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| ***Worship Calendar*****Sun., Feb., 9,** **The Presentation of the Lord,** 10:30 a.m. (White) **Candlemas Procession & Holy Eucharist**, (AG Team 1) (EA – Gail Trewhitt)Malachi 3: 1 – 4 Glenda Tapp Psalm 84: 1 – 7 Hebrews 2: 14 – 18 Gail Trewhitt Luke 2: 22 – 40**Sun., Feb., 16**, **Christingle Service**, 10:30 a.m. (White) **Ukulele Family Ministry** (AG Team 2) Jer. 17: 5 – 10 Shirley Butt Psalm 1 1 Cor. 15: 12 – 20 Sandra Squires Luke 6: 17 – 26 **Sun., Feb., 23**, **Epiphany 7**, 10:30 a.m. (Green) **Holy Eucharist** (AG Team 3) Chancel Chat with Rex Hillier (EA Iain Hollett)Genesis 45: 3 – 11, 15 Rev Emeline Coffin Psalm 37: 1 – 12, 42 – 42 1 Cor. 15: 35 – 38, 42 – 50 Betty Hiscock Luke 6; 27 – 38   |

**2025 Envelopes -** If you need a new box of envelopes for 2025, please contact the parish office by email 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.

**A Note from the Treasurer:** Please ensure your **envelope number is on** all financial **correspondence** so that we can credit your account for income tax purposes.

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

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

February 9th Betty P. Andrew B.

February 16th John C. Jim S.

February 23rd Ken C. Philip G.

March 2nd Dave M. Robert D.

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| Bishop: The Right Dr. Reverend Samuel RoseDiocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene TaylorRector: The Reverend Canon Josiah “Jotie” Noel, T.S.S.F. (Third Order, Society of St. Francis)Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa CoxOrganists/Choir Director: Stephanie Gavell, Amanda Dawe-LedwellParish Wardens: Rex Hillier & Donald SparkesOffice Administrator: David Kelland |

 Welcome to the Parish of

St. John the Evangelist

Conception Bay South, Newfoundland

**Feast of the Presentation**

**February 9, 2025**

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[www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com](http://www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com/)

Facebook: SJTE Topsail

Office email: sjtetopsail@nfld.net

Office phone number: 709-834-2336

Address: P.O. Box 13033, CBS, NL, A1W 2K1

E-transfer: sjtetopsail@nfld.net

Rector Email: jotienoel@gmail.com

 Rector’s 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

**Candlemas – Under Another Name**

*The Presentation of the Lord* officially occurs on February 2. Luke the evangelist tells us that Jesus was presented in the house of God, as the Law of Moses required. He also records how the Christ-child was greeted by Simeon and Anna, two figures who represented Israel’s longing to see the Redeemer promised by God.

The evangelist gave Simeon a song to sing, the Nunc dimittis, which acclaims Jesus as the saving Light of God. To symbolize the enlightening truth of Christ the western Church developed the custom of blessing candles on this feast — hence its other title, Candlemas.

The chief title of today’s feast, *“The Presentation,”* comes from the ancient Jewish law that every firstborn son had to be dedicated to God’s service. But the Law of Moses allowed parents to redeem their child by offering something else in his stead. In Jesus’s case, Mary and Joseph offered the redemptive substitute which the law appointed for the first-born of poor parents, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Thus, paradoxically, the Redeemer himself was redeemed. Many Christian writers have delighted to see the deepening of this paradox in the story of Simeon. In the fourth century, Ephrem of Edessa wrote: “When Simeon the priest received Christ into his arms and presented him to God, he understood that he was not offering Christ, but was himself being offered.”

In celebrating the feast of the Presentation, the people of the Church become like Simeon, who cradled the infant Light of salvation in the crook of his arm and knew him to be as fragile as a candle-flame. In baptism, in meditating upon Scripture, and in the eucharist Christians cradle the same Light and take responsibility for the life of Christ in our world. And yet the paradox continues. Even as they hold Christ in their hands, they may discover that they are really in the crook of Christ’s arms, being presented by him in the sanctuary of God’s joy and glory. *For All The Saints*

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God,*

*for you have sent us your salvation.*

*Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to recognize him*

*who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations,*

*your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ACC)*

**2025 Bulletins -** If you’d like to give a weekly bulletin to commemorate the life of a loved one or in Thanksgiving for an event in your life, please contact David in the office for the dates available.

**Annual Meeting –** The annual meeting for the parish will be scheduled shortly; This is reminder for all groups and organizations to prepare their reports and submit them to the office as soon as is possible.

**Parish Home Visits** – The dynamic of the times still provides many issues for clergy home visit ministry. As we continue to emerge out of the pandemic and still live with it, Canon Jotie is ready, willing, and able to visit you in your home. Under the circumstances, 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 for conversation, prayers, or Home Communion.

**The Laying on of Hands** – In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 10; 30 a.m. we have started our Confirmation Class. Confirmation Candidates should currently be in Grade 6 or older. Please contact the Church Office to register or for more information (709 834-2336 or sjtetopsail@nfld.net).

We are ready, willing and able to prepare adults for Confirmation if you may be interested. Please contact Canon Jotie for details.

***Family Ukulele Group*** - The Family Ukulele Group is a music ministry of the parish and is open to ALL ages. No prior musically knowledge or experience is needed. Practice lessons are the **second** and **third** **Sundays** of each month immediately following the 10:30 service. We resume lessons in January 2024.  Ukuleles are available for purchase through the office for approximately $50. To register for the group call David at the office. Be sure to let him know if you will be needing a Ukulele. If you are unable to purchase one, please contact Canon Jotie.

**Bible Study –** Join usas we presently explore the Holy Land through Pilgrimage. We are using resources from Canon Jotie’s Holy Land Pilgrimage of Israel & Palestine in 2015. Following this study we will resume our focus on Luke’s Gospel. We meet on **Thursday morning upstairs in the Church at 10:30 A.M.** for one hour. All are welcome.

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

**Ocean Ranger Memorial** - Gonzaga High School will be holding its annual Ocean Ranger Memorial Prayer Service to remember those who lost their lives in the tragedy 43 years ago. The service will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. The service will be livestreamed and the link will be posted to the church’s website: <https://www.thebasilica.net/live/>

The **Anglican Church Women** are undertaking an Outreach Project during February month. We will be collecting Personal Hygiene items for the Gathering Place to be delivered the first week of March. Items could include any of the following: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Kleenex, bathroom tissue, socks, underwear, face clothes, hand towels, etc. If you would like to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. A carton will be placed at the back of the church for your convenience. Thank you for your past and continuing support.

**CBS Paradise Foodbank** is looking for 1-2 volunteers to cover our Coordinator's position so Fay can take a much-needed LOA for 2-3 weeks ASAP. This would require a commitment of working 9 am - 2 pm Tuesday to Friday. If there are 2 willing volunteers the days would be evenly divided. The job involves Fay's role as client service duties only & not administrative work. Orientation by Fay herself will be given. Confidentiality is of utmost importance in this position.

Fay is hoping to fully retire later this year as well. If you are interested in the temporary position or a full time paid position as the Foodbank Coordinator, or you know anyone who might be interested, please contact Gail at 709.834-3909; cell - (519)955-9239.

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**BISHOP’S LETTER TO ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist

PO Box 13033, Stn. Topsail

CBS, NL

A1W 2K1

30 January 2025

Dear Members of the Vestry of St. John the Evangelist,

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 20, 2025, regarding three motions passed by Vestry:

1. **Motion: That our vestry inform the Bishop in writing that, effective January 2026, we wish to change our model of ministry to one with a half time rector. Motion Carried.**
2. **Motion: That our vestry apply to the Diocese for a reprieve for our Diocesan Assessment for 12 months as the Parish attempts to make the necessary pastoral and financial changes. Motion Carried.**
3. **Motion: That our vestry apply for a withdrawal from our Anglican Joint Investments to enable the Parish to balance its budget for 2025. Motion Carried.**

In response, I will send Motion 2 and Motion 3 to the Chair of the Diocesan Finance Committee, Archdeacon Charlene Taylor, as both require review and approval from that group. Archdeacon Taylor will contact the Wardens and Vestry regarding the next steps in your requests.

Regarding the first Motion, and as discussed at our in-person meeting on January 16, 2025, your request for a change to the model of ministry, which would affect your current Rector’s stipendiary position, requires a one-year written notice. This one-year notice is necessary for me as Bishop to work with your Rector, Canon Josiah Noel, to ensure that your decision does not negatively affect his current employment as a full-time stipendiary priest in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador with 38 years of ordained ministry experience. I have already begun this process after meeting with him earlier this week to inform him of Vestry’s decision and to discuss future options.

Therefore, I accept your request in Motion 1 and ask that you inform the congregation through reading this letter at public worship on a Sunday morning of your choosing and through broader distribution to the Parish membership that full-time stipendiary ministry will conclude on January 31, 2026, in the Parish of St. John the Evangelist and on February 1, 2026, the Parish will change to a half-time contractual stipendiary ministry position.

For information purposes, a half-time stipendiary model in our Diocese is a contractual position between the Bishop and the priest for one year with an option for renewal. This half-time stipendiary model consists of the priest conducting worship services each Sunday (including Christmas and Easter) and ten (10) weekdays of pastoral visitation/administration each month. The allotted annual vacation time will consist of two (2) weeks plus one (1) week of education leave. The contract can be terminated by either party (the Bishop or the priest) by mutual consent or by any one party by providing thirty (30) days' written notice.

I truly appreciate the challenges that Vestry has faced in reaching this decision. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with the Parish as you navigate this transition in the coming year. As your Bishop, I want to assure you of my deep commitment to ensuring that pastoral care and worship remain vibrant and accessible within the Parish’s means. I kindly ask for your prayers and support for Canon Noel and myself as we work together to find the best possible outcome for him and his family. Your compassion, understanding, and prayerful support for him during this time means so much.

I offer this prayer for you, my dear Parish family:

**God of love, in this time of transition, we pray for our Parish family at St. John the Evangelist - that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. We recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love as we enter this time of transition. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We pray for all of this, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

With my love and prayers,

****

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose

Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador