

RICHMOND E-NEWS

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22 December 2022

“Not only with our lips but in our lives”

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RICHMOND AT CHRISTMAS

- Christmas Eve Communion at Holy Trinity (4 pm), St John's (6 pm) and St Mark's (8 pm)
- Christmas Communion: Christ Church (Lr Woodstock) (11 am)

Among those we uphold in prayer: Brian, Carlene, Carolyn, Cecil, Charlotte, Cole, Don, Doris, Frankie, Freda, Gail, Gary, Harry, Helen, Joanne, Joyce, Lawrence, Lynn, Marg, Mary-Lee, Melba, Nadine, Nicole, Peggy, Shawn, Steven, Trina, Wendell, Wendy, Yvonne

To add/delete a name to the parish prayer list, speak to Pat Margison (328-8146).

This coming week's birthdays: Shirley Trail, Ernest Clarke, Andrew Bell

Who do you know in hospital? There's a convenient way to get a cheery greeting to the hospitalized. The hospital delivers it. Parishioners receiving these notes have mentioned how important they are. Check out: <https://horizonnb.ca/patients-visitors/send-a-message-to-a-patient/>

Please continue to **remember the Food Bank** when you shop. Particularly needed are canned tomatoes, vegetables and soups, and tuna, ham etc suitable for children's lunches.

Have you checked the parish's Facebook page lately? [\(16\) The Anglican Parish of Richmond, Diocese of Fredericton | Facebook](#) Three mysterious Wisemen are wandering diligently towards their Epiphany.

Update from St George's church, Moncton: As difficult and challenging and controversial as the past month has been with 70-80 people sleeping in the church basement, **there have been moments of joy**, daily. From our own congregation, and from the least-expected sources, we have received encouragement: by prayer; by email; by cards and phone calls; and by personal visits. Total strangers have stopped by with food and

monetary gifts. People who have no connection to St George's have come to volunteer. **One lady arrived with a jug of laundry detergent** and simply said, "I'm here to do laundry. Take me to the laundry room."

But that's not all! The wider Church has come to help. We have received incredible support from our neighbours, from the Anglican congregations in our Deanery; and from churches of other denominations - little ones and big ones. For example, the **Dawson Settlement Baptist Church** held a Singspiration; and **Trinity United Church** in Riverview hosted an auction; **Mount Royal United Church** sent us a generous supply of Sobey's gift cards. Among these creative undertakings, there are the contributions of the **Parish of Derby & Blackville** on the Miramichi. It has congregations in Blackville, Millerton and Grey Rapids, and during Advent, each one decorated a Christmas tree with gifts for the people we serve in downtown Moncton: socks, mittens, gloves, toques, laundry detergent, and more!

It is truly humbling to reflect on the loving care that is behind all of these efforts. All in all, it has been a huge team effort for the glory of God. Sometimes, as you well know, it is when we are most in need and least in control that we recognize the Lord's Presence and work. When we are out of our comfort zone; when we do not know the way; when the situation takes us beyond our individual limits; when it all seems so overwhelming; when we are sick; when we have had an accident...and the list goes on. ...

I want to thank you for your prayers, and patience. By opening our church doors to serve the community, we are encountering pain and brokenness and darkness that demonstrate our deep human need for the healing and forgiveness that only Christ can offer. This is our Advent prayer: that Christ our King and Judge will come soon in all of His power and glory to redeem our fallen human race. *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!*

A Richmond parish **Christmas letter** is *attached to this e-News*.

Advent gratitude to/from the people of St John's ~

- Thanks to all who donated so faithfully to our sharing and caring Advent projects: Salvation Army toy drive, the Seafarers, the Food Bank, and Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Many families will be blessed by this generosity.

- On Advent Sunday parishioners found a delivery to St John's church by an unknown donor -- an angel who restored hope to us and brought joy to others. Your gift made the candle of Hope glow much brighter on the Advent wreath and in our hearts. Thank you and may God bless.
- Thanks to Sunday School students and teachers and to St John's supporting cast of readers and to Lisa for music during our Sunday School Lessons & Carols. Everyone used their "big" voices and did a wonderful job. As we often tell the children...God smiled.
- **May hope, peace, joy and love be yours and ours as we celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus, our Messiah.**

Mission to Seafarers - *The attached photograph* records **Cindy Derkson** and **Judy Clark** delivering the parish's donations to Saint John's Seafarers' mission on 15 December. **Beverley Sullivan** of the Mission thanks us in these terms: *"The seafarers who receive these gifts are at sea for long periods of time, and they experience the loneliness of being far from home when many of us are enjoying family and friends. Your gifts also help them to realize that they are not forgotten."*

Birdseed project - As St Francis of Assisi famously fed birds at Christmas, so **Cindy Derkson** and members of the Tuesday morning Advent book study are placing packets of bird seed for members of each congregation to use to help over-wintering birds find support now that snow covers the landscape. *Attached are photos of the birdseed and of St Francis of Jackson Falls holding a bird.*

RICHMOND NEXT SUNDAY

- Communion at **Holy Trinity** (9 am) & **St John's** (11 am); Morning Prayer at **St Mark's** (9 am)