

Mass Intentions

Monday Dec. 3rd	7:00 p.m.	Wayne Koehler; Bride & Charles Power; Marie Cahill; Regina Power; Bridget Whalen
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Tuesday Dec. 4th	7:00 p.m.	Harold & Mary Quinlan; Marie Farrell; John, Helen, Dan Bern & Thomas Brazil; Vincent & Marion Sweeney; Doraval Skinner
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Wednesday Dec. 5th	7:00 p.m.	Alice Jackman; Regina Barrett; Betty George; Ryan Hickey; Pete & Nell Power
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Thursday Dec. 6th	7:00 p.m.	Louis Brown; Frank Taylor; Wayne Mercer; Esther Burke; Margaret Ash
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Friday Dec. 7th	9:00 a.m.	Steve & Ann McLean; Kevin Wiseman; John W. Cahill; Joan Gosse; Tom Roberts
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Saturday Dec. 8th	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance Eveleigh, Stone & Hammond Families; Richard, Veronica & Sister Phaschal Dwyer; Brendon Stone; George M. Carbage; John & Mary Basha & Dec. Family; Larry & Lillian Zend; Mary Tuma & Dec. Family; Michael & Regina Carbage & Dec. Family; Bride & Clarence Kent & Dec. Family
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Sunday Dec. 9th	10:30 a.m.	For Parishioners Living and Deceased St. Michael's Parish
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Collection for Week of Nov. 24th, & Nov. 25th, 2007

Offertory- 113 Envelopes-----	\$1,002.50
Dues – 40 Envelopes-----	375.00
Furnace Renovation Fund – 3 Envelopes-----	220.00
Students to the Priesthood – 1 Envelope-----	5.00
Donations toward Christmas Flowers -----	370.00

Thank – You for Your Financial Support

Visitation of Sick/Shut In's

During the month of December, Fr. Jim and Sister Phyllis will visit the Sick and Shut In's of the Parish on **Friday, December 7th**. This will be their Christmas visitation and it will allow them time to prepare for the celebration of the Christmas season. If you are not going to be home on this day, please contact the Parish office to let us know prior to this date.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday Dec. 8th	5:00 p.m.	Readers: Ashley Curnew & Rosemary O'Keefe
		Eucharistic Ministers: Tasha Brazil; Brenda Sweeney; Cecilia Kent; Carol Clarke
		Presentation of Gifts: Robert Seward Family
		Ushers: Leo Byrne; Fred Carroll; George Hickey; Brian Tulk

Sunday Dec. 9th	10:30 a.m.	Readers: Susan Boone & Sister Phyllis
		Eucharistic Ministers: Connie Cole; Sarah Burt; Judy Burt; Patricia King
		Children's Liturgy: Teresita McCarthy
		Presentation of Gifts: Val Gorman Family
		Ushers: Tom Cole; Kevin Delahunty; Sidney Rees; Ray Whalen

Happy 54th Anniversary

Our Parish extends congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Raymond & Mabel Gendreau who celebrated their 54th, Wedding Anniversary on November 25th, 2007. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them with many more years of Christian marriage and good health.

Flowers in Memory

If you wish to make a monetary donation to help purchase flowers in memory of your loved ones for the Christmas season, please do so during the coming weeks. Your offering will be recorded and the Mass intentions for your loved ones will be remembered during the Christmas Masses. Please place your offering in an envelope with the name of your loved one and we will purchase the flowers for you. Thank you for your kindness.

Christmas Concert

The Bell Island Dinner Theatre group will be hosting a Christmas Concert in aid of the new furnace for our Church. The concert will be held on **Saturday, December 15th, 7:30 p.m.** at St. Michael's Hall. Admission is **\$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for those twelve and under**. Special guest appearance by current **Miss NL First Runner Up**. Door prizes and various spins during the break. Please come along and bring a friend to support this worthy cause as well as put you in the Christmas spirit.

Funeral Masses

In Canada, a Funeral Mass may be celebrated any day **except Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Sunday**. During the Christmas Season no Funeral Masses are permitted on **Christmas Day & New Year's Day which are Holy Days of Obligation.**

Advent Folders

You are invited to take an Advent Folder that is available at all entrances of the church. This offering is a sign of your daily giving to your church and to help with the many expenses.

Ecumenical Service

On Sunday, December 16th, at 2:30 p.m. you are invited to attend our Annual Ecumenical Service at the Bell Island Hospital. Please join the residents and staff to help celebrate the blessings of the Christmas season and to warm the hearts of the residents by your words of love and your smile.

Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

The new Saint Joseph Sunday Missals for **2008** are now available for a cost of **\$4.00**.

Jessie Tree

During Advent we will have a Jessie Tree in the church for The Caring By Sharing who are in need of food items during the Christmas Season. You may pick any tags from the Jessie Tree which has the name of the food item needed, and when you return place the item(s) under the Jessie Tree. Thank you for your support.

Knights of Columbus & Friends

Any member of the Knights of Columbus & their Friends who have **Grocery Sweep tickets** are asked to return their tickets as soon as possible to **Mr. John Kent or Mr. Bill Ford**.

Coping with the Holidays

There will be a Free two- hour Education Session entitled “Coping with the Holidays” from **7:00-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, 2007** in the main auditorium at the Health Science Centre. **Free Parking is available in lot 9**. For further information call **777-6959**.

CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 22nd, 2007 Regular Weekend Mass-----5:00 p.m.	Saturday, December 29th, 2007 Regular Weekend Mass-----5:00 p.m.
Sunday December 23rd, 2007 Regular Weekend Mass-----10:30 a.m.	Sunday, December 30th, 2007 Regular Weekend Mass-----10:30 a.m.
Monday, December 24th, 2007 Christmas Eve Mass-----8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Midnight Mass--11:00 p.m.	Monday, December 31st, 2007 New Year’s Eve-----5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 25th, 2007 Christmas Day-----10:30 a.m.	Tuesday, January 1st, 2008 New Year’s Day-----10:30 a.m.



St. Michael's Parish

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Phone: 709-488-2525 - Fax: 709-488-3399

Pastor - Rev. James A. Beresford

Secretary: Patricia King



Parish Webpage: www.bellisland.net/rcparish

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2nd, 2007

A new Year of Grace begins today!

It is a new liturgical year, celebrating anew the “whole mystery of Christ, from his incarnation until the day of Pentecost and the expectation of his coming again”.

In the First Reading, Isaiah points to the end time as imagined by our Jewish ancestors. The messianic kingdom will be established universally, and peace will be established over all the earth. The prophets see this kingdom as ruled over by the Lord with authority and might. When this kingdom is established all will know the Lord and follow his commandments. They will do so not through military force or coercion, but willingly because they will know the Lord. Isaiah speaks of God’s kingdom of peace as a great nation to which all people will stream. Here we are given the wonderful image of the peaceable kingdom where swords and spears are refashioned into plowshares and pruning hooks – tools not of war but of cultivation and nurture. The reading concludes with the invitation for Israel to walk in this new age, guided by the Lord’s light.

The Gospel according to Matthew proclaims the thrust of the first part of the Advent season and the whole liturgical year: Be on your guard and be ready! Be watchful! Be prepared, for the Lord could return at any moment! The Gospel according to Saint Matthew points us toward the end of the ages and the return of Christ in glory. At that time, Christ will gather together all of creation and will completely establish God’s kingdom of peace. In today’s Gospel, Jesus cautions his disciples as to that time’s “advent” (from the Latin *adventus*, which means “arrival” or coming”).

First Reading: Isaiah 2.1-5

The Lord gathers all the nations into the everlasting peace of the Kingdom of God.

Second Reading: Romans 13.11-14

Salvation is nearer to us now.

Gospel: Matthew 24.37-44

Keep awake; therefore, you must be ready.

SANCTUARY CANDLE: IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH (BETTY) MURPHY