

# Our Lady of Peace Parish

*“Three Churches One Faith Community”*

## Bulletin Sunday December 3rd 2023 –1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

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**Religious Formation** Patty Cameron 444-6018 [pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca](mailto:pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca)

**Parish Email:** [parishoffice@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca](mailto:parishoffice@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca)

### Churches & Mass Times



#### St. Anthony's Church

603 Union St.  
Fredericton, NB

Mass Time Saturdays at 4:00 PM

#### 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

#### Mass Times & Intentions

**Tuesday Dec 5th 12:00 PM St. Theresa's**  
*Mary King*

**Wednesday Dec 6th 10:00 AM St. Anthony's**  
*Kristine Sherman*

**Thursday Dec 7th 12:00 PM St. Theresa's**  
*Alexina Martin Violette*

**Friday Dec 8th 10:00 AM St. Anthony's**  
*Ronald Wilson*

**Saturday Dec 9th 4:00 pm St. Anthony's**  
*Bob Hunger*

**Sunday Dec 10th 1:30 PM St. Patrick's**  
*Joan Sherman*

**Sunday Dec 10th 11:00 AM St. Theresa's**  
*Mass for the People*

#### Upcoming Events

The Disciple Maker Index Survey Sunday,  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Anthony's Church  
after the 4:00 pm Mass  
More Details Page Two

Advent Family Event Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Theresa's  
12:00 pm. Everyone Welcome  
Details Page Two

Please note change in time for December  
Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's

### Our Lady of Peace Financial Update

Nov 26th 2023		Weekly		Contributions	
Offertory	\$ 4,649	Offertory	\$ 4,649		
Capital Infrastructure	65	Budget Needs	(5,255)		
Special Collections	645	Excess (Shortfall)	<b>\$ (606)</b>		
Other	606	<b>Year-to-Date</b>		<b>Contributions</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,965</b>	Offertory	\$ 246,085		
		Budget Needs	249,945		
		Excess (Shortfall)	<b>\$ (3,860)</b>		

*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.ca](http://www.ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca)

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 December 9th & December 10th

St. Anthony's

St. Theresa's

Hospitality	Mona & Ray McCarthy	Michele McCann, Mary Fitzpatrick, Martin Colford, Darren Richard, Ed Theriault, Marilyn Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Merla Spires	Deborah Allen & Mary Fitzpatrick
Altar Servers	Ken Harris	Al Adimalor, Noah VanLeeuwen, Isiah Buenaventura, Will Horsley
Lector	Allison Wrynn	Deborah Allen & Maria Flores
Sacristan		Bud Trevors



St. Theresa's Church  
+ *Sherwood Billings* +  
Offered by Mary

### Let's Keep the Surveys Rolling In!



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. Or you can join us after Mass on the following dates for coffee and to complete the survey:

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Anthony's Church after the 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Church after the 1:30 pm Mass

**Survey closes Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Celebrate Advent! Family Event** ~ Join us on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 pm in St. Theresa's Church Hall as we celebrate the Advent season with a special parish family event, with lunch (pizza), a movie and a Christmas card craft for our parish community outreach project. All families are invited to attend. To help us plan for the event please rsvp to Patty Cameron at [pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca](mailto:pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca) by Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Advent Reflection Books** ~ Advent Reflection Books for adults and families are available at each of the churches. Please be sure to pick one up to enrich your Advent experience this year.

**Celebrate the Advent season with FORMED** ~ Prepare for Christ's coming with resources for adults, families, and children. Be sure to check out the daily reflections and "Rooted: Discover the Jesse Tree this Advent" and much more.



**Families are Invited to "A Night in Bethlehem"!**

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Msgr. Boyd Family Center

At "A Night in Bethlehem", families will explore the city at the time of Jesus' birth. Enjoy hands-on experiences and learn about the most important baby ever! Everyone is Welcome! Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items. To register please email [pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca](mailto:pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca)

**Our Lady of Peace Parish groups, CWL, Knights of Columbus, Religious Formation and Pastoral Council are joining forces to help those in need this Christmas Season.**

With your help we can make this Christmas better for people who rely on the homeless shelters and youth in transition programs.

We have set up a gifting tree decorated with tags bearing items for the homeless and youth in transition as Christmas gifts and a donation box for warm winter clothing in each church. All purchased and donated items must be in the provided boxes in each church no later than December 17<sup>th</sup>, for sorting and distribution on December 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Blue Donation Box**

Please drop off new or gently used, warm winter clothing items such as gloves, hats, scarves, coats, and new socks.



**Gifting Tree**

Please help yourself to a tag, purchase the Christmas gift listed on the tag, put the tag on the item and return it to the church (unwrapped).

**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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Prayers and Support**

Prayers are requested for David McWade and Angela Graves who suffered the loss of their son on November 16<sup>th</sup> and just a few short days later their home was destroyed by fire, in which they lost everything. David’s parents, Tim and Joanne McWade have been active members in our parish community for many years, our prayers go out to their family in this time of loss and sorrow.

Please help their family re-build their lives by making a monetary donation in one of the donation jars set up in our churches and keep their family in your prayers. We are only accepting **monetary donations** until December 3, 2023.

**Knights of Columbus Community Breakfast:** Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the Knicol Hall, 170 Regent Street. Adults \$ 8.00, Children \$ 5.00 and Families \$ 25.00. Everyone welcome.

## **Our Sacred Stories - . Advent: Be Ready, Be Aware, Be Awake, Be Open**

Here we are on the First Sunday of Advent/Christmas. It seemed to come so quickly. Like the first snow storm of the winter we seem never ready for it. I only just got the snow tires on. Again and again, we hear of the preparations and plans for Christmas. Mark's Gospel sets the tone for us with his clarion call to be prepared. Ready or not, Advent/Christmas is coming. The season leads us to encounters with a series of persons and experiences that are a significant part of our faith story, our scriptural heritage.

We meet the Old Testament prophet, **Isaiah** as he seeks to console and reassure God's People, Israel in the midst of their worries, trials and threats. He offers them the image of their God as a loving parent. It is this God who gave and continues to sustain and shape their life. In hope, they are to see they are the work of God's hand.

We cross paths with **John the Baptist** as he announces that a wondrous coming of God among us is about to happen. God whose hand has shaped us is about to step into the life of humanity again. God's voice will be heard bringing hope of a world renewed, building a reign of God for all.

Finally, we encounter **Mary**. We discover the simple, loving and very human way in which God reaches out to touch our humanity, in the birth of a child. Like every other child this birth brings us one who is our hope, who seems so fragile yet who offers such promise. Mary is the human instrument of this wonder of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Each of us and every human being has been loved into life, shaped by a creator God who continues to love us (Is.63:16-17; 64:1-8). St. Paul recognized that Jesus through the mother-love of Mary was born for us, that we might know the loving gaze that God has for us all (1 Cor.1:3-9).

How do we greet a God who is always with us, who provides us with the chance of unflagging hope and who allows us to be blessed by a love that is unconditional and can never be lost? How are we able to grasp the good news that God has come to live among us (Jn.1:14)?

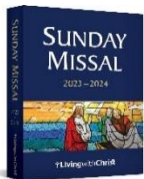
It is in Jesus the Christ we discover our call to reflect to one another, to our community of faith and to the whole of humanity the loving presence of God among us all. For both John the Baptist and then Jesus proclaim the challenge for a change of heart - "be aware", stay awake". The fullness of God's loving reign is coming. It is with this in mind that we enter our Advent/Christmas season.

This year, our whole Catholic Christian community is called to experience an "advent", a transformation. It was set forth by Pope Francis in his opening address to the Synod on Synodality on October 9. He called our times "a season of grace", a season of blessing. In pointing this out, Francis recognized three promising opportunities that lie before us as a church.

First, we have the opportunity to grow "structurally towards a synodal church" – a community in which the voices of all are heard and all contribute to its life with love.

Second, as a synodal church we are called to become a "listening church". As a church that listens before all else, we are to listen to the Spirit as well as to one another. Through listening, we are called to respond to the hopes and the hurts, the challenges and dreams faced by our sisters and brothers of all places and cultures in our global church.

Finally, we are offered an opportunity to grow into a church with a bond of closeness to God and with one another. We follow a path marked by God's own closeness, tender love and compassion.



**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.