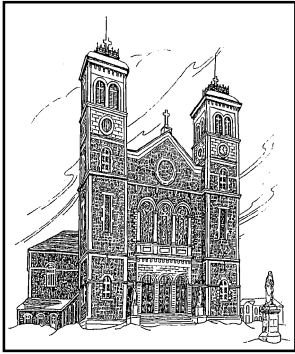


Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

200 Military Road, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 2E8



Archbishop of St. John's: Most Reverend Martin W. Currie

Pastor: Father Cecil Critch, P.P., V.G.

Associate Pastor: Father John Costello

Secretary: Anne Carew

Music Director: Dr. Kiera Galway

Custodian: Brian Penney

Parish Office: Tel. 754-2170 Fax: 754-5608 - open Monday - Friday 9-12 Noon; 1-4:30 pm.

E-mail basilica@rcsj.org

Website: www.thebasilica.ca

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Basilica-Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist is the furtherance of the Church's mission of salvation, as a community of Christian people worshipping the Lord together, proclaiming the word and responding to human needs. We acknowledge the common priesthood of all baptized, wherein all members of our faith community are called to share in the ministries that serve the Church's mission.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 p.m.; Sunday at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 10:00 a.m.; Tuesday & Thursday at 12:10 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after the 10:00 a.m. Mass for one hour

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Rosary: recited in the Basilica one half hour before weekday Mass.

Music Rehearsal: Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm. New singers & instrumentalists welcome.

Sacrament of Baptism: Once a month, except during Lent & Advent. Baptism Preparation must be completed before the Sacrament is celebrated.

Sacrament of Marriage: At least six months notice must be given.

Mass at Bonaventure Retirement Home: Third Thursday of each month

PARISH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE WITH CONFESSIONS --- On Monday, December 11th at 7:00 pm., we will hold our Advent Penance Service and Confessions. We will begin with a Penitential Service followed by the opportunity for individual confessions with various available priests.

Prayer... *We ask that you remember the sick of our parish...* Bernadine Brake, Gerard Carey, Rose Phillips. *Lord, comfort them in their time of sickness and bless those who care for them.* If you would like to have a friend / family member named in the Bulletin & remembered at our Eucharistic celebrations please call the Office by Wednesday noon.

Funeral We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of the late **MAUREEN EARLES** *May the Lord console you and grant eternal rest to the soul of your loved one.*

GROWING IN FAITH ADVENT RETREAT -- WAITING FOR THE LIGHT, Saturday, December 16th, 9:30 am. - 12 Noon. Basilica Museum/Library. Join us for a morning of Advent reflection and prayer. All are welcome. To register, simply call MaryLou Sweetapple at 726-3660, ext. 280.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

In today's gospel we hear the voice of John the Baptist announcing the good news that the long-awaited saviour is about to arrive. The Israelites had been sustained in their time of exile by the belief that God would not abandon them. That same reassuring message of God's faithfulness is addressed to us as well. Sometimes, however, God's voice is drowned out by voices outside and within us - voices of materialism, voices of injustice - and we don't hear God's voice in the cries of those who suffer. The voice of God can only be heard in quiet, solitary places. Father Flor McCarthy, a Salesian priest in Ireland, has written eloquently of the many voices that cry out to us to listen with open hearts. *"Lonely Voices"* The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice which many of his contemporaries ignored. There are many lonely voices in our world. Somewhere at this moment a child is crying - crying for love or maybe simply for bread. Somewhere a young person is crying - crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart. Somewhere an old person is crying - crying for a visit or a word from his or her children. There are a thousand unheard cries in our world, coming from the victims of injustice and neglect. Lord, help us to listen to these voices. Above all help us to listen to your voice, whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts, telling us that we are loved by you, and that we are to love one another.

***** BAPTISM PREPARATION ***** The next Baptism Preparation will take place on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Room.** To register, please call the Parish Office at 754-2170 or visit our website - www.thebasilica.ca as soon as possible before this date. We encourage expectant parents to register early in their pregnancy. This will allow you to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism shortly after the baby's birth. **The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated ONCE A MONTH ... except during Lent and Advent.**

THANK YOU Our Basilica Parish would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped make our annual Turkey/Jiggs Dinner a success. It was wonderful to see so many Parishioners and friends come together and enjoy a delicious meal and a great evening of fellowship and music. The Parish realized a profit of \$1,335.60. the 50/50 Draw, worth \$800, was won by Dianne O'Mara.

>>> ADVENT TEAS -- THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 14th, & 21st After the 12:10 pm. Mass. Teas will be served in the Parish Room. Come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship. Come and see old friends and make new ones!

<>< CHRISTMAS HAMPERS >< <> Each year the Basilica Parish distributes Christmas Hampers to the less fortunate in our community, you have demonstrated in the past a genuine Christmas spirit of sharing for the needy. Once again, you have an opportunity to contribute to this worthy, charitable cause by providing a monetary offering. Envelopes are provided at the entrances to the Basilica for your contribution. Income tax receipts will be issued for your donation. Thank you for your continued support.

><<> CHRISTMAS FLOWERS <>>< This year again we shall be decorating our beautiful Basilica for the Christmas liturgies. If you wish to make a contribution to the decoration, you may leave your donation at the Parish Office or put it in with your Sunday offering. For your convenience we have provided envelopes marked **"Basilica Flower Fund"** at the entrances to the Basilica. Thank you.

AWAY IN A MANGER - NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD Where? The Basilica Museum (immediately west of the Basilica) When? December 3rd - 23rd. Times? The exhibit is open every day from 1:00-4:00 pm. and evenings by request. Please call to book a visit if you are bringing a large group. **ADMISSION: A GIFT FOR A NEEDY CHILD** (you can leave the gift under our tree). For more information please contact Mr. Rene Estrada at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre (726-3660, ex 223 or restrada@rcsj.org) or Anne Walsh (726-3660, ext. 233, or e-mail awalsh@rcsj.org)

<>< **LIGHTS OF LOVE** ><<> Again this year the Basilica Parish will hold this special project during the Christmas Season. Lights will adorn a tree on the Basilica grounds and will be lit from the first Sunday of Advent to the end of the Christmas Season. You can remember a loved one by making a donation to have a bulb lit in their memory. There will be a special prayer in the intercessions at the Mass on Christmas Day, and we will place your loved one's name in a book, which will be on display in the Basilica until the end of the Christmas Season.

This Sunday lights were lit for: Eileen & Ed Bishop, John Brennan & the Brennan Family, John Budgell, William & Mary Budgell, Francina & John Coady, Deceased Members of the Dominic Family, The Dillon, Galway & Dormody Families, Leo & Marie Dillon, James & Mary Donovan & Family, Gerry Drover, Patrick Farrell, Valentine & Mary Farrell, The Fennelly Family, Bill Gillard, Jr., William & Elizabeth Gillard, Ronald Grant, Eleanor Griffiths, Mary Hagan, Hawco & Flynn Families, John R. Hawco, Pauline Hawco, Oliver Jones, Deceased Members of the Kearsy Family, Jeffrey Kearsy, Rosemarie Keough, The Mackey Family (Joseph, Madeline, John, Isabel), Fred MacDonald, Alex McDonald, Marilyn McGrath, Patrick & Mary McGrath, March & Martin Families, Patrick Morris, Andrew & Kathleen Murphy, Kay Newhook, Sr. Jerome Nugent, William & Agnes (Walsh) Nugent, Deceased Members of the O'Leary & Snow Families, Joanie, Elizabeth & Frank O'Leary, Sr., Bernice O'Rourke, Deceased Members of O'Rourke & Roberts Families, Annie Power, Edward Power, James Power, Margaret Power, Mary Power, Pat Power, Bonnie Purcell, Pat Purcell Mary Reddy, The Roberts Family, Joseph & Mark Roberts, Nicholas R. & Rose (Buckle) Roche, Theresa Scurry, Joseph & Elizabeth Shanahan, Frank Stamp, Margaret Stamp, Patrick Stamp, Rick Stamp, Anne Sullivan, Kevin Sullivan, Myrtle Sullivan, Richard Sullivan, Deceased Members of Thorne, Lovett and Meagher Families, Fr. Edward Walsh, Sr. Florence Walsh, Richard Walsh, Selena Watts & the Watts Family, Ted & Bernadette White, Harold Whitten, Theresa Whitten, Bride & Gus Whittle, Catherine & Eleanor Whittle, Peter & Tom Whittle.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - BASILICA COUNCIL ... The Council is selling tickets in the front of the Church near the Religious Articles Store after the 5:00 pm. Saturday Mass and the 8:30 am. and 11:00 am. Sunday Masses. The tickets are on a Homemade Quilt and a Nativity Set; \$1.00 per tickets. The proceeds are in support of the Basilica Christmas Hampers. The draw will take place at the Basilica on December 17th. Contact persons: Harriet @726-3079, Rose @576-0369, Shirley @579-6691 and at the parish office. We appreciate your support.

... Candlelight Vigil to remember those who died by Suicide ... Sunday, December 10th, 3 pm., St. Patrick's Church, Patrick St., parking available in Church parking lot. Vigil is held to remember those who died by suicide and to support family and friends who are survivors of suicide loss. Gather in music, poems, prayer and candle lighting. Everyone is invited to bring a framed photograph of their loved one to be displayed during the vigil. Please feel free to bring along cookies/cake for tea following the vigil. Everyone welcome! For more info contact Kim 864-8101, 691-8978or kakelly@mun.ca; or Tina 726-4223 or tgdavies99@gmail.com.

**** INVITATION TO ADVENT REFLECTION:** All are welcome to come join us for Advent Sunday Reflections, **December 10th**, and **17th** from 4-5 pm. at Presentation Retreat House, 47 Parsonage Drive, St. John's. Theme: Who do people say I am? Who do we say Jesus is? What new insights are emerging for us today to reflect on and contemplate? Facilitators: Gerard Whitty and Philip Lewis. To register please call 754-1582.

<>< **Christmas Caroling & Social Remembering Our Loved Ones** -- In the spirit of the season and in an endeavor to build our parish community spirit, we will be having a Christmas Carol sing and social on **December 10th at 7:00 pm. in the church for St. Paul's** and on **December 17th at 7:00 pm. and for St. Francis** with the social in the annex. Put the stress of holiday preparations aside and come and relax and enjoy beautiful music to reflect the true meaning of Christmas, followed by a social. Carols may be requested in honour of a loved one (living or deceased) for a \$5 donation per name. All names will be entered into a Christmas Caroling book to be kept in the church during the holiday season. Sign-up sheets and pledge envelopes to request carols for loved ones are available on the table in the foyer of St. Paul's and the back of the church for St. Francis. Envelopes can be left with Carol in the Parish office or placed in the collection. Hope to see you there!

PLEASE NOTE ... The 2018 offertory envelopes are available at the back of the church. The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order of your last name. Please make an effort to pick up your envelopes. If you do not currently use offertory envelopes, but would like a set, please fill in the form on the table and they will be available for you the following weekend. Thank you for your continued support of the Basilica Parish.

Remember that when you leave this earth you can take with you nothing that you have received – only what you have given.” (St. Francis of Assisi)

WHEN YOU DO YOUR ESTATE PLANNING, PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR CHURCH.

COLLECTIONS ... December 3, 2017

Sunday Offertory .. \$5,724.70.; Advent Offering .. \$718.50; Dues .. \$580.; Assessment .. \$20.;
Hampers .. \$815.; Lights of Love .. \$440.; Flowers .. \$60.

Acknowledged with many thanks. Your continued support of the Basilica Parish is greatly appreciated.

. DID YOU KNOW? ... If you attend weekend Mass at a church other than your own Parish Church and use your parish envelope for your weekly offering, that offering will be returned to your own Parish.

Bingo! *Cowan Plaza – Corner of Topsail Road and Burgeo Street – Seven nights a week*
Knights of Columbus - St. Clare Avenue every Wednesday and Sunday

.... **CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA** A special collection in aid of the Missions will take place next weekend - December 16th & 17th. Envelopes are provided in this Bulletin. For over 100 years, Catholic Missions in Canada has provided support to Catholic missionaries serving throughout our country of Canada. Their ministry? To extend the blessings of the Catholic faith to every remote, and often poor, community in Canada. In 2017, 24 of Canada's 70 dioceses in Canada are in need, requiring over \$4 million to support the work of the church and its priests and ministers. To receive your free Catholic Missions In Canada magazine and 2018 calendar, call toll-free 1-866-937-2642 or visit cmic.info.

<<< **MERCY CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND JUSTICE** (101 Mount Scio Road - next to Rainbow Riders and across from the Savory Farm) <> **Advent Reflection**, Wednesday, December 13th, 2:00-3:30 pm. **or** 7:00-8:30 pm. You are invited to come aside from your busy schedule. Relax, reflect and discover new ways of engaging your faith for the creation of a better society through the living out of "*Laudato Si*". Registration is required as space is limited. To register call 722-0082 or email teersm@hotmail.com. Light refreshments will be served. >< **Advent Day of Awareness**, Saturday, December 16th, 10:00 am. - 2:00 pm. Come and spend some time reflecting on hopeful expectancy and patient unknowing as we once again prepare for the celebration of Incarnation - God committing totally to human flesh. Registration is required as space is limited. To register call 722-0082 or email teersm@hotmail.com. Light refreshments will be served.

Corpus Christi Pewter Christmas Ornaments ... Beautifully crafted pewter Christmas ornaments are now available for purchase at a cost of \$15 each. To commemorate their 100th year as a parish, Corpus Christi has commissioned a pewter ornament that would make a beautiful gift this Christmas. They can be picked up at the parish office, 260 Waterford Bridge Road, or by call the parish office at 386-9751.

<>> **CANTUS VOCUM CHAMBER CHOIR** presents *NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS*, an afternoon of beautiful music for the holiday season with special guest KARL WELLS reading from Dickens' classic A CHRISTMAS CAROL, Sunday, December 17, 4:00 pm., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Queens Road at Long's Hill. Tickets \$20/\$15 are available from the choir or at the door. www.cantusvocum.com. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter.

.... Come join the **QUINTESSENTIAL VOCAL ENSEMBLE** choirs for their 25th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 17th, at 6 pm. at Mary Queen of Peace Parish. Tickets: \$25 Adult; \$20 Student/Senior & Children under 10 get in free! Tickets available through Holy Heart Box Office, Choir Members, & at the door.

*** **The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and St. Patrick's Mercy Home** invite you to celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the opening of St. Patrick's Mercy Home on January 8, 2018 @ 7:00 pm. in St. Pius X Church, Smithville Crescent. Reception to follow at St. Pius X Parish Hall - RSVP Lana Morgan at 752-8732 or email lane.morgan@easternhealth.ca.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER RELIC PILGRIMAGE ... A major relic of St. Francis Xavier is coming to Canada from Rome. There will be opportunities to venerate the relic on **Friday, January 5th at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist**. Schedule of events at the Basilica: 12:10 pm. Mass, with the relic present. All afternoon Veneration will be open to the public, 7:00 pm. Archdiocesan celebration of Prayer Service, Confessions and Veneration of the Relic.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PUBLISHED BULLETIN

*** BASILICA & PARISH OFFICE OPENING/CLOSING TIMES

The Basilica is open Monday through Friday from **8:00 am. – 4:00 pm.**; **Saturday** 8:00 am. until after the 5:00 pm. Mass; and **8:00 am. – 4:00 pm. on Sunday.** The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 9:00 am. to 4:30 pm. – closed for lunch 12 Noon to 1 pm. daily.

Prayer For Our Parish... O God, you have made us the Church of your Son. Make our parish a family of one heart and one mind in love toward you. Grant that our common life and witness may be an example to all about us. Guide our pastor and his assistants in their ministry. Listen to the prayers of John the Baptist, our patron, and keep us secure in your love. Teach us to reach out to other parishes less fortunate. Give us a great love for all the Church, for our Holy Father, for our bishop, and all those who serve. Help us to be a haven of joy and peace within the human family. Bring us all together to life eternal. **Amen**

WELCOME ALL VISITORS ... We extend a warm and cordial welcome to all visitors to our historic Parish and city. We hope you enjoy the warm hospitality of the Newfoundland and Labrador people and that your stay will be met with many blessings.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Advent: 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24th: 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. (NOTE: NO morning Masses this day)

CHRISTMAS DAY, Monday, December 25th: 11:00 a.m.

Boxing Day, Tuesday, December 26th: 12:10 p.m. (regular schedule for rest of week)

Saturday, December 30th, (Feast of the Holy Family): 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31st, (Feast of the Holy Family): 11:00 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, Sunday, December 31st: 5:00 p.m. - Anticipated Mass for New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and World Day of Peace

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Monday, January 1st: 11:00 a.m. (Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and World Day of Peace)

Our **regular weekly Mass schedule** will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd - .Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10 am.; Tuesday & Friday 12:10 pm.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER RELIC PILGRIMAGE ... A major relic of St. Francis Xavier is coming to Canada from Rome. There will be opportunities to venerate the relic on **Friday, January 5th at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist.** Schedule of events at the Basilica: 12:10 pm. Mass, with the relic present. All afternoon Veneration will be open to the public, 7:00 pm. Archdiocesan celebration of Prayer Service, Confessions and Veneration of the Relic.

Who was St. Francis Xavier? St. Francis Xavier was a famous Jesuit missionary to India and Japan, bringing hundreds of thousands of people to faith. It is said that he was the greatest missionary since St. Paul the Apostle. The major relic that will be venerated during the pilgrimage is his right arm, usually venerated at the Gesu Jesuit church in Rome. It is rare that this relic leaves its usual home, and so this is a unique opportunity to venerate and to thank God for the work of this great missionary, and for the gift of faith.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK ... The Basilica Parish is trying to rejuvenate our Ministry of Communion to the Sick. We have an aging population in our Parish. We are receiving more and more calls from Parishioners who can no longer get out to Sunday liturgy and would like to have the Eucharist brought to them. We would sincerely like to be able to fulfil their request. To accomplish this, we need parishioners who are willing to sign up for this Ministry. It is also suggested that family members or relatives may also be able to bring Communion to their sick or elderly loved ones. Of course, the Parish will provide training in this area. If you are able to contribute to this vital Ministry, please call Anne at the Parish Office, 754-2170.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ...The Christian community has a role in Christian Initiation of Adults. The Christian community supports the candidates by love, prayer, and witness and by testifying that they are ready to complete their initiation. Some members of the community help to instruct them in the faith of the Church. Candidates are also assisted by sponsors who walk with them in faith and present them to the community during the liturgical rites.

At present we have one adult who is asking to be received as a candidate for Confirmation. We ask you to keep him in your prayers.

Your help is needed to ensure that our church has beautiful flowers – especially for the major festal seasons of Christmas and Easter. We have set up a *‘flower fund’* in which you are invited to participate.

Our hope is that this will minimize the expense to the parish, and at the same time ensure that the festive joy of the ‘Great Fifty Days’ of Easter will be apparent in our Easter flowers from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost.

We ask that you place your donations in an envelope marked **‘Flowers’** and place it in the collection. You are also invited to make your donation in memory of a loved one. Their names will be included from time to time in the bulletin. We have made envelopes available for you on the tables at the entrances to the Church.

... We would like to get to know you! If you would like to become a registered member of the Basilica Parish please complete a Parish Census Form. The forms are available on the tables at the entrances to the Basilica or can be picked up at the Parish Office. When completed, the form can be dropped off at the Parish Office or in with the Sunday collection.

... SCENT FREE! ... In today’s society, in many public institutions, we see the sign “no perfumes/scents allowed” because people with allergies are often very severely affected by scents. We have received letters and phone calls asking that we strive to make our churches scent free. As a Church we care for the good of all so we ask your support and cooperation in our efforts to make the Basilica a scent free environment.

... EMMAUS HOUSE is in need of supermarket bags and twist ties. If you have any at home you may drop them off at Emmaus House, Monday to Friday 1-3 pm. or you may bring them to the Parish Office. Your support of the needy of our Parish is greatly appreciated.

*****Welcome to New Immigrants ...** Are you a new immigrant to Canada or new to St. John’s? Would you like to be connected to a larger Multicultural Catholic Association? Please contact Celia Quadjovie @ 763-5757 or email mcca.diversity@gmail.com. or if you want to talk to a Multicultural Catholic Priest call 689-9647.

--- **Coastal Sounds Choir Association** invites you to celebrate the season with our 10th Annual Holiday Concert! Featuring Coastal Sounds Community Choir, Aurora Women's Choir, and a presentation of the 5th Annual Christmas Cantata with Orchestra and Massed Choir, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 7:30 PM., ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, FOXTRAP tickets \$20 regular, \$18 Students/Seniors, 12 & under FREE. Available at www.coastalsounds.ca, Taylor's Fish Market, from choir members, or reserve at 700-6715. Donations for the CBS Food Bank appreciated. Please note all CSCA events are free.

*** **Bible Study at Wesley Church ...** Rev. Bill Mercer will be holding a Bible Study each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. at Wesley United Church, 101 Patrick Street. All are welcome to attend.

EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN TO HELP ROHINGYA REFUGEES ... In light of Tuesday's announcement that the Canadian government is launching the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada has announced an emergency campaign to help Rohingya refugees. <https://www.devp.org/en/pressroom/2017/comm2017-11-01>. A new section has been added to the website for the emergency campaign, which provides information about the crisis, latest news, and resources to assist animators and parishes in mobilizing our supporters: <https://www.devp.org/en/emergencies/bangladesh> Anyone wishing to make a donation that will be matched with funds by the Government of Canada should contribute directly to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; you may also place a donation in the collection plate in an envelope, marked with your envelope number. The parish will forward donations received to Development and Peace.

*** **CHASE THE ACE** continues at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Manuels, Sunday evenings 5:00-7:00 pm. The Jackpot is now at \$32,443.00. 50/50 tickets are available. Only 7 cards left.

Irish Sacred Heart Messenger ... Anyone who is interested in ordering the Irish Sacred Heart Messenger magazine can contact (709)685-2208 for more information. This is a great magazine and would be a wonderful Christmas gift for your friends or your loved ones!

<<< **Matthew 25 Outreach Inc. Annual Christmas Project.** Supporting Gideon's orphanage and school in Kenya. Help us put a smile on a child's face this Christmas. Suggested donation : \$25. For more information or to donate please contact Margie Stead 709-746-6492.

../.. **VIDEO GAME CONTEST ...** Are you between the ages of 12-18 years of age? Do you like playing video games? The Centre for Life is looking for your ideas to create a video game "**What Caring For Human Life Looks Like**". First prize is your choice of either \$100 Steam or iTunes card, second prize \$50 Steam or iTunes, third prize \$25 Steam or iTunes card. Top prize winner claims their name on opening screen of video game. **Contest closes January 31st, 2018** and winners will be announced on February 28th, 2018. See contest details on line at <http://www.centreforlife.ca/lifecontest/>. Any questions please email info@centreforlife.ca.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - PANAMA ... The next World Youth Day will be held in January 2019 in Panama. This pilgrimage is for young adults aged 18-35 and the theme will be "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word". (Lk 1:38) If you would like more information on this pilgrimage, please contact Sara at sbroderick@rcsj.org.

<<< **Diploma in Theology & Ministry at Queen's College**

Do you thirst to know more about your faith? Are you searching for help in your prayer life? Do you hear a call to deepen your faith and do you have what it takes to answer? Do you seek a sound theological foundation for the ministry you offer in the Church?

The Diploma in Theology & Ministry is a lay formation program offered by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's and Queen's College. Interested? For more information talk to your parish priest or contact Anne Walsh at awalsh@rcsj.org.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND CHAPLAINCY MUN Catholic Chaplaincy is open for the new academic year. If you are at MUN, drop by UC 3006 and meet Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ. Daily Mass location to be determined. We have a Facebook page at MUN Catholic Community and my email is ej_mroz@yahoo.ca.

****Latin Mass** – Missa Cantata ... the Latin Mass is celebrated at St. Pius X Chapel, Smithville Crescent, Sundays at 5:15 pm.

... **THE CENTRE FOR LIFE** offers free, confidential, professional pregnancy and post-abortion counselling. Please email counsellors@centreforlife.ca or call (709) 579-3818. Registration for the Fall senior's computer classes is ongoing over the summer. Please call (709) 579-1500 for more information.

... **April 25- May 6, 2018: Medjugorje Pilgrimage** with spiritual retreat on KRK Island with Fr. Zlatko Dusac, renowned stigmatist. Cost of \$3230 includes airport taxes, security fees, fuel surcharges, round trip airfare from the Maritimes, twin accommodation, daily breakfast and dinner and professional local guides. INFO: Marie Desjardins at mariedesjardins1949@gmail.com or (207) 868-5027.

... **St. Clare's Mercy Hospital Auxiliary** has openings for **daytime** volunteers in their Gift Shop. If you have a few hours a week that you are willing to offer providing customer service to our patients and visitors please call Volunteer Resources at 777-5539 for further information.

***** MEN, WOMEN & YOUTH** are invited to serve as Eucharistic Ministers at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and/or the L.A. Miller Centre. There is a schedule and you would serve at least every fourth Sunday. You will need to be registered with the Eastern Health volunteer service - to register please contact Debbie Oakley 777-6959 or debbie.oakley@easternhealth.ca. You may contact Sr. Diane Smyth 777-5470 for more information.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION (CWLF) is accepting applications for its initial Leadership Program for Canadian Catholic women. The Program will be facilitated by the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa. For more information about CWLF, the Leadership Program and to complete an application form visit www/cwlfcanada.ca. you can also contact Rita Janes, Chair, CWLF by phone (709) 722-3860 or by email (ritacjanes@gmail.com)

WEBSITE ... The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's, www.rcsj.org. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, such as articles, blogs, newsletters, and bulletin announcements, along with services that we provide. We hope you find the website fresh and modern.

--- **Volunteers** are a wonderful asset to Nursing Homes and greatly enhance the lives of residents. Volunteers welcomed in assisting with a variety of social activities for residents at The Agnes Pratt Home. Meal Time companion, recreation, friendly visiting, community companions and pastoral care. If interested please call Judy Cook, Coordinator Volunteer Resources, Longer Term Care St. John's at 752-8705 or email judy.cook@easternhealth.ca.

... **YOU ARE NOT ALONE ANYMORE!** No matter what your problem with food -- compulsive overeating, under-eating, food addiction anorexia, bulimia, binge eating or over-exercising -- we have a solution. Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members. For a current list of meetings and to get additional information either visit our website oanl.org, or email us at info.oa.nl@gmail.com, or by phone 709.738.1742.

Canadian Blood Services ... New donors are critical to meeting Canada's future blood needs. It can be challenging to collect blood leading into long weekends and holidays, such as Easter. Many people travel and are busy with family, yet the need for blood remains constant. Canadian Blood Services is now open on Saturdays from 9 am. – 1 pm. for your convenience. Visit blood.ca for information or to book an appointment.

// **INNER HEALING MINISTRY:** Do you feel that life is getting you down? Do you need to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Would you like to come to worship, praise and prayer on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. - Wesley Church basement. For more info call Roger Maunder at 895-3499 or just drop by. This is opened to all walks of life ... come as you are!

/ **Life and Light Campaign** As a response to St. John Paul II's warning against the "culture of death" and the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on Euthanasia, join the Life & Light Campaign to pray for the prevention of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide and the end to Abortion in Canada. Every Friday, 7:00 pm., followed immediately by Holy Hour (with Rosary), Corpus Christi Church, 260 Waterford Bridge Road. Please come join us in prayer.

... **Spousal Grief and Bereavement Support Group** - supported by Eastern Health and Daffodil Place - meets on Monday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 pm., Daffodil Place, 70 Ropewalk Lane. If you are experiencing grief due to the death of your spouse, please join us at this time. This support group provides an opportunity for individuals to meet and discuss the loss of your spouse; provide support to each other; and share information that may help during the grieving process.

*** **A Notice from the St. John's Hospital Chaplains to parishioners ...** A reminder for persons entering the St. John's Hospitals and who would like to see a chaplain during your stay ... make sure you or a family member tells the admitting clerk "I would like to see the chaplain during my time in hospital". You will then be asked your religious affiliation and will receive a visit from the chaplain within a day or two.

* **Seniors Resource Centre's "Friendly Visiting Program"** offers seniors a new and supportive friendship, a link to community programs and services, and regular visits from a volunteer. The Friendly Visiting Program coordinator matches a senior with a volunteer based on their shared interests. For information call Sharon at 737-2333, email: fvc@seniorsresource.ca or visit www.seniorsresource.ca

.. **DIRECT DEPOSIT** If you are interested in using the pre-authorized automatic withdrawal please call the Parish Office at 754-2170.

** **Seniors Resource Centre's "Mall Walkers Club"** This program helps seniors increase their level of activity while having fun, making new friends, learning about healthy aging and connecting with programs and services of the Seniors Resource Centre NL. Volunteers walk with seniors and help to serve refreshments after their walk. For more information call Sharon at 737-2333 or visit www.seniorsresource.ca

** **On the occasion of the death of a loved one**, please consider a donation to our Heritage Foundation in memory of the deceased. Keep their memory alive in the restoration of our beautiful Basilica. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes are available at the Funeral Homes and in the Basilica, or you can call the Parish Office at 754-2170. We still require approximately \$600,000 to meet our goal.

"Secure your vehicle while in Church" Over the past number of years many incidents of vandalism to parked cars have taken place on the Basilica grounds during Church services. As of late there has been an increase in vandalism. Please ensure that when parking your vehicle that there is nothing left visible, that everything is secure.

Stewardship Prayer *Creator God, at Baptism, we accepted the call to follow Jesus. Be with us as we move along on our faith journey. Send us your Holy Spirit, that we might have wisdom for the journey. Help us to develop and share our gifts as good stewards, that we may use them in love and service in your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*