

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 6, 2009

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 12 - 4:30 - St. Vincent de Paul
Saturday, Dec. 12 - 6:00- St. Joseph
Sunday, Dec. 13 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes
Sunday, Dec. 13 - 11:00 a.m. Star of the Sea - Intentions of all parishioners

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

There will be no daily Masses this week. I will be in Rome to attend the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Br. Thomas Murphy who is originally from Yarmouth. Be assured of my prayers from the Eternal City. - Fr. Andrew

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS: by appointment, please contact Fr. Andrew

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE - will be held Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Star of the Sea Church. We are all invited to come and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Birth of Christ. Father Andrew and Father Jonathan will be available for individual confession.

COMMUNION CALLS: Please contact the parish office if you wish to receive communion on First Friday. Communion will be brought to the sick and shut-ins the first Friday of each month.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul
6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph
8:30 p.m. - Star of the Sea
Friday, December 25
9:30 a.m. - St Agnes

EVERY LOFTY MOUNTAIN MADE LOW

Baruch had one of the more unusual backgrounds of all the prophets. He was a private secretary to another prophet, Jeremiah. He lived during the Jewish exile in Babylon (Iraq). Following Jeremiah's lead, he preached that the exile would end. He said that the people of Israel would return home in triumph. Baruch pictures mountains being leveled to facilitate this homecoming. The "mountains" are the political obstacles to be hurdled before it could happen. The church cites this passage to suggest a cosmic preparation for the coming of the Son of God.

HEROD THE TETRARCH

Luke dates the start of John the Baptist's ministry by setting it in the 15th year of the reign of Emperor Augustus: 29 AD. He notes that Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, was "tetrarch" of Galilee. The word is related to "monarch" which means "one ruler". A tetrarch is a quarter ruler. After Herod the Great's death, Rome decided to divide up the kingdom of Israel so that no one person would hold all of the power. Herod Antipas is the king most frequently mentioned in the gospels. He later arrested John the Baptist and sentenced him to death.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Group sessions continue at Canso Academy for primary, two, three, seven and eight on Monday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Groups one and four will meet after school on Mondays at Fanning Education Center, Groups 5 & 6 will

meet Mondays at 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in Canso Academy.

St. Agnes Rel. Ed continues primary, year 3 and year 6 meet in the hall on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. Year 5, 7 & 8 will meet as indicated by their respective catechists. For more

information please contact Marie.

Advent/Christmas Play - practise will take place TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 immediately after school (2:45 p.m.) in the vestry.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Ministries Schedule for Sunday, December 13

Lectors - Ginny Boudreau & Frances Jackson
Euch. Ministers - Janet Delorey
Presentation of Gifts - Paul & Lorna Horne
Church Cleaning - Deanna Nickerson & Nancy MacDonald
Ushers/Coll.- Gertie Snow & Barry Lumsden
Hospitality - Melinda, Brian Bouchie & family
Sacristan - Margie Horne
Servers - Allie & Cassy

Parish Council - Regular monthly meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 13** immediately after Mass. All members are requested to attend.

Christmas Bazaar - We want to extend a huge thank you to all parishioners who donated items/money for the Bazaar, it is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to is also extended to those who helped in any way. Great Job!

Church decoration for Christmas - can take place any time after Monday, December 21 or after the Reconciliation Service.

Note - The seating capacity in the Star of the Sea Church balcony is limited to 20 persons. During the Christmas services, in the event of a larger than usual congregation, the main floor of the church will be seated first. If it becomes necessary to use the balcony area, we ask people to use their own good judgement and follow the direction of our ushers.

Your cooperation in this matter is important for the safety of everyone.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

St. Agnes (40)	294.00
Loose	7.00
Star of the Sea (75)	893.00
Loose	36.00
St. Joseph (29)	345.00
Loose	11.75
St. Vincent de Paul (11)	110.00
Loose	22.00

NOTES

Christmas Flowers - Anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of a loved one to help with the Christmas flowers and decorations can do so by dropping the information into the collection basket in an envelope marked Flowers. Christmas flowers can be placed in the vestry of Star of the Sea after December 21. **St. Joseph Sunday Missals** - are available in each of our four parishes. Missals for 2010 start on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29. Cost is \$4.00 per copy and money can be put in the envelopes provided. Missal money is deposited in your parish's account.

Food Bank Donations - Boxes have been placed in the entrance of the churches to accept donations for the local Food Bank. Please feel free to drop in any non-perishable items. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on the difference between justice and charity.

Outdoor Live Nativity - a music-guided tour through Bethlehem transporting you back to the birth of Christ. Mingle with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wisemen and live animals. Enjoy Christmas music, hot chocolate and treats. To take place in the St. Ninian's parking lot, Antigonish Friday, December 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 19, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 20, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Presented by St. Ninian youth. Free will offering appreciated.

Note - The Gift shop at The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou is holding a Saturday to Saturday Christmas Shopping Sale. Starting on Saturday, December 5th and each day from 1 to 4 p.m. until Saturday December 12th, all merchandise in stock will be 50% OFF the regular price. During this day sale you may choose to shop by phone, using your Master Card or Visa. (Postage fees will apply). Just call on any of these days from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (902-945-2221). You may also wish to consider a gift of membership in "Friends of the Shrine". Call 902-945-2221 for more details. The Shrine remains open for visitation throughout the winter months.