



# SAINT NINIAN CATHEDRAL PARISH

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

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Christmas Day  
December 25, 2023



## glory to you all

"GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth, PEACE to people of good will." LUKE 2:14 May the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas Season, and remain throughout the year. It has been a blessing to serve St. Ninian Cathedral Parish this past year. We look forward to 2024 as we continue our mission together: Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are a Eucharistic community called by God to share the love of Jesus Christ, and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.

God bless you today and always.

father danny emery leonarda manoela paul john mary

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but not just the whole year, but our whole lives. Let us be an inspiration to this world, that can seem these days so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers and travelers in our midst who may join with us to celebrate the Eucharist. Make room in the pews; greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality those, like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn.

If you are returning to Church today from a long absence, or even a short one, let the joy of this celebration fill you. Let the light of Christ into your lives and into your hearts that your and return to the joy of celebrating the Eucharist today and every week of the year.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. It is with humble joy that I give thanks for the honour of serving as your Rector. Thank you for all your support and prayers. "Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy, for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth, peace among those whom he favours!"

May God bless you this Christmas, may all darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionaries of that joy, Amen.

Christ's Joyful Peace & Love,  
Father Danny

# memorial bows & flowers & wreaths

- Sheila Rodgers
- Gina MacDonald
- Charlie & Betty Chisholm
- Bill & Hilda Mac Gillivray
- Marie & William Fleuren
  - Jimmie MacDonald
- John Bowie & Veronica Bowie
  - Jim Tozer
  - Jo Van Oirschot
  - Mike vanOirschot
  - Marie Vromans
  - Harry Vromans
- Jan "John" Vermeer
  - Alex Shaw
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Van Oirschot
  - Melissa Landry
  - Kim Fougere
  - Leonard Sampson
    - Alvina Sampson
  - Danny Mac Donald
  - Theresa MacDonald
    - Peter Vermeer
  - Jan "John" Vermeer
  - Kevin Van de Sande
  - David Van de Sande
    - Tony Chesal
    - Vlasta Chesal
    - Tony Chesal Jr.
    - Hattie Mannette
    - Simon Mannette
    - Preston DeCoste
- Henry & Margaret Bouchie
- Charlie & Mary DeCoste
  - Charlie DeCoste
    - Evy Grew
  - Juanita Hensbee
  - Gordie Jordan
  - Jerome Myette
  - Lousie Beckett
  - Ryan Muggah
- Joe Andy MacDonald
  - Marie DeYoung
- Taulatta MacDonald
- Angus & Robert MacDonald
  - Chris Gillis
  - Mary Miller
- Margie Perro's parents
  - Donald Zinck
- Jack Kell
- Donnie "Bo" Kell
- Leona O'Brien
- Joseph & Cynthia Smith
  - Sheila Rodgers
  - Gina MacDonald
- Charlie & Betty Chisholm
- Mary & Hugh J. MacDonald
  - Blair Connors
  - Maurice Kelly
- Jacqueline Kelly Bennett
  - Henry LeFort
  - Mary Miller
  - John Knocton
  - Ed Wallace
  - Ann MacEachern
- Sophie & Pat Murphy
- Vincent & Linda Murphy
  - Jean Boyd
  - Mike Muise
- Anthony & Peggy Mattie
  - Blain Mattie
  - August Kolen
  - Davie Lowe
- Ronald F. MacDonald
- Sheila Smith Rogers
  - James Statchook
- Maurice & Gwen Feltmate
  - Joe & Cynthia Smith
- Smith & Statchook Families
  - Eddie Pelly
- Darlene MacDonald
  - Keith Arsenault
  - Paul Arsenault
  - Edward Arsenault
- Margaret Josephine MacLellan
  - John Andrew MacLellan
    - Frank Chisholm
    - Bob Chisholm
  - Joseph & Mary Walker
    - Bernie Walker
    - Martin Walker
      - Kurt Frei
  - Emerson Henderson
  - Joe & Margaret Kell
    - Paddy Septon
    - Paul Mattie

# memorial bows & flowers & wreaths

- Allie & Bernadette MacLean  
Tom Skinner
- Catherine, Jimmie, Nora, & Alex Duggan
  - Craig E. MacDonald
  - Allister Ninian MacDonald
  - Helen F. (Cindy) Connolly
    - Brian MacIsaac
  - Johnny Smith & Sheila Rogers
  - Duncan & Mary Lil MacPherson
    - Doug MacPherson
    - Grant MacPherson
  - Doonan & Norman Families
    - Charlotte Jordan
    - Johnathan MacLellan
      - Walter Jarvis
      - George Reddick
      - John Jordan
      - Jay & Luke Brown
  - Wilfred, Cecelia & Maureen MacGillivray
    - Jim Delorey
    - A.W. MacDonald
    - Wendell MacEachern
      - D.P. Chisholm Jr.
      - Josie & Cynthia Smith
    - Father Hughie D. MacDonald
    - Jack & Mary Ellen MacGillivray
      - Ian MacDonald
  - Nan (the painter) & Billy MacDonald
    - Aileen Williams
    - Alex and Evelyn MacAdam
    - Kennedy & Julia Chisholm
      - David Michaud
    - Rose & Allan MacPherson
  - Douglas Augustine MacDonald
  - Beaton & Chisholm families
    - Leonard MacDonald
    - Mary Alice Izzard
    - Hugh Joseph Izzard
    - Joseph & Cynthia Smith
    - John Andrew MacLellan
      - Mari Stewart
    - Vincent MacIsaac
    - Jim & Jeannette Neary
      - Donald Zinck
  - Wilfred, Cecilia, and Maureen MacGillivray
    - Joyce Murphy
    - Karen & Joe MacLean
      - Henry LeFort
- R.J. MacInnis
  - Christopher MacInnis
  - Harry & Dot Pembroke
  - Joyce & Bob Pembroke
  - Mary Pembroke Morrow
- Gift to the Foundation - R.J. & Chris MacInnis
  - Betty and Frederick Landry
    - William J Bowie
    - Anthony Bowie
  - Daniel MacEachern
    - Wally Cooke
    - Jeanie McGee
  - Mark David MacDonald
    - Jim & Jeanette Neary
  - Mr. and Mrs. James Phee & family
  - Alex H., Lillian, and Stanley MacDonald
    - Margaret (Peg) Gillis & family
- Dan & Anna MacNeil and family (Jack, Ron, Owen, Arnold, and Maurice)
  - Charlie Kennedy & Jean Kennedy
    - Colleen Kennedy
    - Joe Daye Farrell
  - Deceased Members of the MacLean Family
  - Frank & Beradine Purcell
    - Ray Mac Kinnon
      - Jack Kell
    - Donnie "Bo" Kell
    - Vangie Maas
  - Lillian (MacLoed) Westenek
    - Frank & Beradine Purcell
  - Elaine Miller & Donna Kennedy
  - MacGillivray and Jean families
  - Carroll, Ella, and Peter McVicar
    - Leona O'Brien
    - Joseph & Cynthia Smith
    - Sharon MacDougall
  - Archie and Josie Chisholm
- Walter, Theresa, and Joan MacArthur
  - Lynn MacDougall
    - Donna Benoit
  - Malcolm & Mary MacKinnon
    - Tom Skinner
    - Blain Mattie
  - Anthony & Peggy Mattie
  - Henry & Josie Sullivan
    - Earl Tubrett

**MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KIRKPATRICK -  
CHRISTMAS 2023**

- Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards All. The beginning of the new year is entrusted to Mary Most Holy whom we celebrate as the Mother of God. As we contemplate Mary in the stable where Jesus was born, we are reminded that Mary did not speak. She welcomed the mystery with awe, she cherished everything in her heart, and, above all, she lovingly took care of the Child who lay in the manger. 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. In November, Pope Francis said, "Every human being, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that the sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart." We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to promote poverty and death. In addition to praying for an end to all wars, we also need to join together in caring for our common home by implementing effective measures to combat climate change. There can be no peace on Earth with ongoing wars and conflicts and there can be no peace on Earth with devastating droughts, wildfires and floods that clearly demonstrate a need to change for the better. We can and must do better if we are to live in a world of peace and prosperity for all people. In the words of an old song, "let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." May Mary Immaculate, Mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace, intercede for us and for the whole world. May you and your families have a peaceful and joyous Christmas Season. Fraternally,

+ Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick

**THE CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE**

Did you know that on December 24, 2023 we will be celebrating the 800th anniversary of the crèche? From the Latin *cripia* for crib or cradle, this beloved Christmas tradition was started in a small town in Italy. In 1223 St. Francis of Assisi was visiting the mountainside town of Greccio in Italy for Christmas Eve Mass. He realized that the small chapel at the hermitage would not fit the number of people attending Midnight Mass so he found a small niche near the town square and set an altar. In order to help the people of Greccio celebrate the Nativity of the Lord with great devotion he decided to set the scene to resemble what it would have looked like at Jesus' birth. St. Francis prepared a manger, placed a statue of a baby in it, and brought hay, an ox, and a donkey. It was to represent the poverty and plainness that was associated with Christ's birth. A great crowd from the town gathered for the Mass at this scene. In St. Bonaventure's 1263 book *The Life of St. Francis* he says of this Mass, "The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem." As Francis preached he picked up the statue of the baby Jesus and cradled it. Many who gathered say that he was so passionate about what he spoke that the statue of Christ came alive in his arms. This crèche that has had a prominent place in our homes at Christmas for 800 years still reminds us of the night Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem- who came to save us from our sins, was born. May we be like St. Francis and embrace the Babe of Bethlehem with all our hearts.

