

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH ~ DECEMBER 31

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

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

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 6 - Port Felix - Saturday 6:00 pm - †*Elizabeth Greencorn*

Sunday, January 7 - Star of the Sea- 11:00 am - †*Ed Roberts*

NO WEEKDAY MASSES

REFLECTION TODAY'S READINGS -

The Model Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

In the feast of the Holy Family, the Church presents the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model for Christian living. This celebration is apt in a world where different social and psychological forces drive families more and more apart in a process that usually leads to divorce and separation. The statistics on this phenomenon are as alarming as it is confounding. The man of the house can learn Joseph's virtue of humility and kindness manifested in his disposition not to disgrace Mary when she was found to be with Child. The woman of the house can learn Mary's fiat and constant yes to God and her husband. A holy woman is like a mortar that holds the bricks of the family together. Children can learn Jesus' humility and obedience. Despite his divine nature, he stayed under the control of his human parents and lived, according to Luke's Gospel, in obedience to them. As we also end the year, let every family do a stocktaking and find her place in the scheme of life.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR:

'It is Christmas again. A continuous Christmas without end and beyond season – The perennial birth of Love'. Please share joy during this Christmas. Make a visit (when it is safe to do so), give a card, send a word or a smile. And do your best to touch someone's life today. Let us all make the effort to be a light that will lighten someone's darkness in this season of light and joy. Let sadness give place to joy, and despair to hope. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and God's blessings and protection in the coming New Year.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I would like to inform all parishioners that I will be away for some weeks after Christmas to visit my family. The Parish Office will remain open for all your needs. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to come
– **Fr. Jonathan**

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (20)	\$487.50
Christmas (26)	\$900.00
Winter Fuel (3)	90.00
Loose	184.50
St. Agnes (14)	\$240.00
Christmas (13)	\$240.00
Loose	45.00
St. Vincent de Paul (1)	90.00
Christmas (1)	20.00
Cemetery (1)	400.00
St. Joseph (17)	259.00
Christmas (14)	205.00
Loose	24.00

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We wish to acknowledge donations in memory of:

*Harry & Lucy Horne
Lawrence/Emily Dort
Members of the
McCormick/O'Halloran family
Family members of Jean/Dana
Feltmate
Family members of Noreen Casey
Terry Parker
Bob & Gerloch Parker
Cal & Tootsie Baker
Fred Rhynold
Dorothy & Emmett Avery
Family Members of Carolyn Humble
Bob Geddes*

*Members of the Harnish and
Armsworthy Family*

*Family members of Deanna
Nickerson*

*Members of the Snow and Richard
Family*

*Family members of Eileen Carrigan
Edward Roberts*

**THANK YOU - To all who have
contributed to our parishes, your
gifts of time, energy, prayers and
finances are much appreciated!!!
We are grateful for all you do.
Thanks so much!**

Peace On Earth and Goodwill Towards All

"As we see Mary taking care of her Child, let us learn to take care of others and ourselves, caring for our physical and mental health, our spiritual life, and also our environment and common home. Even more so let us learn to care for our brothers and sisters in need who call for our attention and compassion."

Read Bishop Kirkpatrick's Christmas letter:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/bishopshops-christmas-message-2023/>



The Worst Kind of Pain

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 - Descendants of Abraham
- ▶ Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 - The faith of Abraham
- ▶ Luke 2:22-40 - Jesus is presented in the Temple

This gospel reading is usually referred to as the “Presentation in the Temple.” As required by Jewish laws, Mary and Joseph bring the newborn Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to publicly introduce him to their religious community and thank God for his birth. Like all new parents, Mary and Joseph were probably excited, nervous, and proud to present Jesus to the world. They probably felt extremely protective of him on the journey—like a father driving well below the speed limit while bringing a mom and newborn home from the hospital. Most likely they had a hard time taking their eyes off him, and like all parents, were completely amazed by what a wonderful baby he was.

Then Simeon and Anna meet them and their baby, and Mary and Joseph are further amazed when the two prophets tell them their child will bring about revolution, heartache, and salvation. By now they have an inkling that this baby, who looks just like all the other dark-skinned, dark haired babies in Palestine at the time, is different. The angel Gabriel said



something similar, as did the shepherds who told them of the angels singing after his birth.

What is new is that Simeon predicts that Mary will suffer

“Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.”

Sheepish Question:
Who especially needs my compassion today as a beloved sister or brother in God's family?

greatly on account of her miraculous child: “and you yourself a sword will pierce.” Anyone who has raised a child can recognize Mary’s experience at that moment. Filled with awe and love and wonder, she suddenly becomes aware of the pain that will come when her child is hurt. It is perhaps the worst kind of pain there is—watching your child suffer. Now that Simeon has predicted it, Mary must find a way to go on as a mama bear to Jesus, knowing that eventually she won’t be able to protect him. When he is killed, she will know the feeling of having her heart pierced.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Can you relate to Mary and Joseph as new parents? Would you be completely enthralled, excited, and nervous about what lies in front of your newborn? How so?
- 2 What might your reaction be if you encountered Simeon and Anna prophesying about the greatness of this child, but also the conflict that he will bring?

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