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| ***Sunday / Christmas Worship Calendar***  **Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday in Advent, 10:30 a.m.** (Blue) **Candles in Memory with Carols** (AG Team 2)  Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8, 11 (Robert Dawe) Philippians 1: 3 – 11 (Donna Dawe) Luke 1: 38 – 45  **Tuesday, December 24,** **Christmas Eve** (White) (AG Team 3) \*  **11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist** (EA – Gail Trewhitt)  Isaiah 9:2-7 (Gail Trewhitt) Ps. 98 Titus 3: 4-7 (Betty Hiscock) Luke 2:1-20  **4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Creche & Holy Eucharist** (Ukulele Ministry) (EA – Iain Hollett)  Isaiah 9:2-7 (Sandra Squires) Ps. 98 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2:1-20  **7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist** (EA – Donald Sparkes)  Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Jn 1: 1-14  **Sunday, December 29, Sunday after Christmas**  10:30 a.m. (White) **Christmas Lessons & Carols** (AG Team 1**)**  **Sunday, January 5, The Epiphany of the Lord** (AG Team 2) (EA – Iain Hollett)  10:30 a.m. (White) **Family Eucharist**  Followed by a Cup O’Tea in the Parish Hall  Isaiah 60: 1-6 (Shirley Butt) Ps.72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 (Stephanie Gavell) Mt.2: 1-12 |

**A Note from the Treasurer:** Please ensure your **NAME & ENVELOPE NUMBER** are onall financial **correspondence** so that we can credit your account for income tax purposes.

**Regular Parish Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

***Service Roster:*** Sidespersons Sound Room

December 22nd David M. Jim S.

December 24th . Robert D./Jim S./ Philip G.

December 29th Andrew B.

January 5th

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| Bishop: The Right Dr. Reverend Samuel Rose  Diocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene Taylor  Rector: The Reverend Canon Josiah “Jotie” Noel, T.S.S.F. (Third Order, Society of St. Francis)  Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa Cox  Organists/Choir Director: Stephanie Gavell, Amanda Dawe-Ledwell  Parish Wardens: Rex Hillier & Donald Sparkes  Office Administrator: David Kelland |

**Parish of St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

**December 22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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This Bulletin is given to the Glory of God

and in Loving Memory of

**Ted Barnes**

by wife, Violet & Family

www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com

Facebook: SJTE Topsail

Office email: sjtetopsail@nfld.net

Office phone number: 709 834-2336

Rector Email: jotienoel@gmail.com

Cell: 709 325-2366

***Our Parish Mission Statement***

***We believe in nurturing a community of faith dedicated to inclusion, support and sharing the story of God's love with all people regardless of the stage of their spiritual journey***

The Parish live-streams our regular Sunday Services and posts to Facebook

*“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

*Luke 1: 41*

Mary is a powerless person, with no special attributes or experiences. She is unmarried, which means she has no one to protect her, which means, in that part of the world in that day, that she has no real identity or recognized position in society. Then Gabriel shows up.

Mary realizes that she is somebody, blessed, fortunate. She’s been given a job to do in the salvation of the world. That’s why the church has often called Mary “The First Disciple.” She is the first to be called by God to take a part in the *Goodnewsing* of the world. She is the first, when called by God, to say, “Yes. Here I am. Send me.”

What a way to open the drama of our salvation in Jesus Christ! What a grand prelude to our celebration of the Nativity! I hope that you will hear this story of God coming first to an unknown, lowly woman on the margins, one who is young as maybe your story.

Let’s face it, most of us are unknown to the world. We are living in a place we love, but it’s out of the way of the prestigious and prominent world addresses. We may not have been given the power to rule. We may be without much prestige and privilege. Luke’s gospel says, Rejoice! You are just the sort of person, to whom God might come and enlist you to play your part in God’s great reclamation, God’s redemption project in the world.

You do not believe Luke? You do not believe that God coming to you like God came to Mary is possible? Please listen to the angel who came to her. Believe that angel! “With God, nothing is impossible.”

That’s one reason why we are able to say, “Merry Christmas.”

*Canon Jotie, TSSF*

*God of scandalous love,*

*Mary consented to bear the shame*

*and carry your Word within herself:*

*may her courage give hope to women*

*and men who yearn to sing new songs of justice*

*and find the world a dwelling place for God;*

*through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.*

*(Prayers for an Inclusive Church)*

**We invite prayers for those who are sick**: Patricia B. Elaine M., Benjamin C., Doug T., Tammy H., Jeanette P., Wally H., Trudy T., Ruby H., Kelly R., Phyllis H., Eva B., Hayden P., Cynthia W., Scott S.

**Parish Home Visits** – Reverend Jotie is ready, willing, and able to visit you in your home. Under the circumstances of time and place, this offer comes with the understanding that he will respond to invitations. Please call him to invite him to visit your home if you wish.

**Bible Study, New Year** – Our next Bible Study will be in January as we continue our study of Luke’s Gospel.

**2025 Envelopes -** If you need a new box of envelopes for 2025 please contact the parish office by email [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net) or call 709 834-2336. We also have the option of Pre-Authorized payment or e-transfer. To learn more about these options please call the Parish Office.



Parish Office Christmas Hours

The Parish Office will be **closed** from Tuesday**, December 24th to Thursday, December 26th inclusive.**

We will open on **Monday, December 30th**, for year- end counting and deposit The office will be **closed** from **Tuesday,** **December 31st 2024 to Thursday, January 2nd 2025**

Regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) will resume on **Monday, January 6th, 2025**

A locked mail drop box is available at the office entrance for your convenience.

If you have an **emergency** during the Christmas season, please contact: Reverend Jotie at 709 325-2366

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we light The Candle of Joy.*

*First, we lit The Candle of Hope, and reaffirmed our hope in Jesus Christ.*

***The first candle of the wreath is lit***

*Then we lit the second, Candle of Peace, and we reaffirmed the importance of our being peace-makers in our world*

***The second candle of the wreath is lit.***

*And then, we lit The Candle of Love, and reaffirmed the importance of sharing the love we have in Christ Jesus.*

**The third candle of the wreath is lit.**

*Today, we light the Candle of Joy, and reaffirm the joy we find in Jesus.*

**The fourth candle of the wreath is lit.**

**Candle Lighting Hymn**

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night**

**To welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world’s true light.**

**To welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world’s true light.**

**Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come.**

**Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room!**

**Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room!**

*Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:*

*to you be praise and glory for ever.*

*Your light has shone in our darkened world*

*Through the child-bearing of blessed Mary.*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Grant that we who have seen your glory

*May daily be renewed in your image,*

*and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,*

*who is Lord and Saviour of all..*

**Blessed be God for ever.**