

Our Lady of Peace Parish

“Three Churches One Faith Community”

Bulletin Sunday December 24th 2023 –Christmas

Office 603 Union St., Fredericton, NB E3A 3N5 Tel: (506) 444-6010

Fr. Maria Arokiam Chinnappan, HGN - **Administrative Assistant:** Irene Jewett

Religious Formation Patty Cameron 444-6018 pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca

Parish Email: parishoffice@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca

Churches & Mass Times



St. Anthony's Church

603 Union St.
Fredericton, NB

Mass Time Saturdays at 4:00 PM

Mass Times & Intentions

Monday Dec 25th 10:00 am St.

**Theresa's
Andy Chiasson**

No Weekday Masses

Saturday Dec 30th 4:00 pm St.

**Anthony's
Alice Giovannetti**

**Sunday Dec 31st 5:00 pm St. Theresa's
Mass for the People**

**Monday Jan 1st, 1:30 pm St. Patrick's
Margaret Gorman**

St. Patrick's Church

31 Main St.
Stanley, NB

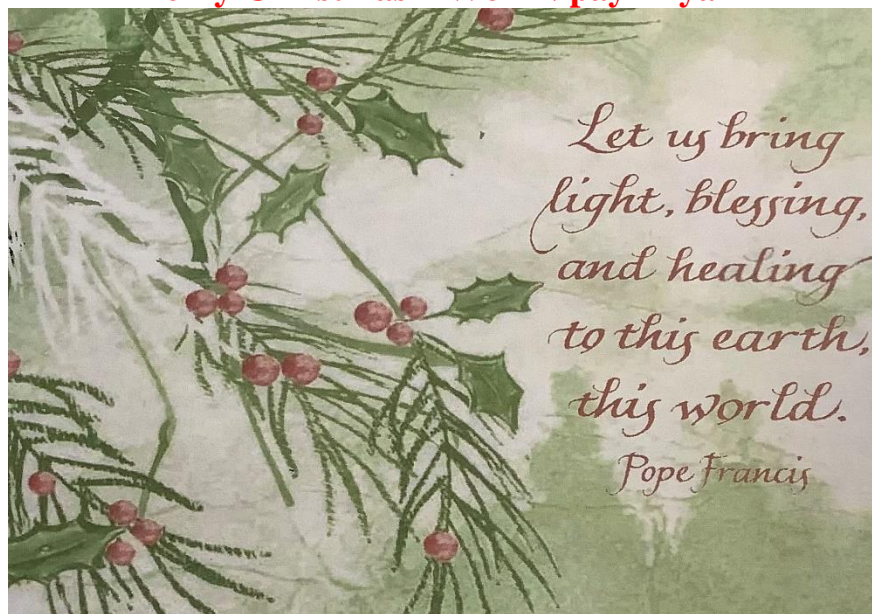
Mass Time Sundays at 1:30 PM

St. Theresa's Church

45 Royal Road
Fredericton, NB

Mass Time Sundays at 11:00 AM

Merry Christmas – Woli Nipayimiyan



Our Lady of Peace Financial Update

Dec 17, 2023

		Weekly	Contributions
Offertory	\$ 5,920	Offertory	\$ 5,920
Capital	125	Budget Needs	(5,255)
Infrastructure			
Special Collections	50	Excess (Shortfall)	\$ 665
Other		Year-to-Date	Contributions
Total	\$ 6,691	Offertory	\$ 265,142
		Budget Needs	265,710
		Excess (Shortfall)	\$ (568)

Our Lady of Peace is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through time, talent and treasure. For all you do, THANK YOU!

Website & Social Media

www.ourladyofpeacefredericton

Keep up to date on all activities, news and weather cancelations!



@Ourladyofpeaceparishfredericton

Office Numbers

Fr. Maria's 444-6070

Patty Cameron 444-6018

Ministry Schedule Dec 30th & Dec 31st

St. Anthony's

St. Theresa's

Hospitality	Mona & Ray McCarthy	George Fernandez, Mary Fitzpatrick, Martin Colford Marilyn Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Greg Feener	
Altar Servers	Bonnie Bowlen	Al Adimalor, Isiah Buenaventura, Will Horsley, Sam Alfaro
Lector	Sue Inkster	Barry Miller & Deborah Allen
Sacristan		Mary Fitzpatrick

*This week the
Sanctuary
Candle
burns in memory of ...*

St. Theresa's Church
+ *Michael Gillespie* +
Offered by Shelia Gillespie



Survey Deadline Extended to December 31st!

Have you completed your Disciple Maker Index Survey? Each completed survey will provide Fr. Maria and our various ministries with valuable information for future planning. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about our community as a whole. Please help us by completing the 10 – 15 minute survey. You can complete the survey online at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/ba0x55> Paper copies of the survey can be picked up at our three parish churches. Completed survey can be placed in the collection basket or returned to the parish office.

Prayers for Peace in our World! On the first Monday of each Month at 7 pm – 7:45 pm in St. Dunstan's Church beginning November 6th. Everyone is welcome. (Blue Church doors at King Street entrance by Tim Hortons).

Employment Opportunity- Our Lady of Peace Parish Custodian and Maintenance Position

Due to the retirement of our Custodian (St. Theresa's Church) this position will be available in the near future. The position responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- **Cleaning the church, church hall and meeting rooms.**
- **Maintain grounds, including lawn care and snow removal on stairs and walkways.**
- **Light maintenance and repair work as needed.**
- **Working with subcontractors as required.**

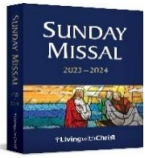
If interested and require more information contact Ken Harris at (506) 474-0332.



90th Birthday Open House for Rose Caterini on December 30th from 1 – 3 PM at the Johnson Avenue Center. .Everyone welcome to drop in. Best Wishes Only.

Development and Peace Fall Campaign: Development and Peace – Caritas Canada invites us to “Stand for the Land” with a focus on Honduras in Central America. We're asked to advocate with land and water defenders threatened by powerful mining interests. Some community members have been jailed and killed for resisting an open-pit iron mine heavily polluting a national park and rivers. Development and Peace is gathering signatures on a letter to the Honduran ambassador to Canada to press for human rights and environmental protection. How might we participate? To sign the letter online, go to devp.org/act To download the letter (for 10 signatures) and access other free resources, see devp.org/campaign (“Discover the Resources”). We're also encouraged to pray for the campaign, and all involved. Thank you - Mary Hanson, Diocesan Chair

2024 Catholic Faith Calendars are available from the Our Lady of Fatima Gift Shop. They are made in Canada and feature Canadian Saints and Holidays. The calendars are \$12 each or 2 for \$20. Calendar orders can be made by emailing olfatimagiftshop@gmail.com. Please mention that you are from Our Lady of Peace Parish as a percentage of the proceeds will be donated back to the originating parish.



Sunday Missals are available at all Our Lady of Peace Churches. To help defray the increase in cost of the missals we are asking for a donation of \$7.00. You can also pick up your Missal at the Parish Office.



The 2024 Offertory Envelopes are ready for pick up in your Church. If you do not see an envelope with your name on it please contact the Parish Office and one will be made available for you. Parishioners who use the Auto Debit Program **please** take your box of envelopes as there are special envelopes within the box you may want to use.

Christmas Message from Our Pastor

A very Merry and Blessed Christmas to all of you. As we come to the celebration of Christmas once again, I would like to suggest a focus for us during these days. We are all involved in preparing meals, welcoming or visiting family and friends, giving and receiving gifts during these days. This is important in helping us to appreciate what and who it is that we are celebrating. But we don't want to only do these things. We are challenged to remember and appreciate the greater gift and event of Christmas.

The birth of Jesus among us truly changed, not only world history, but the world itself. His birth is the beginning of this transformation of our world, but it is a beginning that sows seeds for all of us to allow to grow in our hearts and in our world. One seed I would hope we could focus on and appreciate is the seed of peace. We hear songs, receive cards, view ads that remind us of the peace Jesus brings to our world. With all the hatred, tension, prejudice, discrimination and disrespect we experience in our world today, the true presence of peace would be a great gift. I would ask us all to try to be instruments of his peace throughout this Christmas season. Perhaps it is reconciling with a family member, perhaps it is accepting a co-worker, perhaps it is asking forgiveness or offering it to a friend where tensions have arisen. Whatever it might be, to be instruments of this peace of Christ, who is our gift of peace. Let us make that peace of Christmas a gift to others.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Maria Arokiam.

Thank you all for your generosity in donating items to Our Lady of Peace Christmas campaign. An overwhelming amount of Christmas gifts and warm winter wear were collected and delivered to Saint John House (Men's shelter), Grace House (Women's shelter), Chrysalis House (Youth in Transition) and the John Howard Society. All were very grateful to have these gifts to give the residents offering a joyous Christmas filled with hope and promise for the New Year. Thank you to the members of CWL, Knights of Columbus, Religious formation for donating the time to sort and deliver the items.



Thank you to all Parishioners of Our Lady Of Peace for their generous donations to help Tim & Joanne McWade's son on the tragic fire and loss of their home . Total amount donated by Our Parish \$1,750.00

Our Sacred Stories Advent to Christmas: Hope

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –on them light has shone. (Isaiah 9:2)

These words of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah are the first we hear in the readings of the Feast of Christmas. And what words they are. They truly are “for us.” In the midst of winter gloom when darkness comes early and the light of day is short, when winds blow cold and the snow and ice lie on the frigid, frosted ground we long for the warmth and sunlight of summer. But the darkness and cold can often be seen as an image of the great challenges of our lives. War and violence, injustice and oppression, suffering and pain, inequalities and abuse of power - these are experiences of darkness marking our very humanity. They prey on the weaknesses and vulnerability of all humanity. Advent – Christmas issues a cry of hope. The images and stories bring light, promise and hope. They touch more than our winter season. More importantly, they reach out to our heart and soul, the heart and soul of all humanity.

There are times when we and our world are *the people who walked in darkness* and we certainly seek and hope to become the ones on whom *light has shone*. This is the promise of Christmas and the Feast of the Incarnation. For it is this feast which speaks to us of *Emmanuel*, that is, *God-is-with-us*. Do we really believe this – in our heart and soul?

Our faith story of God’s loving and constant presence runs through our Jewish and Christian scriptures. The Gospel writer, Luke tells a remarkable story of Mary’s role in God’s great act of saving love (Luke 1:26-38). His purpose is to reveal that the Good News is for all. God is continuing what he has done for Israel. In repeated saving interventions, beginning with Moses and continuing through Israel’s prophets and kings, God showed his never-failing love by saving the People of God again and again. Mary is a new Moses opening God’s love for all.

God has always been with us. The People of God, Israel was firm in their faith that God was always with them. The great act of God for them was in the liberation of the People from slavery through the Exodus. But God was with them even before this, even in slavery and captivity, in threat and in exile. Prophets like Isaiah proclaimed this presence of the living God for them again and again. Quite beyond the People of Israel, God’s presence has been witnessed and acknowledged among the many peoples of the earth – in the challenges and the wonders of life and creation. Now, in the *Incarnation*, we see new hope and promise, a new way of knowing God-is-with-us.

Perhaps there are times when we regard Jesus as someone who was born long ago and who lived for a while and did marvellous things. He was a great teacher, a moral leader, a charismatic person who gathered many followers. And then he was gone. In some way his influence continues in those who see themselves as his followers. All of this is quite true. But really, *Incarnation* means more than this.

Jesus, the Christ is God sharing in our flesh, joining our humanity, living in our world, not for a brief period of one lifetime, but forever. The moment in Bethlehem, in the meagre circumstances of Jesus’ birth was a moment that revealed God’s very special touch for us. But it was more than a moment. With Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus, God continues to be with us in this *incarnational* way, sharing our flesh and blood. Beyond the ways in which God has been present from the very beginning, as giver and sustainer of life in all Creation, now God is present as a sharer of the humanity which we have, that all the peoples of the earth share. The great wonder of the *Incarnation* is that it continues,... NOW.

SO WHAT?

So what? What does all this mean for me? What difference does it make for our world? God continues to be a light for the darkness, the hope and the promise for all humanity and creation. Once having entered our world by sharing our humanity, God continues to be present in the Body of Christ. This “Body of Christ” is us, you and I, all Christians of all times, all the peoples of the earth who share our humanness and with whom God has shared humanness in Jesus the Christ. Humanity is truly the Body of Christ. We are the ongoing incarnation of God, the flesh and blood through whom God enters our world now. Hope for our world and certainly something which we can share for peace and for hope.