

Archbishop Currie's Christmas Message 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

As humans, we find it meaningful to remember important events that have touched our lives as they cause us to rethink our humanity. Such events included major wars, natural disasters, births & deaths of prominent people.

As so it is with Christmas. What are we remembering at this time of year? It's not an easy question. The Church celebrates Christmas, society, families and individuals celebrate Christmas and for each group it invokes a wide range of feelings and memories. For the Church, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, the story of a God who loved and cared enough for us to send His only son into the world to be one with us. For society, it is often a time to focus on the need for Peace in the world or in today's climate the growing poverty in our country and the confused state of our economy and the challenges it presents. For families and as individuals, Christmas often stirs our deepest memories of relationships and personal experiences that may be both comforting and upsetting. As Christians, we embrace the hope of the Christ Child, who comes into the world, and we long for the fulfilment of our deepest desires. Whatever these desires, we join them to the newborn child who rekindles in us the meaning of who we are as a human family, as brothers and sisters in Christ and as pilgrims on a journey of faith, hope and love.

Christmas, unfortunately, isn't a joy-filled time for everyone because of lack of family or friends or because loved ones are far away or have passed on. Whatever your situation is remember we are not meant to be alone, nor are we to live lives of isolation. Christmas reminds us that we are one big human family. Christmas is about remembering what we truly believe and where we find our consolation. We commemorate an event steeped in religious, social and commercial symbolism. Take away the trappings and Christmas celebrates the love between Madonna and Child. We as a global, faith-filled community are meant to experience and share this same love.

Memories of the past provide the sustenance we need to accept the challenges of the Word made-flesh. This Christmas season may we renew our commitment to justice and peace in the world and continue to keep the light of Christ shining as people on a journey building a new world.

I wish you all a most blessed Christmas season filled with peace and joy!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

MOST REVEREND MARTIN W. CURRIE, D.D.

Archbishop of St. John's

St. Michael's Parish

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Christmas Message 2008

With Christmas arrived, we are grateful to have this opportunity to say thanks for your faithfulness to St. Michael's Parish and the time, talent and generosity you have given your Parish.

Many of you have been blessed to usher some of your loved ones to that far great Kingdom from which God sent His only Son as Prince of Peace. Your departed loved ones are especially in our Christmas prayers.

So many of our youth are stepping into leadership and ministry duties around the parish. We offer prayerful gratitude.

On the other end of the spectrum, so many of our "Pillars of the Church" are confined to home and hospital and unable to take active part in our beautiful liturgies. But they are still our "Power House of Prayer" and very much with us in Spirit.

To families and visitors who have made the Liturgies come fully alive, and worked day and night to raise the level of social engagement in the Parish. We say Joy, Peace, Love, Health and Every Blessing at Christmas and on into 2009.

God Bless

Father Jim & Parish Team

Mass Intentions for Christmas

The following intentions are special requests for loved ones during Christmas.		
<u>Saturday: Dec. 27th</u>	4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	5:00 p.m.	Mass
Patrick & Agnes Neary; Ron Kavanagh Jr.; Frank Pendergast Sr. & Jr.; Jim Hickey; Margaret & Edward Kent; Thomas & Gerald Coombs & Marge Sweeney; Bobby Power & Emma Noseworthy; Albert, Margaret & Nicky Ash /Jack & Shirley Snow; Lewis Brown; Tom Tremblett Jr.; Peter & Agnes Fowler; Gary Hickey; Stephen & Gertrude Hickey; John & Mary Littlejohn; Edna & Frank Brown; Benedict Farrell; John, Helen & Tom Brazil; Anthony Wiseman; Veronica Dwyer; Patricia Brown; Susan Griffin; Gordon Jewer		
<u>Sunday: Dec. 28th</u>	10:30 a.m.	Mass
Parishioners Living and Deceased St. Michael's Parish		

Mass Intentions for New Year's

<u>Wednesday: Dec. 31st</u>	5:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Mass
Parishioners, Family & Friends of St. Michael's Parish		
<u>Thursday: Jan. 1st, 2009</u>	10:30 a.m.	New Year's Day Mass
Parishioners, Family & Friends of St. Michael's Parish		

<u>Saturday: Jan. 3rd</u>	4:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	5:00 p.m.	Mass
James Quinlan & Dec. Family Members; Maud & Henry McCarthy; Enas Bickford; Gary P. Murphy; Michael, Margaret & Jack McLean, Vince, May & Janet Murphy; Rosemarie Murphy; Annie & Hugh Nolan; Marie Spencer Murphy; Thomas Cole		
<u>Sunday: Jan. 4th</u>	10:30 a.m.	Mass
Parishioners Living and Deceased St. Michael's Parish		

Collection for Week of Dec. 20th & Dec. 21st, 2008

Offertory – 106 Envelopes-----	\$1,076.00
Dues – 3 Envelopes-----	115.00
Heating – 2 Envelopes-----	10.00
Advent - 6 Folders-----	120.00
Donation to the Parish-----	500.00
Christmas - 1 Envelope-----	50.00
Donation in Memory of Thomas Cole-----	25.00
Christmas Flowers in Memory -----	350.00

Thank –You for Your Financial Support

***** PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TWO WEEK BULLETIN*****

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

<u>Saturday</u>	5:00 p.m.	Readers:	Amanda Curnew & Colin Taylor
<u>Dec. 27th</u>		Eucharistic Ministers:	Karen Seward; Art Whelan; Mary Power; Ros Hurley
		Presentation of Gifts:	Betty & Kevin Quigley
		Ushers:	Joe Bartlett; John Galway; George Hickey; Fred Carroll
<u>Sunday</u>	10:30 a.m.	Readers:	Valerie Gorman & Sharon Hammond
<u>Dec. 28th</u>		Eucharistic Ministers:	Sarah Burt; Sister Phyllis; Shirley Murphy; Geraldine Fitzgerald
		Presentation of Gifts:	Tom Cole Family
		Children's Liturgy:	Beverly Rees
		Ushers:	Tom Cole; Kevin Delahunty; Ray Whalen

New Year's Eve: Wednesday, December 31st

	5:00 p.m.	Readers:	Rosemary O'Keefe & Karen Seward
		Eucharistic Ministers:	Fred Carroll; Helen Pitts; Jody Whelan; Tasha Brazil
		Presentation of Gifts:	Shirley Murphy & Carol Clarke
		Ushers:	George Jackman; Keith Pitts; Pat Murphy; George Hickey; Jason Hickey; Fred Carroll

New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1st, 2009

	10:30 a.m.	Readers:	Rosanne Grant & Ros Fitzgerald
		Eucharistic Ministers:	Patricia King; Connie Cole; Vanita Bartlett; Christine Quinlan
		Presentation of Gifts:	Bev & Sid Rees
		Ushers:	Ray Kenedy; Alex Newell; Charlie O'Brien; Ray Whalen

Saturday, January 3rd, 2009

	5:00 p.m.	Readers:	Christine Tulk & Ashley Curnew
		Eucharistic Ministers:	Raymond Whelan; Cecilia Kent; Betty Quigley; Rosemary O'Keefe
		Presentation of Gifts:	Lydia Brazil Family
		Ushers:	Leo Byrne; Brian Tulk; Chris Murphy; Fred Carroll

Sunday, January 4th, 2009

	10:30 a.m.	Readers:	Jean Williams & Patricia King
		Eucharistic Ministers:	Rosanne Grant; Keith Kent; Bev Rees; John Kent
		Presentation of Gifts:	Diana Durdle Family
		Children's Liturgy:	Teresita McCarthy
		Ushers:	Tom Cole; Kevin Delahunty; Ray Whalen