

**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**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 17, 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 23 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Velda & †Francis Cashin*

Sunday, December 24 - **No Mass - St. Agnes**
10:00 a.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

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 21 – 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve December 24

Port Felix - 4:00 p.m. †*Howie Cashin*
Little Dover - 6:00 p.m. †*John Adam Rhynold*
Canso - 8:00 p.m. ♥*For the Faithful*

Christmas Day December 25

Canso - 10:00 a.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel

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: The Season of Advent is 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 - *Rejoice Always!!! Today is traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday", a special day in which we are reminded that Christianity brings joy to all things. With less than two weeks to the proper celebration of Christmas, this reminder is important to keep our minds focused on the real things that matter in this season and the real attitude we ought to embrace. Christianity is a vocation of joy. Hence, St Paul, in the Second Reading, encourages the people to rejoice always. But he added other responsibilities which could be summarized as doing good and shunning evil. In doing that, we will see that we will be spreading the joy of Christ's coming to the ends of the earth! May the joy of the Lord follow you all the days of your life as you make your effort to follow Jesus faithfully by doing good and shunning evil. Amen!*

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (28)	535.00
Winter Fuel (2)	120.00
Loose	10.00
St. Agnes (20)	285.00
Loose	20.00
St. Joseph (18)	180.00
Loose	5.00

Special thanks for your ongoing support.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Thank you - a very special thank you to the families who donated hardwood for the parish office stove, it is much appreciated!!

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

Christmas Cleaning - December 17 - 23 - General cleaning for Christmas, please note if you have been in to clean and what you cleaned so it does not get repeated. Thank you all!!

STAR OF THE SEA EVENTS

Christmas Bazaar - Profit was \$3,039.00 A huge thank you for your donations and support! It is much appreciated.

Ticket Draw - winner was Blair Horne, congratulations. Profit was \$940.00. A very special thank you to ticket sellers and buyers

ST JOSEPH NEWS

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

Christmas Prize Bingo - special thanks for your support!

ST. AGNES NEWS

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

Craft Market - Profit was \$600.00! Special thanks for your support.

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 after December 20.

JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT -"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/>

It's Not about Me... It's About Him

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 - The mission to the afflicted
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 - Christian conduct; blessing
- ▶ John 1:6-8, 19-28 - John as witness to the light

We live in a time and culture in which personal success and individualism are honored. As people strive to be known or have their product recognized, marketing and branding is everything. We are proud to see our name in print, to be recognized in our trade, or to get attention and fame for our achievements. John the Baptist reminds us of another way of being in this week's Gospel.

The Jewish authorities are obsessed with trying to understand John's real identity, but John doesn't want the recognition or fame for himself. They want to see if he will identify himself as a great and long-awaited figure: the Messiah, Elijah, or another prophet. When he refuses to put himself on that level the priests and Levites become exasperated.

John the Baptist doesn't want to dwell on himself; he points toward Jesus. He seems to know that his job is not to draw attention to himself but to point the attention to Jesus, who will do more than baptize with



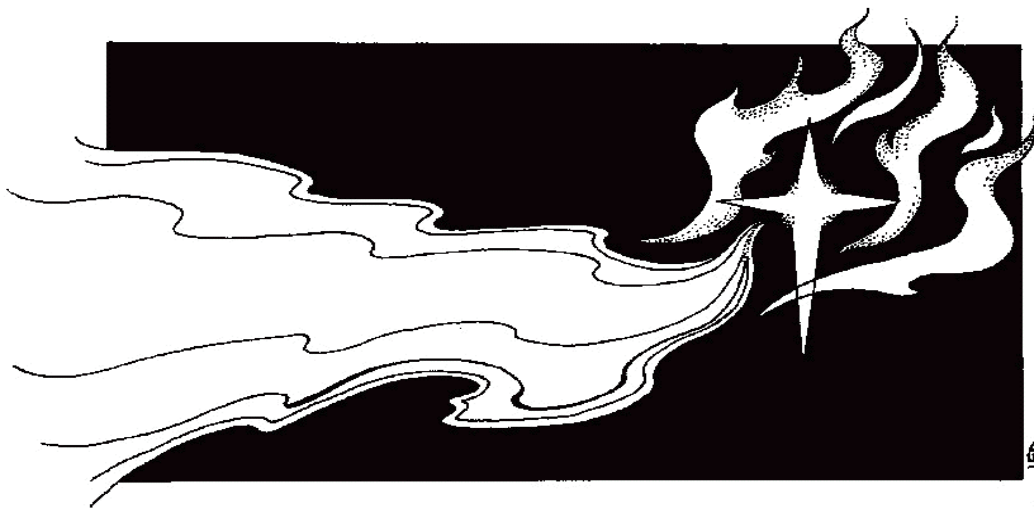
“He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted...”

Sheepish Question:
What worldly concerns hold me back from the freedom Christ offers?

water. John is a perfect example of knowing that his calling is not about him, but is all about God.

Questions of the Week

- 1 How does our society and culture celebrate personal success and individualism over community and service?
- 2 Which individuals in your life help to build the Kingdom of God quietly, never trying to draw attention to themselves? In what ways?



Word of the Week •
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