

## WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR BLESSED TRINITY PARISH – Dec. 6, 2023

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|--------------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| POSTED MASS TIMES: | Saturday – Dec. 9th | St. Anthony's, Upham  | 4:00 p.m.  |
|                    | Sunday – Dec. 10th  | St. Alphonsus, Hampton                                      | 9:30 a.m.  |
|                    |                     | St. Bridget's, Chapel Grove                                 | 11:30 a.m. |
|                    | Tuesday – Dec. 12th | <u>NO</u> MASS - St. Alphonsus, Hampton;                    |            |
|                    | Wed. – Dec. 13th    | RECONCILIATION SERVICE 6:30 p.m.<br>St. Alphonsus, Hampton. |            |



**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 Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Advance Care Planning for your future health care needs based on your personal values is important. You have the power to choose the type of care you want and who will speak on your behalf if you are unable to express your wishes. Presenter: Jan Grant – Horizon Health.

December 15<sup>th</sup> - 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.

**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS** – Everyone is invited to attend the celebration of this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. – Hampton High Theatre, 34 Elizabeth Ave.

Tareq Hadhad, the main subject of the Peace by Chocolate story, will give a public presentation about the challenges his family had to overcome as refugees in putting down roots in a foreign land. What one must leave behind and what one must move forward with. Tareq has become a much sought after speaker and the Foundation is fortunate to have been able to engage him. Although there is no fee to attend, the Foundation asks that you **reserve your theatre seat for Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> via Eventbrite, online.** If you wish a “hard copy ticket”, there may be some available at the Kings County Museum.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATAE CONCEPTION** - On Friday, December 8, 2023, Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in honour of our Diocesan Feast Day. We are blessed to be celebrating with the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, who share this feast day with us, and will be in attendance to celebrate this day. For those who are unable to join in person, the Mass will be livestreamed via the Diocesan Facebook page. You are encouraged to attend to share in this blessed day.

**PRO-LIFE COLLECTION, 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Dec. 9-10)** - A special collection for pro-life ministries will be taken up on the second Sunday of Advent (December 9-10) using envelopes marked, "PRO-LIFE OFFERING" (yellow). The monies collected will be sent to support the efforts of such organizations as Birthright and New Brunswick Right to Life in the three regions of our Diocese (Fredericton, Saint John, and Miramichi). These funds will help continue the important work of education on the value of life from conception to natural death, keeping the public informed regarding issues of life that are coming before Parliament, and serving women in unexpected pregnancies. Your generous financial and prayerful support will help promote respect and protection of human life at all stages, from conception to natural death – which is the most fundamental issue facing our world today. Please respond as generously as you can.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (DEC. 12<sup>TH</sup>)** - The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated annually on Dec. 12th, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. In honour of this occasion, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has posted the text of Pope Francis' Prayers in English and French on their website (see links below).

In English: <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/national-day-of-prayer-in-solidarity-with-indigenous-peoples-12-december-2023/>

In French: <https://www.cecc.ca/annonce/journee-nationale-de-priere-en-solidarite-avec-les-peuples-autochtones-12-decembre-2023/>

Bishop Riesbeck will be presiding at a special Mass on the evening of Dec. 12, at St. Dunstan's Church, 120 Regent Street, Fredericton, followed by a reception. This Mass will also be livestreamed via St. Mary Magdalene Parish. More information will be forthcoming next week.

**VILLA MADONNA RETREAT HOUSE FISH CHOWDER/CHILI LUNCH OR SUPPER** – Tuesday, December 12, sittings 11:30, 12:45, 4:00 and 5:30. Cost: \$15.00 per person. Includes fish chowder or chili, delicious homemade biscuits, dessert and beverage. Please call the Villa at (506) 849-5125 **to reserve**. See poster at St. Alphonsus.

**ANNUAL CATECHIST RETREAT – VILLA MADONNA:** The 2024 Catechist Retreat is open for registrations. Avoid disappointment and register early. This retreat is offered as an

## **ANNUAL CATECHIST RETREAT – VILLA MADONNA cont.**

opportunity to parish coordinators and catechists as a time for personal and spirituality renewal. Retreat will run from Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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. 11<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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. When: Mondays 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or to register, contact Jim Anderson at (506) 653-6809 or [janderson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto: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.

## **HAMPTON FOOD BASKET CHRISTMAS APPEAL cont.**

Drop off days as follows:

Sat., Dec 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until noon, St. Alphonsus back parking lot; and  
Thurs., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 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. All donations requested **by December 15<sup>th</sup>**, please. See poster in foyer of St. Alphonsus.

**ROTARY ANNUAL BARREL OF SOCKS CAMPAIGN** - 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 Duncan at (506) 647-7510 (until Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>) or Lisa at (506) 832-4840 (after Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>).

**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.

**CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (CMHA) SAINT JOHN OFFICE** – Starting January 16<sup>th</sup> 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** – For those parishioners that use parish envelopes, for the next little while, please write your name and correct mailing address on the envelope. We are not far from the end of our fiscal year. Having the correct mailing information etc. will make it so much easier to prepare income tax receipts.

Also, the **2024 envelopes have arrived** and are available for pick up in the lobby of St. Alphonsus Church. There are only a few left for pickup. Father will deliver the envelopes for

**PARISH ENVELOPES cont.**

St. Anthony's. 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 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> (two weeks). I will be taking a little break to spend Christmas with my son and family in BC. There will be no weekly email December 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. It will return in the New Year.

On a personal note, I've done a lot of "asking" these past months. Of course, we all understand you can only give what you have to give, no more! But, if I don't share or ask, how are you to know where help is needed?

I've quoted Sister Theresa of Avila before, in fact, this quote is a mainstay of all the confusion on my desk😊. St. Theresa said:

"Christ has no body now, but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world.  
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which Christ blessed the world."

And, on that note, I sincerely wish you all nothing but the best in the New Year. God bless.

Until the New Year, be safe  
Wendy McGee  
Parish Secretary  
BLESSED TRINITY PARISH  
(506) 832-3327