

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Tuesday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Gordon Stoyles Sr.; Bernard &amp; Laura Murphy; James Power; Patrick Littlejohn</b>
<b>Wednesday Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Tom Brazil &amp; Dec. Family Members; Veronica Dwyer; Margaret Kent</b>
<b>Thursday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Vincent &amp; Marion Sweeney; Harold &amp; Mary Quinlan; Dec. Members of Ford &amp; Quinlan Families</b>
<b>Friday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Ann Reid; Brazil &amp; Barry Families; Nellie Murphy; Anthony Wiseman;</b>
<b>Saturday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sacrament of Penance Living and Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus St. Michael's Parish</b>
<b>Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>For Parishioners Living and Deceased St. Michael's Parish</b>

**Collection for Week of Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, & Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

Offertory - 112 Envelopes-----	\$1,138.93
Dues – 4 Envelopes-----	30.00
Christmas Flowers in Memory of-----	255.00
Annual Archdiocesan Appeal-----	20.00
Donation in Memory of Anthony Wiseman-----	25.00
Donation in Memory of Mary Cobb-----	25.00

**Thank –You for Your Financial Support**

**MARRIAGE\*\*\*6 months notice required\*\*\*PREPARATION PROGRAM – Must be completed before the wedding takes place. Program dates for 2009: January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>; March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>; April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>; May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>; June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. For further information you may contact the Pastoral Centre at (709) 726-3660 or Family Life Bureau at 579-0168.**

**Visitation of Sick & Shuts In's:** Fr. Jim and Sister Phyllis will be making their Christmas visit of the Sick and Shut In's of our Parish on **Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. If you know of someone who would like to have a visit from Fr. Jim or Sister Phyllis please call the Parish office at 488-2525.

**Bell Island Knights of Columbus Celebrating 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** On **Dec. 6th, 2008**, the Knights of Columbus will be celebrating their **90<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary. At this time the Knights will be paying special tribute to the widows of deceased members. All parishioners are invited to join in the regular Parish Mass on **Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** followed by a reception and dance at St. Michael's Hall - **admission is free.** Hope to see you all there.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>Saturday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Readers:</b>	<b>Maurice Lewis &amp; Pat Craig</b>
		<b>Petitions:</b>	<b>Patrick Hayward</b>
		<b>Cross Bearer:</b>	<b>William Ford</b>
		<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	<b>John Kent; Joe Somerton; Keith Kent; Fred Carroll</b>
		<b>Presentation of Gifts:</b>	<b>Tom Cole Family</b>
		<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>George Jackman; Jason Hickey; Brian Tulk; George Hickey, Charlie O'Brien; Alex Newell</b>
<b>Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Readers:</b>	<b>Rosanne Grant &amp; Sharon Hammond</b>
		<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	<b>Shirley Murphy; Bev Rees; John Kent; Joey Somerton</b>
		<b>Presentation of Gifts:</b>	<b>Valerie Gorman Family</b>
		<b>Children's Liturgy:</b>	<b>Karen Seward</b>
		<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Ray Kennedy; Alex Newell; Charlie O'Brien; Ray Whalen</b>

**Events in the Parish**

Monday and Wednesday nights at St. Michael's Hall -----Card Game at 8:30 p.m.

**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.**

**2009 – Living with Christ Sunday Missals:** The new Sunday missals for 2009 are now available at the Church at a cost of \$5.00 each.

**Flowers in Memory:** Donations for Christmas flowers in memory of your loved ones will now be accepted. You may place the offering in an envelope with the name of your loved one and we will purchase the flowers for you. Thank you for your kindness.

**Advent Folders:** Advent folders are now at the back of the church.

**Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Gift Sale:** Admission is Free! **Fri., Dec. 5 from 2 – 9 pm and Sat., Dec. 6 from 9 am – 4 pm.** Littledale-250 Waterford Bridge Rd. (behind Corpus Christi Church) St. John's. Ten Thousand Villages along with Centre for Ecology and Justice in Partnership with JUST YOUTH Development and Peace. Help End Poverty – Support Fair Trade! For more information call Tana at 754-0447.

**Dates to Remember:**

**Christmas Visit of the Sick and Shut In's.....December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Advent Penance Celebration.....December 14<sup>th</sup>, @ 4:00 p.m.**

**Christmas - New Year's Mass Schedule:**

**Christmas Eve..... Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Midnight Mass..... Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Day..... Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 a.m.**

**Regular Saturday Mass.....Feast of St. John Apostle: December 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm.**  
**Regular Sunday Mass .....Feast of Holy Family: December 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 a.m.**

**New Years Eve..... Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**New Years Day..... Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 @ 10:30 a.m.**

**Advent Penance Celebration:** On **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. we will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for the Advent season. All parishioners and friends are invited to attend. Please make a special effort to attend.

**Sacramental Preparation:** Parents and children are asked to attend their first meeting planned for **Sunday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Hall** concerning the Home Religion Program.

**Concert:** Operation Sunshine is having a concert at the Wabana Boys and Girls Club on **Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. @ 7:00 p.m.**

**New Life in Our Parish:** Our Parish welcomes into the Christian Community, Madison Layla Jade Power who was baptized during the month of November, 2008. You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. May you always grow as a child of the Light.

**“Away In a Manger”** : The Basilica Museum Christmas exhibit entitled “Away In A Manger” featuring 207 nativity scenes” from around the world will be on exhibit in the Basilica Museum from November 24 - December 17. For more information contact the Basilica Museum 709-726-3660 or [ldohey@nf.aibn.com](mailto:ldohey@nf.aibn.com) Exhibit Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Wednesday – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Admission: Adults \$3.00 - Children under 12 Free. Group Appointments Are Available.

**Laughter:** “People are funny----They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.”



# St. Michael's Parish

P.O. Box 610 - Bell Island, NL - A0A 4H0  
Phone: 709-488-2525 - Fax: 709-488-3399  
Pastor - Rev. James A. Beresford



Parish Webpage: [www.bellisland.net/rcparish](http://www.bellisland.net/rcparish)  
Parish E-Mail: [stmichaelsparish@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:stmichaelsparish@nf.sympatico.ca)

*First Sunday of Advent  
November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

**The Season of Advent:**

Advent has a twofold nature: It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation. During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.



The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. **Candles** symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

**First Reading: Isaiah 63: 16 b-17; 64-1, 3-8**  
**O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.**  
**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**  
**Christ Jesus Our Lord is the revelation we long for.**  
**Gospel: Mark 13: 31-37**  
**Keep alert, for you do not know when the Lord will come.**

**SANCTUARY CANDLE: IN LOVING MEMORY OF CATHERINE BOWDRING**

## ADVENT WREATH

The advent wreath does not have to be elaborate. Four candles: three purple and one pink (this color can be indicated by ribbon), a bit of greenery in a circular form will give all the symbolism. The candles show Christ as light of the world, the green is hope and life, and the circle is a sign of God's never-ending love for us.

First Sunday of Advent: **Blessing:** Loving God, bless us as we prepare to celebrate the coming of your Son into our world. May the light of this wreath remind us that Christ is the Light of the World, and we are never in darkness if we follow Him. Amen. [Light the first purple candle.] **Prayer:** Lord we see in this circle a sign of your everlasting love. Help us to spread your love in our family and to all we meet. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent: Light first and second purple candles. **Prayer:** Lord, the green of these branches reminds us that you gave us life and constantly renew and refresh our lives. Help us to bring new life to others through the kindness we show to them this week. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent: Light candles – two purple and the pink. **Prayer:** Lord, as we light the third candle, we are reminded that we are waiting joyfully for the celebration of your coming among us. Help us spread that same joy to all the people we meet this week. Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Light all candles on the wreath. **Prayer:** Lord, the light of these candles reminds us that you are the Light of the World. May that light brighten our own hearts so that we can bring light to people who are in darkness, trouble, or despair. Amen.

Christmas Day: Light all four candles and place a white Christmas candle in the middle of the wreath. **Prayer:** Lord, today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have waited in joy for this celebration. We give thanks for all your gifts, especially for the gift of family and friends. Help us to spread your love and joy to others and be mindful of those who have less than we do at this special time. Amen.

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## Table Prayer

Sometimes it helps to get a bit of variety into the choice of prayers used as grace before and after meals. The following is a suggested form:

<p><b>Advent Grace Before Meals:</b></p> <p>Come, Lord Jesus! Come Quickly!</p> <p>Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation in the darkness and in the light.</p> <p>Blessed are you in this food and in our sharing.</p> <p>Blessed are you As we wait in joyful hope For the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen</p> <p><b>After Meals:</b></p> <p>The eyes of all creatures look with hope to you, O Lord.</p> <p>And you give them their food in due season.</p>	<p><b>Christmas Grace: Before the Meal:</b></p> <p>Christ is born for us! Let us adore.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, In the peace of this season our spirits rejoice.</p> <p>With the animals and the angels, With the shepherds and the stars, With Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise.</p> <p>By your coming, May the hungry be filled with good things, And may our table and home be blessed.</p> <p><b>After the Meal:</b></p> <p>The Word became flesh, alleluia! And dwelt among us, alleluia!</p>
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### Prayer Before Christmas Shopping:

God of goodness, we so often hear it said that it not the gift, but the thought that really counts. As we shop for the gifts for (***think of the persons you are going to buy for***) help us to remember that the gifts are simply a sign of our love for them. We pray for their needs. In your love, watch over and guide them. Amen.

**Prayer as we decorate the Christmas tree:** *As your family gathers to decorate the Christmas tree, you could say this or a similar prayer.*

God of life and joy, as we decorate this tree, remind us of all that is beautiful in your creation. Help us to see your hand in the beauty of this season of winter, in the love of family and friends, and in the feast we are preparing to celebrate. May we decorate the world with the light of your love. Amen.



**OUR FAMILY CELEBRATES ADVENT**

“God sent a present into the world, the gift of a loving presence named Jesus. The Gospel stories indicate that Jesus gave few material things to people. What he gave most was his personal presence, gifts that were treasures of the heart: belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity and justice. This loving presence lives on in us and is the central focus of Christmas gift-giving.” (Joyce Rupp)

I know that you find yourselves in the midst of a frenzy during this season. Very often the real meaning of Advent and Christmas gets lost as we follow commercialism. Of course, we look forward to the gifts and the celebrating. But let us during this advent set aside some time and care to be present to others, whether they are close to us geographically or separated from us by kilometers. Advent is a good season to be more deliberate in sharing the gift of our presence every day.

The following suggestion may help you to be more focused in the way you are present to our world. Try **to be present to your own needs, or be with someone who needs you, someone who gives you hope, someone who suffers in fear, an older person, one who has helped you to grow, a dear one in pain, victims of war, a person who keeps in contact with you through phone or letter, a needy child, a homeless person, a coworker, a friend who suffers from substance abuse, the leader of Canada or Newfoundland, a church leader, a parish minister, a prisoner, someone who is working for social justice, a person who is abused or neglected.** You will notice that being present may only require a prayerful thought or it may demand action from you.

The above activity sharpens our focus on Advent. We prepare for remembering the first coming of Christ, we prepare for Christ coming into our lives in a fuller way, and we prepare for the second coming of Jesus at the end of time.

**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2008 @ 4:00 P.M.**

<b>ADVENT MASSES</b>	
<p><b>Saturdays</b>      <b>5:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Sundays</b>        <b>10:30 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Weekdays:</b>  <b>Tuesday and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Fridays at 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Come along and hear God’s Word for Advent and Share the Eucharist. Put a song in Your Heart and a reflection in your soul for the Day.</b></p>
<b>CHRISTMAS MASSES</b>	
<p><b>Christmas Eve:</b>  Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve Midnight Mass:</b>  Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Christmas Day:</b>  Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Feast of St. John Apostle:</b>  Saturday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Feast of the Holy Family:</b>  Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>New Year’s Masses:</b>  <b>Feast of Mary, The Mother of God</b>  Wednesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.  Thursday, Jan.1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.</p>