

WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR BLESSED TRINITY PARISH – Dec. 13, 2023

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| POSTED MASS TIMES: | Wed., Dec. 13th | Reconciliation Service, Hampton 6:30 p.m. | |
| | Saturday – Dec. 16th | St. Anthony's, Upham | 4:00 p.m. |
| | Sunday – Dec. 17th | St. Alphonsus, Hampton | 9:30 a.m. |
| | | St. Bridget's, Chapel Grove | 11:30 a.m. |
| | Tuesday – Dec. 19th | St. Alphonsus, Hampton | 6:30 p.m. |
| | Tuesday – Dec. 26 | NO MASS | |

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 23 (SATURDAY) - St. Alphonsus, Hampton 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE (SUNDAY)

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| St. Bridget's | 4:00 p.m. |
| St. Anthony's | 6:00 p.m. |
| St. Alphonsus | 8:00 p.m. |

DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY (MONDAY)

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| St. Alphonsus | NO MASS |
| St. Anthony's | NO MASS |
| St. Bridget's | NO MASS |

DECEMBER 30 (SATURDAY) – St. Anthony's, Upham 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE (SUNDAY)

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| St. Alphonsus | 9:30 a.m. |
| St. Bridget's | 11:30 a.m. |
| St. Anthony's | NO MASS |

JANUARY 1ST – NEW YEAR'S DAY (MONDAY)

2024

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| St. Alphonsus | 9:30 a.m. |
| St. Bridget's | 11:30 a.m. |
| St. Anthony's | NO MASS |



POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT – Our Environmental Committee is asking for your assistance. They are in need of poinsettias to decorate. A donation of a plant or cash would be greatly appreciated. Of course, a cash donation is included in a tax receipt as well as a plant donation, if you provide the receipt from purchase. Income Tax is fussy about the paperwork supporting tax receipts. Cash donations can be placed in the offering basket in an envelope clearly marked with your name/address etc. Mark on the envelope: Advent flowers. All donations should be in **no later than** this Sunday, December 17th.

KNOWLEDGE CAFE – Hampton Resource Centre (Fridays starting at 11:00 a.m.):

December 15th - Christmas Special Activity (last event on this schedule for 2023)

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments are provided. If schools are cancelled due to the weather, the Knowledge Café is also cancelled.

ANNUAL CATECHIST RETREAT – VILLA MADONNA: The 2024 Catechist Retreat is open for registrations. Avoid disappointment and register early. This retreat is offered as an opportunity to parish coordinators and catechists as a time for personal and spirituality renewal. Retreat will run from Friday, January 26th to Sunday, January 28th, 2024. Weekend registration fee: \$260.00; Commuter fee: \$120.00. Facilitator: Jim Anderson. To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/qMfUY9BzAq>. See poster on bulletin board for more information.

REJOICE IN HOPE – A Young Adult initiative in the diocese: In today's difficult times, the Church wishes to rekindle hope in the world. To do this, she relies especially on young people (18 to 35 years) who "... are the leading figures of history and missionaries of joy". Pope Francis invites young people to deepen their understanding of Christian hope and to witness joyfully that Christ is alive! In person meetings are at the Cathedral Rectory, Mondays 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Dec. 11th, Jan. 8th & 22nd and Feb. 5th & 19th. Gatherings will begin with a simple meal in fellowship.

MEET other young Catholic adults; SHARE your experiences; LISTEN to a word of faith; RENEW your commitment to Jesus and BECOME the difference the world needs! To register or for more information, contact Jim Anderson at janderson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org. See poster on bulletin board.

THE LITTLE WAY OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP - an initiative of the diocese: The Little Way of Missionary Discipleship Series will provide an opportunity to encounter Doctor of the Church through a directed study of the spirituality and missionary genius of St. Therese, a model for discipleship in a missionary Church. All participants are asked to bring this study edition of Story of a Soul (with commentary): **Story of a soul study edition**, St. Therese of Lisieux, translated by John Clarke, prepared by Mark Foley, OCD, ICS Publications. ISBN: 978-0935216387 (available on Amazon.ca). Where: In person, Villa Madonna Retreat House.

THE LITTLE WAY OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP cont.

When: Mondays 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Dec. 4th & 18th, Jan. 15th & 29th and Feb. 12th & 26th.

For more information or to register, contact Jim Anderson at (506) 653-6809 or janderson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org. See poster on bulletin board.

HAMPTON FOOD BASKET (HFB) CHRISTMAS APPEAL - Want to help? The HFB is looking for **cash, gift cards, and cans!** Your monetary donation is most welcome. They have buying power, and use the money for their monthly grocery bills. They have no paid staff; the Food Basket is run by volunteers. A tax receipt will be issued in January.

PC gift cards are used to help pay for the turkeys; canned meat and fish, canned vegetables, beans, soup are some of the staples they stock their pantry with. Anything you can give will make a difference and is appreciated. **Last scheduled drop off day is this Thurs., Dec. 14th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, St. Alphonsus back parking lot. Of course, there is also the basket in the foyer at St. Alphonsus for non perishable food items and cash/gift cards can be placed in a sealed envelope placed in the collection basket. Make sure your contact info etc. is on the envelope for receipt purposes. All donations requested **by this Friday, December 15th**, please. See poster in foyer of St. Alphonsus.

ROTARY ANNUAL BARREL OF SOCKS CAMPAIGN (note contact info. change) - The campaign has started! The goal is to fill a barrel with NEW socks, mitts, scarves, toques etc. for the homeless and less fortunate **before December 22**. You can donate at St. Alphonsus Church (lobby), the Hampton Pharmasave, and the Seniors Resource Centre.

Your donations will go to the Hampton Food Basket (first “dibs”) and then to the Hampton schools for children in need. The remaining items are delivered to: Outflow (men’s shelter); Coverdale Centre for Women; Romero House; Hestia House; and Joshua Group (for youth). For more information contact Lisa at (506) 832-4840.

COOKIES FOR ROMERO HOUSE – Last Friday of this month is December 29th. Would you be willing to help Shelagh and Don. with their monthly “Cookies for Romero House” campaign? They sincerely appreciate your continued support. Whether your cookies are homemade or Costco specials, no donation will be refused. Contact Shelagh or Don. at (506) 943-3493.

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION EFFORTS – update: The most prominent symbol on the Saint John skyline is the Cathedral’s bell tower. Bishop Riesbeck is encouraging you to prayerfully discern a generous personal donation towards the Cathedral restoration. Even as an Episcopal member of a Society of Apostolic Life the Bishop is already tithing voluntarily a significant portion of his salary to his Community and other charities. He has personally committed to a monthly donation of \$200 over a five-year period.

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION EFFORTS cont.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, the Bishop is asking you to prayerfully consider gifts of a one-time or monthly donation (payable either by cheque, email money transfer or automatic withdrawal), multi-year pledge, securities, bequests, or life insurance, which are a tremendous blessing and will aid significantly in the success of these restoration efforts. If you have any questions, or if you know of any people or organizations/businesses that could potentially make a significant gift to the Cathedral restoration, our Finance Department would be happy to assist you. Please contact Kelly Hudson, Director of Finance and Administration, at khudson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org.

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEY : The Diocese is promoting the DMI Survey. Your responses will provide pastors with valuable information they can use to help plan for the future as they strive to be the best disciples they can be. In order to gain the greatest benefit from this endeavour, we are striving for the greatest participation rate possible. To make this survey more accessible for parishioners, a button has been added to the Diocesan homepage (<https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/dmi-survey>) that contains a list of all parishes and their unique survey link. You are encouraged to complete the survey, on line; however, there are paper copies of the survey available at St. Alphonsus Church. The blank surveys are on the table to the right of the office door. Once complete, you can place your completed survey in the mail box to the left of the office door. I will forward your information when I return from BC. Time is of the essence. Please complete as soon as possible.

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (CMHA) SAINT JOHN OFFICE – Starting January 16th to February 20, 2024, on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the CMHA is running a six-week program designed to help people who have been diagnosed with depression. A trained facilitator and healthcare professionals discuss issues that relate to depression. These include information on symptoms, treatment options, coping strategies and community resources. For more information call (506) 652-1447. You must pre-register at least one week in advance of start date. See poster in foyer of St. Alphonsus.

PARISH ENVELOPES – There are still a few **2024 envelopes** available for pick up in the lobby of St. Alphonsus Church. Please do not use them until the New Year. Everyone has a new number. This change is cost-saving for the parish. Thank you for your understanding.

OFFICE HOURS – The office will be closed from Thursday, December 14th to Monday, January 1st (two weeks). There will be no weekly email December 20th or 27th. It will return in the New Year.

Until the New Year, be safe

Wendy McGee, Parish Secretary

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH (506) 832-3327 or stalphonsusparish@nb.aibn.com