

## Christmas - The Nativity Of The Lord

December 25, 2016

*"The Word became flesh and lived among us."*

– John 1.1-18

In the Charity of your prayers, please pray for the repose of the soul of

***Shirley Dysart  
Sr. Constance Foley***

May the Lord welcome them into Eternal Light, Happiness and Peace.

Christ is born for us!

Come, let us adore him, alleluia!

It will be my privilege to remember you and your family in the Christmas Masses I will offer.

**Father Jim**

*Our Christmas Flowers were made possible through generous donations made in memory of the following people:*

*Leo & Clara Haney  
Stanley & Eleanor Rhodentzer  
Joseph & Verna Wall  
Tommy & Suzanne Brideau  
Marie Anne Blanchard  
Toussaint, Cydia, Ernest & Francis  
Arsenault  
Arthur & Annie McQuade  
Clarey & Janie David  
James Shannon  
Ann-Marie Hayward  
Norman Sullivan*

*Ronald & Agnes Callaghan & son David  
Bal & Hazel Smith & son Raymond  
Henry Boucher  
Cena Boucher  
Henry Mallett  
Rose Mallett  
Juanita & David McAuliffe  
Leo & Cillian Legere  
Fran & Doug Murphy  
Gerald & Helen Murphy  
James & Mary Finigan  
Marieanne & Nazatre Doucet*

### ST. JOACHIM'S MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

### MASS INTENTION

<u>Saturday</u>	December 24	6:00pm	Mel Small Lillian Kelly
<u>Sunday</u>	December 25	11:30am	Raymond & Amelia Tobias; Ned Legere Artie Wilkes
<u>Sunday</u>	January 1	11:30am	Lonny McGrath Gerald Quinlan

### ST. ANN'S MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

<u>Saturday</u>	December 31	4:00pm
<u>Sunday</u>	January 1	9:30am

### Last Week's Offertory Collection

Regular Envelopes	\$1,177.00	
Loose Donations	\$93.10	
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$472.39	
Debt Fund	\$40.00	
Christmas	\$50.00	
Pro Life	\$60.00	
Flowers	\$75.00	
	\$1,967.49	Last Week's Total





## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2016

December 12, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

As you and I celebrate Christmas with loved ones, it is a pleasure for me to wish you and yours God's choicest blessings as we remember the birth of God's great gift to us, his Beloved Son Jesus, the Christ, our Saviour, born of Mary.

This year we celebrate Christmas in the context of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This anniversary year is a milestone in our history as a diocese. Founded on September 30, 1842, we will close the year on October 1, 2017 with a Gala event. I invite you to participate in the various events which will take place regionally and at the level of the diocese throughout this year.

Our theme, *175 years of belonging – embrace the grace*, invites us to recognize the place each of us holds in our diocesan church and recognize our belonging as a grace, as a gift from God. We are either First Nation or have arrived here from the various continents of our world. No one should feel left out!

Several years ago, we began a visioning process that produced a *Diocesan Pastoral Plan* (online at [www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org](http://www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org)) which has led to the *Revitalization and Realignment Project* for our diocesan church whose purpose is mission, discipleship and evangelization.

As a diocese, change has been part of who we are. We have gone from being a diocese encompassing all of New Brunswick to becoming a diocese which after several adjustments now covers 51% of the Province; we started out with only a few parishes which accommodated the then population. Over the years, in increments of fifty year periods, we went from seven parishes to thirty to thirty-nine to fifty-eight and then fifty-nine. Fifty-nine parishes and twenty-four mission churches have been needed to care for our people. At this time in our history as a diocese, the number of those worshipping in these churches continues to diminish.

As we plan for the future, we want to revitalize our diocesan church; we want our parishes to be vibrant faith communities; we want to leave a legacy of faith for the future. I encourage you to be part of the conversation, part of the plan. May we embrace the vision put forth by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, where he sees us collectively as an evangelizing community, a community of "missionary disciples" (*The Joy of the Gospel* 24). Missionary outreach is what we are to be about. Thank you for being women and men of faith whose privilege it is to radiate Christ to the world in which we live. Let us pray for each other as we ask God to bless our Diocesan Church and the *Revitalization and Realignment Project* upon which we have embarked.

The blessings of Christmas be on you and yours. You will be in my thoughts and prayers as I celebrate Christmas Mass.

+ Robert Harris

✠ Robert Harris  
Bishop of Saint John

