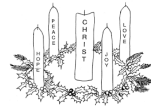


## MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

Sat. - Dec. 23---7:00 pm---St. Ignatius Church  
Sun. -Dec. 24--- The 10:30 am mass will be **cancelled** in St. Alban's  
Sun. -Dec. 24--- The 2:00 pm mass will be **cancelled** in Conne River  
Sun. -Dec. 24---6:00 pm--- St. Anne's Church- Christmas Eve Mass  
Sun. -Dec. 24---8:30 pm---St. Ignatius Church- Christmas Eve Mass  
No Mass on Christmas Day

**PLEASE NOTE: Several Masses will be cancelled**



## THE ADVENT WREATH

### **An Ancient Tradition**

The Advent wreath has its roots in traditions practiced by the early Germanic peoples. As winter's short and dark days began growing brighter, they would celebrate the coming light by making wreaths of green and lighting fires. When these people became Christian, they began using wreaths in their churches, to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus, Light of the World.

### **The Circle: No Beginning or End**

The wreath is formed in a circle, which has no beginning or end. This reminds us of our God, who is eternal -without beginning or end. The shape of the Advent wreath also represents the gift of eternal life won for us by Jesus' dying and rising to new life.

### **Green: The Color of Life and Hope**

The wreath is made of evergreen boughs. Green is the color of life. It reminds us of the newborn life of Jesus our Savior. It also reminds us of the gift of new and eternal life we received at baptism. The color green is also the color of hope. Christian hope tells us that we can build a better world by living the Good News of Jesus' Gospel. Christian hope also tells us that nothing can overcome God's love for us in Christ.

### **Candles: For each Sunday in Advent**

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then o

the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which is depicted in the lovely Four Weeks of Advent Pewter Wreath:

- The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

- The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



## ST. IGNATIUS PARISH

**Pastor:** Reverend Edward Brophy, **Secretary:** Regina Gould  
P. O. Box 38, St. Alban's, NL AOH 2E0  
Parish Office and House Phone 538-3106 Priest 538-3196

Email: [st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca) Website: [www.stignatiusparish.net](http://www.stignatiusparish.net)

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9:15 am to 12:15 pm, 1:15 to 4:15 pm

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*This is the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the new liturgical year (Year B). There are three aspects of anticipation to Jesus' coming in the Advent season: the celebration of his birth some 2000 years ago (past), receiving Jesus in our lives today (present), and his coming again at the end of time (future). Today's readings emphasize the third aspect when Jesus comes again in glory. In the Gospel, Jesus says, "Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." Let us take time during this Advent season to examine our lives to prepare for that final day when we will meet God face to face.*

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Weekday Mass Schedule: Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Monday----- No Mass  
Tuesday----- 7:00 p.m.----- Parish Chapel -----Theresa Pittman, Elizabeth Peters, Betty Hoskins  
Wed. ----- 4:00 p.m. ----- St. Ignatius Church----- Deceased members of Ladies Auxiliary  
Thurs----- 10:00 a.m.----- Parish Chapel ----- Reg & Evelyn Organ  
Friday ----- 5:15 p.m.----- Immaculate Conception (Grand Falls) ----- Diocesan Feast Day

### Weekend Liturgy: Saturday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

St. Alban's-----Sat. --- 7:00 p.m.—St. Ignatius Church ----- Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus  
St. Alban's----- Sun.---10:30 a.m.--St. Ignatius Church----- **Parish Family**  
Conne River---- Sun. ---2:00 p.m.—St. Anne's Church----- Father Gordon Grace

## MINISTRIES' SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND MASSES

DATE	Sacristans	Readers	Collectors	Communion Minister	Altar Servers	Music
Dec. 2	Mary Organ	Brenda Jeddore	Pat Pittman Willie MacDonald Iris Greenham	Jessica Savoury	Edith Juanita	Lenora Lambert
Dec. 3	Jenny Maggie	Amber Willcott	Necia Dollimont Mary Organ George Davis	Mary Organ	Jenny Brenda D.	Tiffany Hoskins
Dec. 9	Jenny Maggie	Knights of Columbus	Knights of Columbus	Knights of Columbus	Knights of Columbus	Clayton, Julie Ann And Chrissy
Dec. 10	Mary Strickland Patsy MacDonald	Philomena Sutton	Necia Dollimont Mary Organ George Davis	Valerie Hoskins	Christine Mary Organ	Folk Group

### Weekly Parish Revenue

St. Ignatius Church – offertory -----	\$1253.00	St. Anne’s Church – offertory -----	\$112.00
Dioc. World Mission Sunday: -----	\$5.00	Parish Dues: -----	\$40.00
Candles : -----	\$120.00	All Souls Day: -----	\$25.00

**Sunday Missals:** New 2017-2018 Sunday Missals will be needed for the new liturgical year which begins on December 3<sup>rd</sup> (First Week of Advent). These missals will be sold at the weekend masses for the next several weekends. The cost per missal is **\$6.00**. *Please try to have the correct amount with you when making your purchase.* Thank you.

### **Request Form for Envelopes for 2018**

If you did not use envelopes this year but would like a box for 2018, please phone the parish office at 538-3106 or drop a note with your request into the Sunday collection. A box will be issued to you as soon as possible. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY, 2018.

**2018 Parish Envelopes** will be available during December. Please make sure that the box you take has your name on it. If you did not use envelopes this year but would like a box for 2018, just record your name on the request form at the back of the church and a box will be issued to you the following week. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY, 2018

### IMPORTANT DATES

Sun...	Dec. 3...	Family Mass
Wed...	Dec. 6...	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Legion Ladies Auxiliary
Sat...	Dec. 9...	Church Tree Lighting
Thurs...	Dec. 14...	School Concert
Sun...	Dec. 17...	Christmas Pageant
Sun...	Dec. 17...	Advent Penitential Service

## ST. IGNATIUS PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

***Christmas Flowers:*** Parishioners wishing to donate towards purchasing Christmas flowers, may do so by putting an envelope marked “*Christmas Flowers*” in the collection basket. If the flowers are donated “*in memory of*”, please indicate this on the envelope. Thank You.

***Advent Folders:*** are available on the tables at the back of the Church

***Lighting of the Church Christmas Tree:*** On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Knights of Columbus will have a special Mass for all their deceased members. During this Mass, they will also have the Lighting of the Christmas Tree.

***Food for Thought:*** Throwing away Bananas: How much food is wasted in Canada each year? Thirty-one billion dollars worth. That’s ‘billions’, not ‘millions’ every year. Canada’s unused leftovers could feed one quarter of the world’s 800 million hungry people, according to the United Nations. We are wasteful. About forty percent of the food produced in Canada ends up in the garbage. Bananas get too ripe. Tomatoes get too soft. Eggs go past the best-before date. All end up in the garbage. Each home in Canada, on average, throws away about \$28.00 worth of food each week. Over fifty two weeks, that’s nearly \$1500.00 per household. That’s enough to feed eight starving people for a year, according to a United Nations report. Pope Francis said that “throwing away food is like stealing from the table of the poor and hungry.”

***The Pope in Myanmar (Burma):*** Pope Francis has just completed a visit to Myanmar. This may have been the most dangerous visit the Holy Father has ever made. One carelessly spoken word could set off a firestorm of violence, a powder keg of killings. Six hundred thousand Muslims have recently fled to Bangladesh because of a wave of killing by the Buddhist majority. The Buddhist military went from village to village, destroying everything and killing everyone. While in Myanmar, Pope Francis met with the leader Aung San Sua Kyi. Some years ago, she won the Nobel Prize for Peace. The Pope insisted: “***I hope for peace. I hope for the healing of wounds. Revenge is not the way. Revenge is not the message of Jesus.***” We pray that Pope Francis will be kept safe, and that he will be blessed with courage, and with wisdom, so that he can lead all peoples to live as children of God.

***The Feast of the Immaculate Conception:*** On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The priests and many people from our Diocese will gather with Bishop Daniels for a special Mass. We will gather at the Cathedral in Grand Falls at 5:15 pm to give thanks and once again ask God’s blessing for all our people. If you are in Grand Falls on Friday evening, you would be most welcome to attend this beautiful celebration.

**A change of date for our Penitential Service:** One of the most important events of our Advent celebrations is our Penitential service. But this is a very busy time of year with many, many gatherings leading up to Christmas. We have changed the date of our Penitential Service to Sunday night, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We have changed the date of the Penitential service as the school children's Christmas Concert was scheduled for the same date, and many people would like to attend both celebrations. Father Joy will join us for this Sunday evening time of penance and forgiveness. *"If your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow."*

**Army Cadet Christmas Bonanza:** Number 2922 Vimy Ridge Army Cadet Corp. will be holding a Christmas Concert Bonanza. This night of entertainment will take place on Thursday night, Dec. 7, starting at 6:30 pm. This will be a night of songs and skits and maybe even line dancers. At the gathering, soup and tea and coffee and cookies and cheesecake will be served. This special Christmas event will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion. And you may be lucky in the ticket draw. We wish the Cadets every success, and we promise a happy night for all.

**Family Prayer:** In the family, through the faith and love of parents, children first experience the love of Jesus in their lives. Through their parents, especially through prayer, children learn to know and love God. Parents can pray with little ones, and read Bible stories to them, and teach little ones to bless themselves. The parents can also teach their children prayers like the 'Our Father' and the "Hail Mary". Meal time is also an important time to ask God's blessing and to give thanks. It would be a beautiful blessing for families to spend some time each day, or each evening, praying together and asking God's help.

**Gluten Free Hosts:** Some people have an allergy which can be triggered by wheat. As you know, the Sacred Hosts which we receive in Holy Communion are made from wheat. Recently, we have purchased a small number of gluten free hosts. If you would like to receive Holy Communion with a gluten free host, we ask you to please phone the parish office at 538-3106, so we can be prepared beforehand.

**Christmas Tickets:** *St. Ignatius Christmas tickets are on sale now at St. Alban's Clover Farms. All the prizes were donated by St. Alban's Clover Farms. Hurry and get your tickets for a chance to win some beautiful prizes for Christmas.*

#### **Website Update**

*The St. Ignatius Parish website is up and running and updates are done on a regular basis. The bulletin is posted there each week. Please help share the word, especially to friends and family who are living away. You can visit the website at [www.stignatiusparish.net](http://www.stignatiusparish.net)*

**What They say about our church:** The most beautiful treasure of the South Coast of Newfoundland is our Church here in St. Alban's. It is breathtaking. It is a joy to bring visitors to our Church, as they are overwhelmed at the workmanship and its gracious dignity. Sometimes a stranger helps us to appreciate something we overlook or take for granted. Here are a few comments from our visitor's book which is at the back of the Church:

*"A beautiful Masterpiece" "Awesome, His Holy Presence is Here" "The most beautiful Church." "Absolutely amazing Work." "Glad to be home, I love my church."*  
Isn't it a wonder that all this work was done with hand tools only, as there were no power saws or electricity when this church was built. Each morning when I go to open the Church, the same thought comes to me: *'Oh, Lord, I love the beauty of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.'*

**When we find fault:** There is a famous billboard on a very crowded highway which reads: "You aren't stuck in traffic, you are traffic!!" How easily we distance ourselves from problems, in our politics, in our churches, in our world. We feel we are stuck in a political or religious situation where we find it difficult to talk to the other person. But we may have become too rigid, too self-righteous, too stuck in our own ways to even try to understand the point of view of another person. We see things like injustice, bigotry, racism, greed, violence, murder and war, but we may be part of the problem ourselves. Like the man said *"Nobody is shot by a gun that wasn't shot before with a word."*

**Children's Sunday Liturgy:** *The children's liturgy takes place each Sunday morning, during Mass. Appropriate ages are 4+ years.*

**Baptism Registration Form:** This form can now be downloaded from the parish website at [www.stignatius.net](http://www.stignatius.net). Just click on SACRAMENTS and select BAPTISM. You can also call – 538-3106 or email [st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca) the parish office to have a registration form emailed to you. **Please contact the parish office during the months of pregnancy (if possible) to arrange for Baptism Preparation.** Baptisms are celebrated upon request after Baptism Preparation has been completed.

Once again, to lead me Home.

**Readers at Funeral Masses:** One of the most sacred parts of a Funeral Mass is the reading of the Word of God. Family members and friends of the deceased person look for comfort and hope in sacred scripture. If the proclaiming of the Word of God is not done well, those listening feel they have lost something precious. At our Funeral Masses, the proclaiming of God's Word should be done by our regular readers. These people have been formed over time by the Word of God, and in many cases, they are better suited to proclaim the Word and the intercessions. Both funeral directors have received a letter from the parish asking their assistance in this matter. Thank you and God bless you.

**Grace before meals:** *"Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your goodness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."*

#### **STIPENDS: (as recommended by the Diocese)**

FUNERAL: \$200.00  
Wedding: \$200.00  
Baptism: \$25.00