

**St. Rose of Lima Church  
Second Sunday in Advent  
December 10, 2017**



**Pastor:**

**Father David Martin**

**Masses:**

**Thursday: 12:10 PM Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM**

**Confession:**

**Saturday at 3:00 PM**

**Baptisms:**

**Please call the Office 653-6850 for arrangements.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. MATTHEW</b>	<b>3PM</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>3PM</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. AUGUSTINE</b>	<b>5PM</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>5PM</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. MATTHEW</b>	<b>7PM – TAPERS</b>
<b>DEC 24, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>9PM</b>
<b>DEC 25, 2017</b>	<b>ST. AUGUSTINE</b>	<b>10AM</b>
<b>DEC 25, 2017</b>	<b>ST. ROSE</b>	<b>10AM</b>

**EVENING PRAYER – ST. AUGUSTINE – DEC. 6, 2017 - 7PM**

**ST. MATTHEW – DEC. 13, 2017 - 7PM**

**ST. ROSE – DEC. 14, 2017 - 7PM**

## ADVENT: GOD'S PRESENCE FOUND IN NEW OPPORTUNITIES?

Did you do your homework? If not, why not? How many parents and teachers have asked that same question over the years? Last week we received our Advent Reflection Booklet. I encourage us (myself included) to write each day at the bottom of each daily reflection of what I discovered while watching for God. Last weekend, at the 11 AM Mass at St. Matthew's, I came rushing in putting my books down, taking off my coat, greeting people and so on. It was then that I spotted them: Bruce Oliver and Ross Megarity, 2 of our faithful altar servers training a group of about 10 other servers. A few weeks ago, Bruce who is 15 who came to me and asked if he could do this ministry and I thought it was great. I suggested that it might be helpful to have a 'co-minister' and suggested that both he and Ross, who's 12 could work together on this...to share the ministry. When I was praying over the reading for Tuesday that line from Isaiah jumped off the page at me, "...and a little child will lead them." So I wrote this on my page "2 youth... young people, starting a new ministry...training Altar Servers. WOW!"

How many times have we overlooked the gifts that lay before us? How many times does God send these opportunities to us but we ignore them or we don't see them because we're not watchful? In other words, 'How many times do we rely on the same person(s) or people who have always done it?' God at work through these two young guys, have set a great example for us. These guys recognized a need in our parish for additional servers... they were watchful...and it paid off! What about us? What are the needs in our faith community that could be addressed but are not currently being met? Could this become a "new" or a "renewed" ministry? Could it pave the way to new growth and opportunities? If you're unsure, could you ask your kids or a young person? Like Ross and Bruce, are our eyes watchful for these new possibilities?

Fr. David

**Please see the front of the bulletin for a list of Masses and services for Advent. We will be having a special Service of Lessons and Carols on December 14!**

### LOOKING FOR HELP!

- 1) If you would be willing to help **count the collection** on Saturday or Sunday, please call the Rectory at 653-6850.
- 2) If you are able to **sponsor a family in need for Christmas**, please call the Rectory. Amounts requested vary from \$25 to \$125, depending on the size of the family. All donations greatly appreciated.
- 3) **MITTEN TREE** – Once again this Christmas, the **CWL are collecting mittens** and other knitted items for the children of our community. There will be a basket at the back of the Church. Thank you!
- 4) **Decorating for Christmas**: This year our decorating "party" will be December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Father David will be cooking pizza. All welcome – it is a very joyful event!

**Revitalization & Realignment: The Priests of the Diocese Gather**  
**By Fr. John Jennings (added March 3, 2017)**

It was with a sense of solidarity that the priests of the Saint John Diocese gathered with some lay people to look at and discuss the models to revitalize the diocese. The meeting, which took place at Villa Madonna Retreat House on February 20th and 21st, is part of the process of revitalization & realignment of the diocese that began in January 2016.

The meeting, facilitated by Matt Manion of the Catholic Leadership Institute, was attended by 40 priests of the diocese and 11 lay persons who had served as members of the work groups for the process. Eighteen lay people and nine priests were chosen from the three regions of the diocese: Miramichi, Fredericton and Saint John, to sit on the regional work groups.

The work groups met monthly from August to November in their respective regions, for a full day's work. They looked at the trends identified in the Disciple Maker Index Survey. They also examined factors affecting the life of our parishes, including: demographics; pastoral life and activity; people resources (priests and laity); finances and the physical condition of properties. Their aim was to come up with 2 to 4 possible models for realignment of parishes in their region. The models were then assessed by accountants for their financial viability and any positive outcomes.

The priests were presented with the proposed models for realignment. There was a great deal of information to absorb. The discussion of the proposed models recognized that realignment will mean fewer parishes. But the main goal of realignment is to bring new life to our churches. It would also mean that there would be more people at Mass together, and more human and financial resources to build communities that are renewed, with more life and parish activity.

The vision of a revitalized parish is one of full churches on Sundays, faith development for people of all ages – children, youth, young adults, middle-aged and seniors. But we're aiming for more than Mass on Sunday. Realignment gives us a great opportunity to realize that we are disciples of Jesus, and to act like it, by sharing the Good News. With more people and financial resources, these more active parishes could provide much better support for faith development and sharing, outreach, and pastoral care.

The process of revitalization is ongoing. In April and early May, there will be a series of regional gatherings, open to the laity, to get their feedback on how best to revitalize and realign our parishes and our diocese. We're looking for a renewed church for the Diocese of Saint John, one that is filled with hope for present and future generations.

Pope Francis has told us that the vision of the Second Vatican Council was one of constant renewal and that local churches, dioceses, and parishes are ever called to live as communities of missionary disciples of Jesus. In *The Joy of the Gospel* in 2013, he said: The parish is the presence of Church in a given place, a setting for hearing God's word, for growth in Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and forms its members to be evangelizers, sharers of the Gospel. ( *Evangelii Gaudium* 28)

In the charity of your prayers, please remember: Mary Ann Robichaud, Patrick Cannon, Lynn O'Leary, Helen Mudge, Thomas Wisted, Charles Dobson

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

*Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of Edmond Gaudet*

If you wish to place a sanctuary lamp in memory of a loved one, please call the Office at 653-6850.

**Mass Intentions**

Thursday, December 14	<b>12:10 PM</b>	Stanley Gaudet
Saturday, December 16	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Marie and Bunker Montague
Sunday, December 17	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Paul Ernst

**Stewardship for the week ending December 3rd, 2017**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>2652.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>312.70</b>
<b>Food Bank</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	<b>438.65</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3503.35</b>

**Announcements**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** If you would like to donate Christmas Flowers in memory of your loved ones, please put your donation in an envelope and place it in the collection basket. Please include your name, envelope # and the name of the individual(s) you are honouring – a lovely way to remember, and at the same time, beautify our Church.

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL:** To Prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ, a **Reconciliation Service** will be celebrated immediately following the 11:30 a.m., Mass on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, in St. John the Baptist Parish. Father Peter and Father Ken will be present to hear Confessions. All are welcome. Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the Newborn King.

Tickets are on sale now for **Measha Brueggergosman's** only concert within our diocese this season! The Home for the Holidays concert at Saint John High School, is Friday December 15 at 7:30 PM. Tickets \$30 plus HST at Harbour Station Box Office (800-267-2800) or [www.harbourstation.ca](http://www.harbourstation.ca). Details at [www.cathedralheritage.com/whats-happening](http://www.cathedralheritage.com/whats-happening). Proceeds benefit Cathedral Restoration Project.

The winner of the **CWL CHRISTMAS BASKET** was **Terry Dunlap**. Congratulations, Terry!