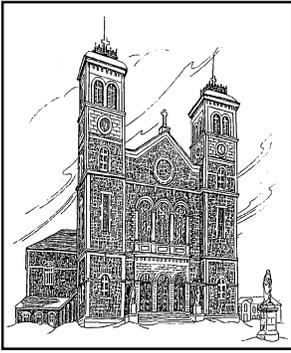


# ***Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist***

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](mailto:basilica@rcsj.org)

Website: [www.thebasilica.ca](http://www.thebasilica.ca)



## **Invitation**

The Archdiocese of St. John's cordially invites you to attend the Mass of Installation of the *Most Rev. Peter Joseph Hundt* as the Eighth Archbishop and Fourteenth Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. John's on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 7pm - The Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 200 Military Rd, St. John's. Everyone welcome!  
(Note: there will be no 12:10 pm. Mass celebrated in the Basilica on Tuesday.)

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

### ***PARISH SCHEDULE***

**Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 pm.; Sunday at 8:30 am. & 11:00 am.**

**Weekday Mass: Monday, Wednesday & Friday @ 9:30 am. Thursday @ 12:10 pm.**

**INSTALLATION OF ARCHBISHOP PETER J. HUNDT - TUESDAY @ 7:00 P.M.**

**Rosary: Recited in the Basilica one half hour before weekday Masses**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after the 9:30 am. Mass for one hour**

**Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm.**

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

**Sacrament of Baptism: 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**

***Prayer..*** *We ask that you remember the sick of our parish...* Bernadine Brake, Gerard Carey, Marie Joy, Graham Wells, Frank Kennedy, Frank Fowler, Tony Murphy. ***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.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

There is an interesting parallel today between the first reading, the Gospel passage, and our Sunday assemblies. Just as our readers stand to the lectern and proclaim the word week after week, Jesus, like Ezra before him, stands up, opens the scroll, and proclaims the word of God. These readings and the excerpt from Corinthians are certainly appropriate as we just celebrated the week of Christian unity. St. Paul teaches that the community needs to find unity in diversity, and uses the image of the parts of the body to draw another parallel - just as no part of the body can be considered superfluous, neither can any member of the body of Christ. Whatever happens to one of the members, for good or bad, affects the rest of the body. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus underlines the importance of this statement by the very scripture passage he proclaims as he begins his public ministry. His mission, and ours, is to bring good news to the poor - to all who hunger for God; to release captives - all who are unjustly imprisoned by others or by their own private demons; to bring sight to those who are blind - blind to the wonder of God and God's creation. At every Mass we celebrate we are nourished by the simple gifts of bread and wine which have been transformed into the body and blood of Christ. We are missioned then to go out into our communities and be food and drink for all we encounter - to be the body of Christ - to be a people imbued with Gospel values and prepared not only to hear the cries of those made poor but to do something about those cries.

**ALPHA VISION MEETING**, @ The Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 7-8:30 pm. Join Elaine Young, Atlantic Regional Director as she shares how churches and teachers in Atlantic Canada can see successful engagement with people outside the church. She will discuss how Alpha can create a culture of evangelism and highlight what's new and available in 2019. She will use both slides and video clips to emphasize key points with time for Questions and Answers. This meeting is intended for clergy and key potential Alpha leaders. Contact: [catholicnl@gmail.com](mailto:catholicnl@gmail.com).

### **2 weeks until CATHOLIC ALPHA ...**

**Sign up and invite a friend or family.** Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment. It is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of Christian faith. Each session looks at different questions and is destined to create conversation. Let's explore some of life's big questions together. **Register online** on our Catholic ALPHA Eventbrite page at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/catholic-alpha-registration-53234291198>. Registration is free. Invite a friend and try Alpha! **Date & Time:** Tuesday evenings, **February 5<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6:00 pm.;** **Location:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Basilica of St. John the Baptist, 200 Military Road. For more information, contact us at [catholicnl@gmail.com](mailto:catholicnl@gmail.com).

### **Journeying with St. Luke (with Dr. Gerard Whitty, D.Min.)**

We are proclaiming Luke's Gospel every Sunday throughout the liturgical year, in Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. We invite you to come together and take a journey with Luke as he paints a picture of Jesus for his context and culture. Using various dynamics we will explore what Luke underlines as important facets of Jesus' life and ministry like the importance of contemplative prayer, of being a welcoming community, the role of women in his ministry, the meals Jesus shared, the importance of forgiveness and many more. Our meetings will be in the PARISH ROOM at the Basilica on **Thursdays at 7:00 pm.** We ask you to use the parking lot behind the Basilica which is accessible through the arch or behind St. Bon's. From there you can enter directly into the PARISH ROOM. Please call the parish office (754-2170) OR email [basilica@rcsj.org](mailto:basilica@rcsj.org) to register.

## BASILICA NATIVITY WINDOW CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT & STAINED GLASS BOOK

... We have a new supply of the **Basilica Nativity Window Christmas Ornament**, \$10 and *Stained Glass Windows of the Basilica: An Illustrated Guide* by John FitzGerald (194pp, \$25), to help raise funds for the restoration of the Basilica's stained glass windows. Available from the Basilica Parish Office 754-2170 or [basilica@rcsj.org](mailto:basilica@rcsj.org).

/// **LEARNING OPPORTUNITY** - Diploma in Theology and Ministry (Roman Catholic Stream) The Archdiocese of St. John's, in partnership with Queen's College, is offering a two-year Diploma in Theology and Ministry. Do you wish to grow in Faith? Do you want to deepen your knowledge? For more information, go to [www.queenscollegenl.ca](http://www.queenscollegenl.ca) or contact Anne Walsh at [amfwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:amfwalsh@gmail.com)

**Finding God in the Dark ...** Let's explore the themes and values of Christianity through movies (and discussion is optional). **Sunday, January 27 @ 7 pm.** at St. Pius X Church, Smithville Cres. Come along and bring a friend. Admission is free. Title of movie: **ROMERO**.

**Finding God in Sacred Heart Devotions ...** All First Friday evening Masses will include a devotional talk and will be preceded by confessions. **Friday, February 1, 7-8 pm.** in St. Pius X Church.

**Finding God in the Life of Jesus ...** As found in the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. This week - The Wedding at Cana. **Saturday, February 2, 10:15-11:15 am.** at St. Pius X Church.

**M.A.I.D. - Medical Assistance in Dying ...** this town hall-type meeting on MAID will be facilitated by Dr. Pat O'Shea on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:15 pm. at St. Pius X Church, Smithville Crescent.

**What is MAID? What are the medical options? What is the view of the Catholic Church?**

... **EASTERN HEALTH'S PASTORAL CARE.** Ethics & Bereavement Services Dept. invites people grieving the loss of a loved one to join an 8-week Bereavement Information and Support Group. Sessions are held Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm. at the Health Sciences Centre. For more information, or to register please contact the Pastoral Care Office at 777-6959 or Scott Parsons at 777-7611.

>>> **Join us for Heart of the World Retreat** - an Ignatian Retreat for men and women, ages 18-35, who would like to have an experience of Jesus Christ through Ignatian contemplation, and learn tools of discernment and prayer for everyday life. A retreat to kindle hearts to go set the world on fire on Friday, February 8 @ 7 pm. and Saturday, February 9 from 9:30 am. - 9 pm. at St. Pius X Parish. Led by retreat leader: Fr. John O'Brien, S.J. Fr. John is active in young adult ministry throughout Canada, and is a graduate of the University of Ottawa, the Gregorian (Rome), and Toronto. He loves gelato and puns that are so bad they are good. His main passion is helping young people discover the love of God and God's will for their lives. Cost: \$25, (Saturday lunch and dinner included). No overnight at the site. **Friday, February 8, 7 pm.** - Reception and Opening Talk, evening prayer; **Saturday, February 9, 9:30 am. to 9 pm.** - Retreat For more information see the Facebook event "Retreat for Young Adults (18-35)" or email Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ, at [ej\\_mroz@yahoo.ca](mailto:ej_mroz@yahoo.ca).

... **Single Catholic man interested in learning about the Jesuits?** Invitation to Dinner, February 7<sup>th</sup> with Fr. John O'Brien, SJ., retreat-giver and vocation promoter. [ej\\_mroz@yahoo.ca](mailto:ej_mroz@yahoo.ca) for more information.

*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.**

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**COLLECTIONS ... January 20, 2019**

**Sunday Offertory ... \$5,631.40; Heat & Light ... \$170.; Assessment ... \$160.**

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

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As we go through increased winter costs of heat, light, snow clearing, etc. please consider making an extra donation in your envelopes in the weeks ahead. **CONSIDER USING PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT (DIRECT DEPOSIT). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THAT METHOD, COMPLETE THE NECESSARY FORM AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE CHURCH. THANK YOU.**

**.. 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.

Your **2019 Sunday offering envelopes** are available at the front entrance to the Basilica. They are arranged in **ALPHABETICAL ORDER** of your **SURNAME**. If you do not presently use envelopes, but would like a set, please put your name and complete mailing address on the form provided on the table. Envelopes will be available for you next weekend.

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

***Prayer to Know Vocation ...*** Lord, I want to be happy in this life and spend eternity with You in the life to come. From the first moment of my existence, You knew my vocation. Please help me discover Your plan for my life. Help me to know myself. Help me to overcome my fears. Help me to want what You want. Help me to trust You completely. Send Your Holy Spirit into my mind and heart so, I can see the gifts You have given me and hear Your call to serve the Church. Increase my desire to bring others to You and to help them reach heaven. Mary, Most Holy Mother of God, pray for me, that I can discover my vocation and have the courage to respond in faith. AMEN

**... THE CENTRE FOR LIFE** offers free, confidential, professional pregnancy and post-abortion counselling. Please email [counsellors@centreforlife.ca](mailto:counsellors@centreforlife.ca) or call (709) 579-3818; Linda Holden @ 579-1500 for more information.

**... RUAH Counselling Centre** offers individual, couple & family counselling. Group offerings: For more information on the services available please call 579-0168, or go to [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org)

**\*\*\* SNOW CLEARING ...** During the winter months when there is a heavy snowfall the east and west doors of the Basilica will be the first to be cleared. These entrances are to be used by all attending daily Mass. The main entrances will be cleared only after the east and west have been cleared. A reminder that when the schools in the city are closed because of inclement weather, the Mass for that day (unless it is a Funeral - check parish phone 754-2170) will be cancelled. Of course sometimes it does snow on the weekend ... if in doubt about whether or not Mass is being celebrated ... please tune in to the local radio stations.

## ***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 9:00 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 TO OUR PARISH**

We welcome all newcomers to worship with us. If you would like to register with our parish, please complete the census forms at the back of the Church and place it in the collection next weekend or drop it off at the parish office.

### **MINISTRY OPTIONS FOR NEW PARISHIONERS**

If you are new to the Parish, and wish to be involved in some ministry, please complete the yellow sheets at the back of the Church. They list a number of the various ministries and committees of our Parish. If you wish to be involved in any ministry you must **ALSO** complete a green **volunteer ministry information sheet**. If your ministry involves **high risk categories** like children and vulnerable individuals, **you must ALSO complete a police records check before you can serve on that committee or in that ministry. Please consult the RISK CATEGORY sheet to see where your ministry category lies.**

**COMMUNION OF THE SICK ...** If you know of a parishioner who is aged and shut-in and would like a priest to visit them for the sacrament of the sick; or if they would like a Pastoral Worker/Eucharistic Minister to bring them Holy Communion, please contact the Basilica Parish Office (754-2170 or [basilica@rcsj.org](mailto:basilica@rcsj.org)) to arrange a date and time for the visit.

**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.

**.. 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 placed in the Sunday collection.

***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. If you are interested in the RCIA program please contact the parish office # 754-2170 or [basilica@rcsj.org](mailto:basilica@rcsj.org).

**... 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.

>>> **"The Good Auld Days"** presented by The Concert Crowd, Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 pm. - Tickets available at The Arts & Culture Centre and only \$25. If you remember the days of party lines, wringer washers and wood stove baked bread, then you don't want to miss this! Join us as we travel to a simpler time on this funny song-filled adventure to yesteryear.

**... Father Robert Savoie - April 26-May 6, 2019: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** where Our Lady has been appearing daily for over 37 years. Cost: \$2,095 (+\$675 airport taxes/security/fuel surcharges) includes airfare from the Maritimes, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. INFO: Hector Caissie at [hjectorcaissie@hotmail.ca](mailto:hjectorcaissie@hotmail.ca) or (506) 857-2295

>> **Come "Awaken the Energy Within"** for more relaxation, energy, wellness and joy with Wisdom Healing Qigong and T'ai Chi Chih Joy thru Movement daytime and evening sessions Tuesday to Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> - March 7<sup>th</sup> at The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road. New and returning students welcome! For more details please contact Sheila at 727-7863 or [sheilaleonard@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:sheilaleonard@nf.sympatico.ca) or visit [www.sheilaleonard.ca](http://www.sheilaleonard.ca), or call The Lantern at 753-8760.

**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.

**BASILICA WINDOW RESTORATION --** The Archdiocese is in the process of fixing our stained glass and exterior windows. They were last done in the 1930s. Any contribution to this Archdiocesan project would be greatly appreciated.

◇◇◇ **EUROPE TRIP ...** Would you be interested in a trip to Europe in the spring of 2020? This 12 day coach-tour will travel from Greece to Croatia ... beginning in Athens and finishing in Dubrovnik. It begins on April 27<sup>th</sup> and finishes on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Registrations are taking place now and spaces being booked. If you are interested please contact Fr. Jeff Kolonel at St. Kevin's Parish office, Goulds (745-8183, or Brian Bursey, tour organizer at 576-4551 or e-mail [bbbbursey@hotmail.com](mailto:bbbbursey@hotmail.com). A full detailed TOUR INFORMATION PACKAGE is available.

**LATIN MASS SUNDAY -** The Latin Mass will be celebrated at 5:15 pm. at St. Pius X Chapel, Smithville Crescent.

MASS is offered daily at MUN (M-F) at 12 Noon in UC3016. All are welcome.

**ISRAEL - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Cecil Critch - October 21-29, 2019. RSVP Colleen Williams 747-5018, [ewilliams@harveysttravel-cwt.com](mailto:ewilliams@harveysttravel-cwt.com).** . Experience all the sites and places where Jesus walked - including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Cana, Caesarea, Capernaum and Jerusalem. **CELEBRATE MASS AT MANY HOLY SITES OF THE BIBLE.**

**\*\*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](mailto:mcca.diversity@gmail.com). or if you want to talk to a Multicultural Catholic Priest call 689-9647.

**.. If you attended a Jesuit institution** other than in St. John's please contact Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ at [ej\\_mroz@yahoo.co](mailto:ej_mroz@yahoo.co) (chaplain at MUN)

**... 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.

**\*\*\* The Irish Messenger of the Sacred Heart** is a little magazine that's read all over the world. It's a wonderful, inspirational gift that keeps giving. If you would like to give someone this gift or get it for yourself, please call 738-3236 for further information.

**>>> ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, MANUELS** will be having "Chase the Ace" in the Parish Hall on Sunday evenings. Ticket sales 5:30-7:00 pm., draw at 7:15 pm. 50/50 - \$1 each; Chase the Ace - 3 for \$5.00.

**"CHASE THE ACE"** Sundays, 1-3 pm. at the Knights of Columbus on St. Clare Avenue.  
3 for \$5; 50/50 3 for \$5

**/>/ Do you have a spare 2 hours in your week?** Pastoral Care at St. Patrick's Mercy Home is offering you an opportunity to fill these hours as a volunteer. Volunteers are needed to porter residents to the chapel, to be Lectors and Communion Ministers. The time commitment is two hours between 10 am. and 12 Noon Sunday to Friday. For further information, you may contact Judy Cook, Volunteer Services at 752-8705 or Theresa Ryan at 752-8716.

**\*\*\* 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](mailto:debbie.oakley@easternhealth.ca). You may contact Sr. Diane Smyth 777-5470 for more information.

**\*\* 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.

--- **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](mailto:judy.cook@easternhealth.ca).

\* **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](mailto:fvc@seniorsresource.ca) or visit [www.seniorsresource.ca](http://www.seniorsresource.ca)

\*\* **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](http://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.

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**Stewardship Prayer ....** *Almighty and ever-faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in you and each other. Filled with desire, we respond to your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of your gifts. As stewards, we receive your gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible manner, share them in practice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor. Almighty and ever-faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that you who have begun his good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*