

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 22	7:00 pm	Linda (Pipher) Dunn; Ralph J., Mary, Ralph Jr., Jack J., Edward, Kenneth Lahey; Ed Hurley & Margaret & Charles O’Leary
Saturday, Dec. 26	4:00 pm	Confessions
Saturday, Dec. 26	5:00 pm	Steve & Mary Hawco; Fred Watson, Doherty & McCarthy Families; Ronald K. Kavanagh; Art Cummings; William & Sarah Curnew; Charles & Rita O’Brien; James & Maria Kelly; Cyril Jackman
Sunday, Dec. 27	10:30 am	Parishioners Living and Deceased St. Michael’s Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -- DECEMBER 20, 2009: “It is by God's will that we have been sanctified.” How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, contact the vocations office: Fr. Courtney 726-3660, stjohnsvocations@gmail.com.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT – WHAT DOES IT MEAN? It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ’s first coming among us: It is a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation. During this time, each Sunday’s gospel has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those 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.

IN MEMORIAM – DECEMBER 20, 2008: Please remember in your prayers: Jasmine, Kody & Michael Taylor and their families.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
DECEMBER 13TH, 2009**

Offertory (97 Envelopes)	\$1087.00
Dues (1 Envelope)	\$5.00
Advent 2 Folders	\$80.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	CHRISTMAS EVE 8:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30 A.M.
READERS:	Colin Taylor Amanda Curnew	Christine Quinlan Sister Phyllis	Geraldine Fitzgerald Rosanne Grant
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	Tom Spracklin Rosemary O’Keefe	Des McCarthy Brenda Sweeney	Sister Phyllis Patricia King
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:	Diana Durdle Family	Mary Power George Jackman	Valerie Gorman Family
USHERS:	Leo Byrne Brian Tulk Chris Murphy Fred Carroll	Ray Kennedy Alex Newell Ray Whalen Charlie O’Brien	Joe Bartlett John Galway George Hickey Jason Hickey

	SATURDAY, DEC. 26 5.00 P.M.	SUNDAY, DEC.27 10:30 A.M.
READERS:	Ashley Curnew Karen Seward	Ros Hurley Ros Fitzgerald
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	Irene Delahunty Loretta Byrne	Shirley Murphy Sarah Burt
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:	Shirley Murphy & Carol Clarke	Tom Cole Family
USHERS:	George Jackman Keith Pitts Pat Murphy George Hickey	Tom Cole Kevin Delahunty Ray Whalen
CHILDREN’S LITURGY:		Ros Hurley

SENIOR CHOIR PRACTICE: for the **Christmas Eve 11:00pm** mass will be held at the church on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 2:30pm. Please come and help us make this a truly joyous celebration!

JUNIOR CHOIR PRACTICE: for the **Christmas Eve 8:00pm** mass will be held at the church on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 5:00pm. All are welcome to this practice!

BEREAVEMENT TEAMS: Our bereavement teams are vital to our Parish. They help families at one of their most difficult times to become involved in planning the liturgies for their loved ones. There is a need to increase the number of teams in our Parish. Please give some serious consideration and call the Parish office 488-2525.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve-----8:00 pm.
Thursday, December 24, Christmas Night: -----11:00 pm.
Friday, December 25, Christmas Morning: -----10:30 am.
Saturday, Dec. 26: (Holy Family):-----5:00 pm.
Sunday, Dec. 27 (Holy Family):-----10:30 am.

MASSES FOR NEW YEARS

Thurs.: December 31: (Mary, Mother of God):-----5:00pm.
Friday, January 1, 2010 (Mary, Mother of God):-----10:30am.
Saturday, January 2, (Epiphany):-----5:00pm.
Sunday, January 3, (Epiphany):-----10:30am.

Besides Sundays, there are only two holy days of obligation annually:
CHRISTMAS DAY and NEW YEAR'S DAY

JESSE TREE: You will notice the tree at the front of the Church. This is to remind us of the needs of the Foodbank. Each ticket represents a different item needed. Please support by picking a ticket and returning the following week with the needed item. Your support is much appreciated!

THE 7TH ANNUAL NATIVITY EXHIBIT: Presented by The Basilica Cathedral Museum, Nov. 27th – Dec. 20th – **Away in a Manger, Nativities from Around the World.** Experience Christmas at the Basilica Museum with 142 nativities from 32 countries! Visit our Christmas tree and leave a present for a child this Christmas. Exhibit Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 1 - 4pm & Wednesday Evening 7- 9pm. Available for groups by appointment. For more information please call 726-3660.

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.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS: If you or a family member is affected by someone else's drinking, maybe Al-Anon Family Groups can help. Please call 722-2666.



St. Michael's Parish

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PHONE: 709-488-2525 - FAX: 709-488-3399

PASTOR - REV. JAMES A. BERESFORD



PARISH WEBPAGE: www.bellisland.net/rcparish OFFICE HOURS: Tue. & Thurs. 1-5 p.m.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: JENNIFER DOIRON
PARISH E-MAIL: stmichaelsparish@nf.sympatico.ca

FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20TH, 2009

REFLECTION:

FIRST READING: Micah 5: 2-5a

From you, O Bethlehem, will come the ruler of Israel.

Micah prophesies the birth of the Savior from the least of the clan of Judah. God's intervention in human history often shatters our expectations. The Savior is born in lowliness and the extension of his reign is a work of peace and not control through power.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10: 5-10

I come to do your will.

The author of Hebrews portrays Jesus as God's obedient servant who offered for all humankind the one perfect sacrifice. This sacrifice was the gift of perfect obedience to God, culminating in Jesus' complete gift of himself on the cross. Like Jesus, we are called to proclaim in word and deed our obedient service to all that God asks of us. We can do so only if we unite ourselves to Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-45

*Why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?*

Elizabeth acknowledges in Mary the dwelling place of God's promise fulfilled. Mary, like her ancestors in faith, believed that God's promise would be fulfilled, and by God's graciousness bore the Savior of the world. Each of us is called like Mary to carry the Lord's presence to others, and like Elizabeth, to rejoice in the Lord's presence brought into our lives by another.