

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

**PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT~ DECEMBER 3, 2023

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer,
Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe,
Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne,
Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan.

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

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, December 9 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - ♥*For the Faithful*

Sunday, December 10 - 9:30 a.m.- St. Agnes Hall - †*Donald Bouchie Jr*
- 11:00 a.m.- Star of the Sea - †*Bruce & †Bernie Jackson*

NOTE - **St. Vincent de Paul, Queensport** is closed for the winter. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the 6:00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Joseph, Port Felix.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Thursday, December 7 – 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

COMMUNION CALLS - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

ADVENT: Sunday, December 3 begins the Season of Advent where we prepare 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 time of joyful expectation. Let us remember and respond to this expectation in prayer, quiet time and preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

MEMORY TREES - will be displayed until Sunday, January 7, 2024. Donations will be deposited to the parish of your choice. Memorial cards are available in the entrance of our churches.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS - ***Keep Awake***

The season of Advent is a season of hope, longing, and waiting. It is a forward-looking moment in our lives as we live in an eager longing for the birth of our Saviour. In our times of perils and confusion, the season of Advent gives us the hope to be part of that peace and joy the Child in the manger offers us. Advent is a time to see our life for what it is and to acknowledge our failures caused by our

indifference and apathy. God is going to be one with us sharing in our human nature to perfect it and bring us back to our waiting Father in heaven. In today's Gospel, we are exhorted to be on the watch and to stay awake to meet the Lord as we do not know when he will come. Our duty is to be ready at all times so that whenever he comes he may find us ready and waiting. Let us have that faith that enables us to wait in love so that the Lord may find us welcoming homes to be born in and dwell in. Advent is God's gift to us, a gift that invites us to shake off the old man in us and put on Jesus Christ to become new persons acceptable to the Lord. Let us cast off the darkness in us and become part of the light.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Star of the Sea (31) | 622.50 |
| Winter Fuel (4) | 170.00 |
| Loose | 15.00 |
| St. Agnes (19) | 300.00 |
| Loose | 10.00 |
| St. Joseph (15) | 177.00 |

Special thanks for your ongoing support.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.

Ministries Schedule, December 10

Lector - Ginny Boudreau

Cleaners - December 3 - 9 - Theresa/Eileen

Thank you - We wish to acknowledge a donation of \$500.00 from MODG.

Special thanks to District 8 Councilor Fin Armsworthy for his assistance.

STAR OF THE SEA EVENTS

Christmas Bazaar - a huge thank you for your donations and support! It is much appreciated.

Ticket Draw - Canso Coop Grocery Certificate, value \$300.00. Draw date December 12. Tickets are available for committee members

ST JOSEPH NEWS

Card Plays - continue Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome

Christmas Prize Bingo - will be held Sunday, December 3, 2:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Donations of prizes would be appreciated.

ST. AGNES NEWS

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

Craft Market - St. Agnes Parish Hall, Sunday, December 3, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of a loved one to help with the cost of Christmas flowers and decorations can do so by dropping the information in the collection basket in an envelope marked Flowers. Christmas flowers can be placed in the vestry of Star of the Sea after December 20.

JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT - A series of reflections by diocesan hermit Sheila O'Handley

"Deep-seated anxiety seems to cover not only our world, but also our hearts. We need Advent's Hope of anticipating, gestating, and welcoming LIFE'S fidelity to New Life."

Join in the journey with a new post each week:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/celebrating-advent-2023/>

NOTES

Mass for Shut Ins - has begun its 61st season.

As of October 15, Mass for Shut Ins will air Sunday mornings on the CTV channel

December 3, 2023 • 1st Sunday of Advent • Year B

Don't Miss Your Chance

This Week's Readings at Mass

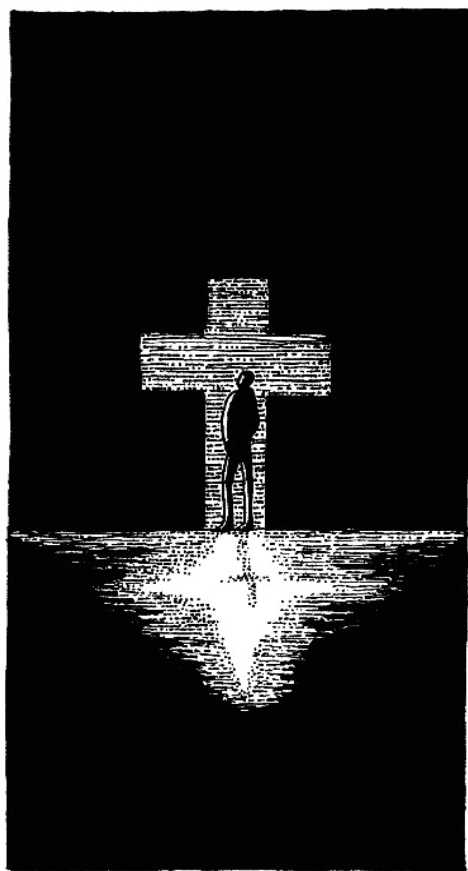
- ▶ Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 - Prayer for the return of God's favor
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Thanksgiving
- ▶ Mark 13:33-37 - Need for watchfulness

As Advent begins, we hear Jesus warn his listeners—and us—to be alert and watchful. What are we to be watching and waiting for? In the Gospels, Jesus was referring to his Second Coming and the end of the world as we know it. In fact, the apostles and his early friends and followers were so certain that Jesus was returning soon that they believed it would happen in their lifetimes.

Now, 2,000 years later, we sometimes take for granted that the world probably isn't about to end anytime soon, despite the COVID pandemic, natural disasters, and racial tensions of 2020. Yet maybe Jesus is still calling us to be alert to all of the opportunities we have to love and be loved right now, today, because we don't know how much time we have left on this earth.

It is common to hear victims of natural disasters or tragic violence say, "I never imagined this would happen to us. I never imagined this would happen here." Maybe part of what they are saying is that they were sleepwalking through life, taking their lives and the lives of their loved ones for granted.

If we knew we only had a short time left to live, how would we want to spend our remaining time? What



if we knew our child or spouse or parent would be taken from us soon? How might our priorities change? Even if we aren't motivated to stay watchful for the end of this world, Jesus is still calling us to be alert so that we don't miss the opportunities to love and serve the people of this world while we have the chance. What is passing us by because we are too busy and distracted to notice?

Questions of the Week

- 1 Every few years a small Christian group predicts that the end of the world is in sight. We might not pay much attention, but how would you live life differently if you only had a few weeks or days to live? What would you change? What concrete actions would you take?
- 2 In what particular area(s) of your life do you take things for granted? How could you change?

Word of the Week • Copyright © 2020 Ann Naffziger.
Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com.
All rights reserved.

