



SAINT NINIAN CATHEDRAL PARISH

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Christmas Day December 25, 2024

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 2025 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 jennifer leonarda manoela jong mary

Many of the songs that come with this season of Christmas speak of the peace that our Saviour brings. One song that comes to mind, is, "When a Child is Born." It speaks of the hope that comes from the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

"A ray of hope flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up way up high
All across the land, dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass when a child is born. ...

Tears will give way to laughter, hate to love, war to peace and everyone to everyone's neighbour. And misery and suffering will be words to be forgotten forever.
Wouldn't it be great if it were that simple!

For centuries, the Jewish people waited faithfully for the birth of the promised Messiah, a Saviour who would set them free. Many expected that the Messiah would drive out occupying armies and resolve all their political and social problems. But that never happened. Jesus was not that kind of Saviour. Two thousand years later, we still have war and poverty, homelessness, and disease. So, was it "all an illusion," as the song suggests? What went wrong?

For generations people have struggled to understand the mission of Jesus and, indeed, our own mission as Christians. The world can be changed radically because "a child was born," but not in the way we think. What Jesus came to do was to show us what our humanity could be like. He invited us into a new kind of relationship with God and empowered us through His Spirit to live together in a new way.

If anything, we all have a part to play with the gifts that God has entrusted to us. We are all called to bring peace, love, understanding and respect. Despite water challenges we were all able to stand proud as we celebrated 150 years of the Cathedral building, and we did so in celebrating the generations that came before us and those here today, by welcoming, loving, and rejoicing in the Lord. The healing of the sick, the patient working for peace and so much else; these things will continue to be our mission through the Holy Spirit who is given to us. I take this opportunity to send my Christmas greeting and prayers to all the lovely parishioners of St. Ninian Cathedral Parish, to those who are away and to those who are home on holidays; to those who are working over the Christmas to serve others, and in a particular way to those who are sick at home or in hospital.

This all comes to pass, when child is born.
Merry Christmas, Fr. Danny



year in review

As we reflect on 2024, we are deeply grateful for the many moments of faith, fellowship, and service that brought our parish community together. Here are some of the year's highlights:

In February, we celebrated the Confirmation of 28 students, marking an important step in their spiritual journey.

Father Danny, Leona Williams and StFX students started Sunday afternoon Ceilidhs. Lots of jigs and reels and dancing and great fun!

Soups of the World brought us together to share delicious food and cultural traditions.

Drinking with the Saints offered fellowship and a unique way to deepen our understanding of faith.

First Communion, celebrated on April 7, marked a significant milestone for 28 young parishioners.

Pancake breakfasts with the Knights of Columbus continued to nourish the body and spirit of our parish family.

The CWL women worked tirelessly in preparation for the Mass of Chrism, showcasing their dedication to our parish life.

We rejoiced in May as Deacon David Rankin was ordained, a profound and joyful moment for our community.

On July 8, the Tigh Dhe Concert filled our parish with the beauty of sacred and Celtic music, featuring pastoral airs that inspired all who attended.

July brought a double celebration as Paul Rafuse turned 70 and retired from SNP after a lifetime of service.

Our parish shone brightly in the Highland Games Parade, with the Cathedral bells ringing joyfully when our amazing float went through the town.

The 150 Dinner Celebration brought us together to honor our history and featured special guests, Fr. Garry MacPherson and Sr. Jovita MacPherson.

September marked the return of school and Religious Education, as we nurtured the faith of our young parishioners.



year in review

Our Bishop hosted the Vicar of the Founder series in October highlighting the topic of "Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation."

The CWL Fall Harvest Weekend united our community in thanksgiving and celebration.

The CWL kicked off September with another successful yard sale.

The parish enjoyed delicious and meaningful men's prayer breakfasts in October, as well as women's prayer breakfasts in November

We were blessed to welcome the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, deepening our faith and connection to the universal Church. Fr. Danny carried our intentions to Italy and placed them at Blessed Carlo's tomb.

After many years of faithful service to this parish Deacon Henry Vande Wiel announced his retirement in November. We will pray for him and his family.

The CWL had a thank you gathering for all who volunteered for the CWL during the last year.

On December 8, we celebrated the Confirmation of 32 students, marking an important step in their spiritual journey.

On December 14, the Breath of Heaven Concert filled our parish with the beauty of sacred Christmas music, spreading joy and peace during the Advent season.

Through the year, we also shared in the sacred celebrations of
9 weddings
25 baptisms
and honored the lives of over 70 parishioners who passed away
accompanying their families in prayer and love during their times of loss.

As we enter 2025, we give thanks for the blessings and challenges of the past year.
May God's grace continue to guide us as we walk together in faith, hope, and love.
God Bless



memorial bows & flowers & wreaths

Vlasta & Tony Chesal
Tony Chesal Jr.
The Phee Family
Gina Mac Donald
Betty & Charlie Chisholm
Mary & Hugh MacDonald
Father Hughie MacDonald
Joe & Margaret Kell
Earle Tubrett
Emerson Henderson
Scott MacGillivray
Bill & Hilda MacGillivray
Robert Edward Whelan
Angus A. MacGillivray
& Cassie MacGillivray
Joseph & Envaligine Keay
Jim Tozer
Jo van Oirschot
Mike van Oirschot
Harry & Marie Vromons
Allister Mac Donald
Peter Vermeer & Jan Vermeer
Jay & Luke Brown
Maria & William Fleuren
Marguerite and Nick Oxner
Doonan and Norman families
Kennedy and Julia Chisholm
Malcolm and Mary MacKinnon
Vincent MacIsaac
Edward, Darlene, Paul
& Keith Arsenault
Chris Gillis
Gordan and Pearl Jordan
Preston & Hattie DeCoste
Simon & Hattie Mannette
Juanita Hensbee
Ryan Mugga
Paulette MacDonald
Charlie DeCoste
Charlie & Mary DeCoste
Henry & Margaret Bouchie
Evie Grew
Kimberly Fougere
Jimmie Mac Donald
Jason Mac Donald
Derek Beaton
Eddie Pelly
Barry Walsh

Jason MacDonald
Jay & Luke Brown
Ray MacKinnon
Kimberly Fougere
Jimmie Mac Donald
Derek Beaton
Eddie Pelly
Barry Walsh
Jim & Jeannette Neary
Jay & Luke Brown
Ray Mac Kinnon
John D & Veronica Bowie
Bill & Anthony Bowie
Alex & Evelyn MacAdam
Archie & Josie Chisholm
Melissa Jane Landry
MacInnis and Pembroke Families
Mary Miller
Joe MacNeil
Molly MacNeil Morrissey
Marguerite and Nick Oxner
Michelle Carmel MacDonald Green
Frank and Bernadine Purcell
Martina (Tena) MacPherson
John Andrew
& Margaret Josephine MacLellan
Carroll, Ella & Peter McVicar
Mary A. & Joe MacDougall
Joe Andy MacDonald
David Lowe & Allister MacEachern
Frank & Bernadine Purcell
Marie Briand
Sean Briand
Francis & Margaret Briand
Mari Stewart
Chisholm & Beaton Families
Fred & Sarah Van de Reep
Fredrika and Bert Bekkers
Alex W. Mac Donald
David Michaud
Leonard and Alvin Sampson
Danny and Theresa MacDonald
Walter, Theresa and Jean MacArthur
Duncan & Mary Lil MacPherson
Ronald F. Mac Donald
Lynn MacDougall
Russell Pellerin
George Jean

Brian MacNeil & Phil Fleury
Kitty and Frank MacFarlane
Katharine MacKinnon
Vincent MacIsaac
Kevin Van de Sande
David Van de Sande
Sarah Grace Vande Reep-Chisholm
Margo Van de Reep-Mac Neil
John Bekkers
Tony Bekkers
John P. Tompkins
Joyce, Joe Murphy Karen
& Joe MacLean
Rossong, MacPherson
& Mattie Families
Fred and Andrew Kuzemka
Robbie Johnson
Frank and Florence Curry
Alex H. & Lillian Mac Donald
Stanley MacDonald
Joseph A. (Gus) & Mary Walker
Leona MacDonald Gallant
Leo & Janet MacDonald
Statchook, Smith
& Feltmate Families
MacPherson and Smith families
Wilfred, Cecilia , Maureen
MacGillivray
Reg Silver
John Hugh Smith
& Sheila Rogers Smith
Maurice Kelly, Jacqueline Bennett
Angus Chisholm
Jim & Jeannette Neary
Jay & Luke Brown
Ray Mac Kinnon
David Miller
Jean & Charlie Kennedy
Collen Kennedy
Joe Daye Farrell
Josie & Cinthia Smith
Margaret Bell MacEachern
McCarron & O'Rourke families
Leona MacDonald Gallant
Leo & Mary Janet MacDonald
Ray MacKinnon
Tom & Pat Skinner
Scott MacGillivray