Live Stream Link to Website:

<https://stdun7.wixsite.com/stdunstansparish>

St. Mary Magdalene Facebook:

Daily TV Mass – <https://saltandlighttv.org/mass>
Weekdays at 9 am and 1 pm.

Diocese of Saint John <http://dioceseofsaintjohn.org>

The following is a link to *The New Freeman*

<http://newfreeman.ca/>

| Offertories: Dec 20 | Total | St C | Sts J&P | St D |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly, at Mass | \$10,045 | \$1,172 | \$345 | \$8,528 |
| Weekly, average PAD | \$3,481 | \$50 | \$952 | \$2,479 |
| YTD Offertories (Actual) | \$504,602 | \$24,945 | \$76,858 | \$402,799 |
| YTD Offertories (Budget) | \$652,367 | \$33,090 | \$91,329 | \$527,948 |
| YTD Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$147,765) | (\$8,145) | (\$14,471) | (\$125,149) |
| Poor & Needy | \$347 | \$0 | \$0 | \$347 |
| Building fund | \$560 | \$0 | \$0 | \$560 |
| Chrtistmas | \$1,785 | \$100 | \$200 | \$1,485 |
| Christmas Exchange | \$1,155 | \$75 | \$135 | \$945 |
| Other | \$1,060 | \$15 | \$125 | \$920 |
| # PAD users | 136 | 1 | 31 | 104 |
| # Envelopes used | 248 | 38 | 20 | 190 |
| # Envelopes issued | 727 | 71 | 66 | 590 |

| Offertories: Dec 13 | Total | St C | Sts J&P | St D |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly, at Mass | \$6,483 | \$380 | \$400 | \$5,703 |
| Weekly, average PAD | \$3,486 | \$50 | \$952 | \$2,483 |
| YTD Offertories (Actual) | \$483,520 | \$23,673 | \$75,721 | \$384,126 |
| YTD Offertories (Budget) | \$639,576 | \$32,441 | \$89,538 | \$517,596 |
| YTD Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$156,056) | (\$8,768) | (\$13,817) | (\$133,470) |
| Poor & Needy | \$115 | \$0 | \$0 | \$115 |
| Building fund | \$25 | \$0 | \$0 | \$25 |
| Christmas Exchange | \$3,115 | \$0 | \$555 | \$2,560 |
| Other | \$1,616 | \$130 | \$508 | \$978 |
| # PAD users | 137 | 1 | 31 | 105 |
| # Envelopes used | 165 | 27 | 19 | 119 |
| # Envelopes issued | 727 | 71 | 66 | 590 |

| Offertories: Dec 6 | Total | St C | Sts J&P | St D |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly, at Mass | \$9,894 | \$432 | \$375 | \$9,087 |
| Weekly, average PAD | \$3,456 | \$50 | \$952 | \$2,453 |
| YTD Offertories (Actual) | \$473,820 | \$23,193 | \$74,254 | \$376,373 |
| YTD Offertories (Budget) | \$626,784 | \$31,792 | \$87,748 | \$507,244 |
| YTD Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$152,964) | (\$8,599) | (\$13,494) | (\$130,871) |
| Poor & Needy | \$370 | \$0 | \$0 | \$370 |
| Building fund | \$420 | \$0 | \$0 | \$420 |
| Christmas Exchange | \$8,720 | \$350 | \$380 | \$7,990 |
| Other | \$1,197 | \$225 | \$74 | \$898 |
| # PAD users | 136 | 1 | 31 | 104 |
| # Envelopes used | 272 | 49 | 26 | 197 |
| # Envelopes issued | 727 | 71 | 66 | 590 |

Options for your offertory contributions available to you at this time.

- Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) you can make your donations through a debit at your bank on a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly basis. There is a PAD form you can receive by contacting the office. You would have to fill out and return to the office along with a copy of a voided cheque. Form available at

<https://stdun7.wixsite.com/stdunstansparish>

- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) You can e-transfer your offertory at any time with this option, if you do online banking. You would use the following email address: stdun@stdunstansparish.ca

Website: Michael Minifie, Business and Facilities Manager is designing a new Website that will be St. Mary Magdalene Parish Website. We will inform you when it is in operation. This will reflect our new parish reality rather than having a St. Dunstan's and a St's John and Paul website. In the meantime, as you know, we are using the St. Dunstan's Website for all of our on-line and live stream events.