

STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX

PASTOR: FR. ANDREW GILLIES, 366-2927
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: MARIE PARKER, 366-2336
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME, 358-2346
SISTERS OF ST. MARTHA 625-4303

The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at www.cansoparishes.org

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2010

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan 16 - 4:30 - St. Vincent de Paul
Saturday, Jan 16 - 6:00 - St. Joseph
Sunday, Jan 17 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes
Sunday, Jan 17 - 11:00 a.m. - Intentions of all parishioners

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday, January 11 - 9:00 a.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - *+Joe, Mike Kavanagh & Jim Somenelli*
Wednesday, January 13 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph
Thursday, January 14 - 9:00 a.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS: please contact Fr. Andrew to arrange an appointment.

COMMUNION CALLS: We are in the process of compiling a **First Friday Communion Call List**, if you would like to receive Holy Communion or know of someone who would like to receive Holy Communion on First Friday, please contact the parish office with the name, address and phone number and Fr. Andrew will be in touch to arrange the visit. Communion will be brought the sick and shut-ins the first Friday of each month. We presently have no names, phone numbers and addresses for those who have been receiving First Friday communion calls. We would like to start a list and have it ready for Friday, February 5, 2010.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

WHY DID JESUS ASK TO BE BAPTIZED?

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent of Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 72 A.D. it was common for Jewish people to make a spiritual cleansing in a special pool called a MIKVEH--literally a "collection of water". This was said to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men did this weekly on the eve of the Sabbath. Women did it monthly. Converts were also expected to do it before entering Judaism. Orthodox Jews still retain the rite.

John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continual ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our faith. In effect he fused his divine essence with the water and the ceremony.

CORNELIUS

There may have been many gentiles who were baptized but the "catch" of them all was made by Peter. He was a Roman Centurion named Cornelius. Centurions were non-commissioned officers, roughly equivalent to Sergeant-Majors. They were in charge of Centuries--companies of approximately 100 men. They were vital to the daily routine and battles of the soldiers. Cornelius was called a "God-fearer". This indicates that he accepted most of the beliefs of Judaism, but rejected circumcision. Peter had just experienced a vision in which God told him that it was permissible to eat non-kosher food. Had it not been for this revelation, Peter might never have entered the home of this important army leader. Jews avoided contact with pagans. The apostle's bold act would open the doors to all future conversions.

and Dorothy Bennett. **We are presently seeking parishioners who are willing to make a commitment to parish council**, please contact the parish office to volunteer. Our constitution requires us to have 12 elected members.

Altar Servers - the present schedule runs until January 17, a new schedule will be made up on January 12. If you wish to have your name added or deleted please give Marie a call before that date. We wish to thank you for your ongoing generosity.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

St. Agnes (39)	329.00
Loose	22.00
Star of the Sea (53)	485.00
Loose	25.00
St. Vincent de Paul (9)	80.00
Loose	14.00
St. Joseph (21)	123.00
Loose	3.50

WEDDING PLANNING? - As preparations begin for this year's wedding season, couples are reminded that **six months notice is requested** in order to successfully complete the preparations. Couples planning on a "church" wedding should also be practising their faith on a regular basis and be in good standing with the church. For more information, please contact Fr. Andrew or the parish office.

BAPTISMS: Parents wishing to have their child baptized should phone Fr. Andrew or the parish office to make arrangements for instruction and an interview.

NOTES

Collection Envelopes are available in the entrance of the churches, please pick the box with your name. Some extra boxes of blank (no name) envelopes for collection have been placed in each of the churches. Please record your name on each envelope so we can keep a record of your donations.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - POT LUCK MEAL - to celebrate the Baptism of Jesus and to close the Church Christmas Season. Please come for 12:00 NOON for cider or punch and the meal will begin at 12:30. This is a time to socialize and enjoy time together.

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF EVENING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Evening Prayer will be celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral, Antigonish, on January 24 at 4:00 p.m.. Everyone is invited to participate in this

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Group Sessions will resume Monday, January 11 for all groups. Groups one and four meet immediately after school on Mondays in Fanning Education Center. Groups five and six meet at 5:00 p.m. in Canso Academy on Mondays. Groups primary, two, three, seven and eight meet at 6:00 p.m. in Canso Academy on Monday evenings.

St. Agnes - Groups primary, three and six meet at 6:00 p.m. in St. Agnes hall. Groups five, seven and eight meet as indicated by their catechists.

First Eucharist & First Reconciliation - Parents are asked to register their children for these programs by contacting the Rel. Ed. office. Anyone interested in helping with these programs, is asked to please contact Marie. **We need adult volunteers to offer the programs to the children.** Children must have completed the year three program and be registered in the year four program before celebrating First Reconciliation. To celebrate First Eucharist children must have completed primary, year one and be registered in year two.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Ministries Schedule for Sunday, January 17

Lectors - Jennie Greencorn & Barry Lumsden
Euch. Ministers - Clarice Avery
Presentation of Gifts - Melinda, Brian Bouchie & family
Church Cleaning - Eddie & Florence Garcia
Ushers/Coll.- Paul Horne & Eddie Garcia
Hospitality - Janet Delorey & Gertie Snow
Sacristan - RoseAnn Delorey
Servers - Alexander & Denise

New Schedule - The last day for the current schedule finishes on Feb. 7th. **Please contact Mary LeBlanc by January 20 if wish to have your name added or deleted from the Ministries.** We are always encouraging parishioners to participate in ministries when we celebrate Mass. Please contact the parish office if you want more information.

Parish Council - Regular monthly meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 10** immediately after Mass. All members are requested to attend. Recently we had two parish council members resign, Bertha Baker

special liturgy on the eve of the instillation of
Bishop Brian Dunn which is scheduled for the

following day, Monday, January 25 at 4:00 p.m.