

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child” (Lk 2:6)

Friends, I first would like to thank all of you for your kind and generous welcome to me as pastor of the newly amalgamated St. Edward’s Parish. During this past year many of us have felt the pain of being displaced. Numerous churches have closed along with rectories and offices, and remaining churches have been transformed into new parish communities. At times this has felt discouraging and at other moments like an opportunity for new life. In either case, it is always hard when what is familiar to us has been lost or changed.

In the midst of these pains, we hear the account of the birth of Jesus, which is read at Mass During the Night on Christmas Eve. Joseph and Mary have been forced to depart from Nazareth and from the security and comfort of home. They arrive in Bethlehem where they have nothing—not even a room in an inn—and must make do with a poor stable. Yet, this is precisely the place where Jesus is revealed: “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.” When all that is familiar has been stripped away from them, the Lord comes.

Let us pray that in this challenging time for our parishes and diocese, where we have had to depart from much of what is familiar, the Lord may also come to us in a new way. Already, we have been blessed to see many encouraging fruits from our three former parishes coming together; therefore, may this year ahead continue to be an experience of Bethlehem where like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and Wise Men we are drawn together from various places to be united around Jesus.

I wish all of you a very Blessed Christmas.
Fr. James Fleming

SANCTUARY LAMP- For the week of December 25th – 31st the Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the souls of Carey & Dye family. The Sanctuary Lamp in the St. Thomas of Villanova shrine will burn for the repose of the souls of Greg & Lucy Neville. If you would like to have the Sanctuary Lamp lit for a deceased relative or friend or for a special intention, contact the parish office. The cost is \$5.00 per week.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK - Lord hear our prayer for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, aging and in need of our prayers, and for those who care for them, may they find strength and courage through their faith. **We Pray for** – Ed Broderick, Bertha Noseworthy, Glen Bursey, Sophia Ribble, Gerry Perry, Elizabeth Hayden, David Roche, Colby Chipman, Emily Kenny, Clement Walsh, Wayne Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Mugford & Marie Lundrigan.

IN MEMORY - the Parish extends its sincere thanks to those who donated to the Purchase of Poinsettias to beautify the altar during the Christmas Season. **The flowers are given in Memory of:** Locke/Doyle Family, Patrick Fitzgerald, Bernard, Madeline & David Lawlor, Michael O’Brien, Haskell & Dalton Family, Harold & Evelyn LaFosse, James Fitzgerald & George Robertson, George & Nora Hutchings & Gleeson./Hutchings family, Dalton/Strowbridge & Poole Family, Annie, Matthew & George Mercer/Trevor, Hollis & Joan Metcalfe, Charles Stacey, Frank & Nellie Power & Pearl Warren, Vince Burton/Farrell & Burton family, Suzanne Lafranvoise, Tom Greene & Krista Haines, William Farrell, Jimmy Laurie, Helen Laurie & Hollie Parsons, Cecilia & Francis Johnson, Gerry & Angela Kelly, Walter & Millicent Tobin, Walter Tobin/Kevin & Mary Jardine, Gerald Donovan, Doyle, Kinsella & Chislett family, Lewis/McDonald Family, Greene & Cole Family, Tucker & Burke family.

CHURCH ENVELOPES FOR 2023 - Church envelopes for the New Year are available in the Crying Room for pick-up. The New Year will be a new beginning for St. Edward’s Parish. We welcome ALL to attend. The New Year will also bring a new process for the traditional offertory envelopes. **This year, the envelopes will not have name labels. You can take any box of envelopes you wish. We only ask that on the first couple of envelopes you put your full name (no initial, please), address, telephone number and email address. The name and address are required for income tax receipts. Please print clearly.** We will then associate the number with your name for the remainder of the year. Next year, we will endeavor to provide you with the same envelope number. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you, everyone.

<u>MASS SCHEDULE -</u>		December 27 – January 1, 2023		INTENTION
Tues.	- Dec. 27 (St. John, Apostle)	-	10 am	- Carol Dalton – Bernice Nugent
Wed.	- Dec. 28 (The Holy Innocents)	-	10 am	- Krista Haines – Severin Bourgeois
Thurs.-	Dec. 29 (St. Thomas Becket)	-10 am	-	Peter & Gladys Brown – Jim Fitzgerald & George Robertson
Fri.	- Dec. 30 (The Holy Family)	-	10 am	- Leo Bowen & Donna Dunphy
Sat.	- Dec. 31	-	4:00 pm	- Wallace & Mildred Jennings & Family- Laurie Family
Sun.	- Jan. 1 (The Holy Mother of God)	-	9:30 am	- All parishioners
			11:00 am	- Sylvia Long – Andrew & Hannah Lawlor & family

<u>PARISH COLLECTIONS -</u>		December 17 & 18		
	# of envs.	Amount	Loose	Total
Sunday offering	98	\$2,675.05	\$660.55	\$3,335.60
Dues	7	\$ 520.00		\$ 520.00
Food bank	36	\$1,335.00		\$1,335.00
Maintenance off.	4	\$ 90.00		\$ 90.00
Christmas off.	6	\$ 420.00		\$ 420.00
Poinsettias	3	\$ 85.00		\$ 85.00
Mission off. env.	1	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Archdiocesan assessment	1	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00
Fall fair env.	1	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Students to Priesthood	<u>1</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>		<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total:	158	\$5,210.05		\$5,870.60

Received with deep appreciation and gratitude.

THANK YOU – for your generous donations to the CBS/Paradise Food Bank, \$2,745.00 was collected for the Christmas Hampers.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
DECEMBER 25, 2022

WINTER COATS FOR THE NEEDY – Holy Spirit Council Knights of Columbus are seeking your help in providing the needy with winter Coats. If you have a good and clean winter coat (of any size) that you no longer need and would like to donate to a great cause, please feel free to drop off at Kelligrews Dental Clinic (615 CBS Highway) or St. Thomas of Villanova Church during weekend Masses. Winter books, scarves, mittens & gloves & hats accepted as well. Items donated will be delivered to the CBS/Paradise Food Bank.

MINISTRIES:

Saturday, December 31 - 4:00 PM

1st R - Dave Locke
2nd R & IP - Dolores Robertson
Usher - Jim Woodrow – Daisy Carroll
EM - Muriel Lewis
Sacristan - Anne Petten

Sunday, January 1 - 9:30 AM

Lector - Tony Tilley
Usher - Ray Johnson
EM - Dave Kenny
Sacristan - Steve Dray

Sunday, January 1 - 11:00 AM

Lector - Pat Burton
Usher - Ed Philpott
EM - Marguerite Greene
Sacristan - Myrna Power

OFFICE CLOSED - The parish office will be closed from December 26th – 29th, it will reopen on Friday, January 30th @ 8:30 am.



Adoration of the Shepherds by Murillo - 1645

WELCOME TO ST. EDWARD'S PARISH
Worshipping at St. Thomas of Villanova Church
Box 13048, Topsail Station
CBS, NL A1W 2K1
834-9481 834-5680 (fax)
Email- villanovaparish@nl.rogers.com
Website- <http://www.stthomasofvillanova.ca/>

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm, 8:30 pm & 11:00 pm
Christmas Day - 10:00 am
Saturday, December 31st - 4:00 pm
(The Holy Mother of God) January 1st - 9:30 am & 11:00 am

Parish Priest – Fr. James Fleming
Administrative Assistant – Jennifer Hutchings
Finance Council Chair – Steve Dray
Parish Council Chair – Dave Locke
Liturgy Committee Chair – Monika Behr