



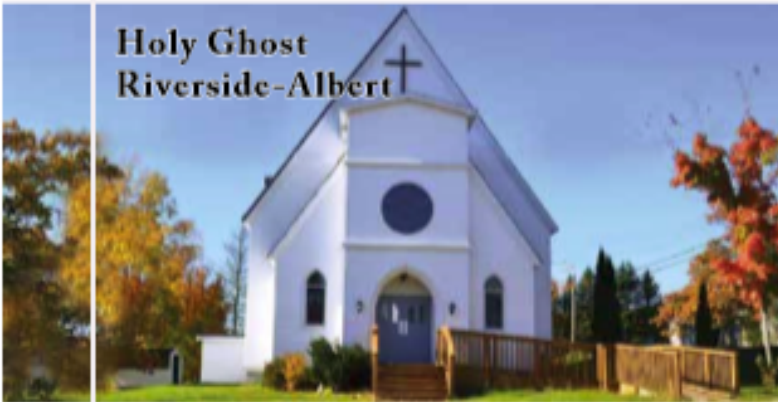
St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish

Mission Statement:

All Are Welcome!

Rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity is a faith Community working to bring about the fullness of the Kingdom of God. As Christians, we share the mandate to worship God, to celebrate the liturgy, to teach Christ's gospel message, to be in service to one another, and to build up faith in all people. We believe in using our time, talent, and treasure to strengthen our parish by responding to the needs of others and being supportive, compassionate and caring Christians in our diocese and in the world.

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**St. Jude's
Salisbury**



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**Immaculate Heart of Mary
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm
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Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Until further notice

Weekend and weekday Mass has been cancelled

Parish Office is CLOSED

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church is now CLOSED

Cathy Kennedy Lending Library is now CLOSED

**To meet with Fr. Phil, Fr. Charlie or for Confession, please call to make an appointment – 386-6178
If no answer, please leave a message. We'll be checking messages from home.**



We pray for those who are sick and today, we hold in our hearts Evilena Kendrick, Kelly Campbell, Earl Rossiter and Roy Pond (brother-in-law of Sharon McCormack).

We pray for those who have died and today, we pray for those mourning the loss of Jean Sather, mother of Alan Sather.

We also pray for those who have loved ones whom right now they cannot visit or bring comfort. During the Covid-19 pandemic, let us remember these separated families. May love always find a way, even in the midst of a life-altering pandemic.

Daily Readings for Holy Week (April 13th – 19th, 2020)

Monday	Acts 2:14, 22-33	Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	Acts 2:36-41	John 20:11-18
Wednesday	Acts 3:1-10	Luke 24:13-35
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26	Luke 24:35-48
Friday	Acts 4:1-12	John 21:1-14
Saturday	Acts 4:13-21	Mark 16:9-15
Sunday (Divine Mercy)	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

Message in a Bottle #4

Every Holy Week, the “Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ” is proclaimed twice — once on Passion/Palm Sunday to begin Holy Week and again, on Good Friday. This year, had we been able to gather, we would have heard the passion readings of gospel writers Matthew (Passion Sunday) and John (Good Friday). However, in the midst of these trying times, there is a line, found only in Luke’s passion reading, that really speaks to me.



The context is this: Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to his arrest, and he’s about to pray. **Then Jesus withdrew from them (Peter, James and John) about a stone’s throw away, knelt down and prayed...** (Luke 22: 41)

A stone’s throw away is the loneliest place of all. It is a place where no one, seemingly, can reach to provide you with help. The great Spanish mystic, John of the Cross (1542-1591), spoke about this lonely place using two terms: the “dark night of the senses” followed by the “dark night of the soul.” Either way you look at it, darkness is darkness, and no one likes to be there. John of the Cross must have known the pain of isolation, the pain of having to go through something alone without the help of others, the pain of others’ indifference even if they don’t intend to be indifferent. John of the Cross knew what it meant to be “a stone’s throw away.” To be a stone’s throw away is the situation where you have to go-it-alone, because you have no other options. I am sure you, too, have felt like you were a stone’s throw away at some point in your life. Maybe that time is now.

When you were writing a final exam at school, it was only you and the page of exam questions in front of you. In that moment, it came down to just you. And if you got stuck, you knew that no



Angels are prominent in Scripture. Like God, they have no regard or respect for boundaries and borders, for they are God’s emissaries.

one could help you. You were on your own. You were a stone’s throw away.

Women who have given birth know this. No one but you could have endured what you did in the moment leading up to and during the birthing. The expectant father, who took a Lamaze birthing course and kept saying as he held your hand, “Breathe, breathe, you can do it” was only somewhat helpful (or absolutely useless!). You remember something of what your mother told you about the process, but you also knew that each birthing is absolutely unique. Her advice is, at best, relative. It is you, and you alone, not your mother, your sister, or your best friend who is giving birth at that moment. In that moment, you were a stone’s throw away.

When you are grieving the loss of a loved one, there was something so deeply personal about the way pain coursed through each of us, that all the condolence cards, all the kind words, and all the well-intended gestures, still do not circumvent your grief. When you found yourself saying, “Nothing could have prepared me for this,” you knew you are a stone’s throw away. You were grasping for a life preserver that was out of reach.

You are always a stone’s throw away when you are fighting any kind of addiction. As good as daily check-ins from friends are, as good as support groups are, as good as counseling is, there is still a part of recovery that no one can do for you. And while you are doggedly doing your part, you know you are a stone’s throw away.

When you suffer depression and darkness is everywhere, you are a stone’s throw away from joy as you once knew it. That joy, that previously was so accessible, now seems locked away. In fact, even the simplest joys seem like

mirages not even worth getting excited about anymore. Thank goodness for medication, therapy, faith, and perhaps the best thing of all...a good friend who knows how to listen. For without these, some people see suicide as the only option. By that point, the depression has

convinced the sufferer that a chasm has formed between them and the land of hope, a chasm that can never be bridged.

I always believed, and still believe, in something called the “ministry of presence.” Basically, what it means is that we should never underestimate the benefit of simply being present to someone in need even if we cannot do anything to lessen or eliminate their suffering. Just being with someone in their darkness, without the hope of taking away their darkness, brings the sufferer solace.

Back in the summer of 1992, I lived at one of the houses in the L’Arche community called Daybreak, in Richmond Hill, Ontario. As assistants to the mentally challenged people we were living with, we were all trying to form a home for them based on love, forgiveness and acceptance. My bedroom in the basement with a futon lay on the floor against a wall. In the room next to me was a mentally challenged 72-year old man named Lloyd. Biblically, he was the suffering servant who bore pain in his body during the day and even more pain in his mind at night. Sleeping gave him no rest at all as he would be woken nightly with terrifying psychotic episodes that caused him to moan and cry out. The medication helped only to a degree. When I would ask him in the morning how he slept, he would always say, “Fine.” After just two nights of this, I wanted to enter his room to comfort Lloyd with my presence



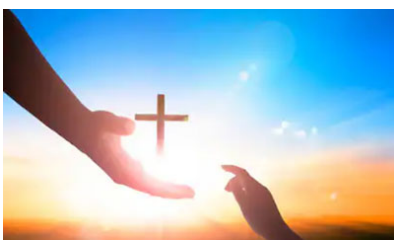
and to assure him, like a parent would a child, that everything would be O.K. I was warned by the house leader never to do this. Lloyd’s mind would perceive me as a monster coming to finish him off in the middle of the night. So much for the “ministry of presence.” I felt useless. I could only pray for him from my side of the wall. Lloyd, like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, was a stone’s throw away.

Perhaps COVID-19 has us all feeling like we are a stone’s throw away. There is a suffering we didn’t ask for and a pain we didn’t cause, yet the remedy is still out of reach...at least for now. But like all pain, this too will pass. And when it does pass, only these will remain: faith, hope and love.

While we do our best to support each other from a safe distance, there is still a part of this whole mess that each of us has to go through alone, like Jesus and like Lloyd. While the “ministry of presence” seems to be temporarily blocked, the wall between us is highly permeable to prayer. Though he was a stone’s throw away, ***an angel from heaven appeared to Jesus and gave him strength*** (Luke 22:43). Angels are prominent in Scripture. Like God, they have no regard or respect for boundaries and borders, for they are God’s emissaries. They transgress walls, contravene orders to stay two metres apart, and even enter tombs to announce God’s closeness to all people. Pray and expect to be visited by an angel tonight.

Palm 91:11 – For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Did you know?



Christ's resurrection reveals that death does not have the last word. Death is not the end; it's a doorway to the fullness of life. But to pass through that doorway, we have to begin dying now: die to our selfishness, die to our pettiness, die to our loveless patterns of thought and action. If we die well our whole life, we will live forever.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *From Suffering to Salvation*, p. 13

Exploring Our Faith

Why Are You Weeping?

I have listened to the story of Mary Magdalene's arrival at the empty tomb every Easter Sunday for my entire life. But this year two aspects of the story are resonating in a new way. The first is the image of Mary weeping as she looks into the tomb and sees two angels in white. She does not pause to marvel at the angels or wonder why they are there. Her grief and sense of powerlessness are all consuming: "They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

This year, Christians all over the world are celebrating Easter alone or with only immediate family, isolated in our homes and unable to gather in communities of faith. Instead of the white of the paschal candle, the Easter vestments, the baptismal garments and the flowers that fill the church, the white image that fills my mind this year is the white tents of the field hospital set up in Central Park, an hour and a half drive from where I grew up. As I read the Easter story, Mary's anguish and incomprehension of an unimaginable reality are echoed and amplified in the anguish and desperation of doctors, nurses and families in Italy, Spain, New York, Ontario ... (the list goes on and on.)



This year it is very easy to understand how Mary could overlook the presence of the angels and see only the emptiness. If we are not careful, we too can look right past the reality of Easter and the victory over death and see only the death and the threat of death that seems to be all around us. Like Mary we need to listen carefully to the voice of the one who calls us back to our senses by calling our name. *(Insert your name here)* Why are you weeping?

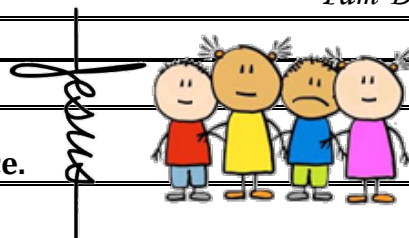
The second aspect of this Gospel story that seems particularly significant to me today is the fact that Jesus tells Mary, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the father." The story of Easter is both a completed and an incomplete story. Death is defeated. Suffering is no longer a permanent state, yet death and suffering remain realities. We would like something tangible to hold onto. We want the sense of control that having physical proof in our hands would give us, but like Mary, the only proof that we are given is a story to share and the lightening of our hearts that came when we listened to the sound of our own names, spoken with compassion by the God who loves us. . *(Insert your name here)* Why are you weeping? I am here.

On this Easter Sunday, celebrated in the midst of a global pandemic, may each of us speak the names of those around us in love and may each of us hear our own names spoken with love. We are the body of Christ; the presence of the risen Lord is visible in us. Today, when we speak each other's names with love, the love of God becomes audible. And when we cannot touch each other, when we cannot hold each other, may the sound of our voices speaking love be enough to change the world. Today is the day we proclaim, "God's mighty love is stronger than death. Christ our light, shines forever."

Pam Driedger

Catechism

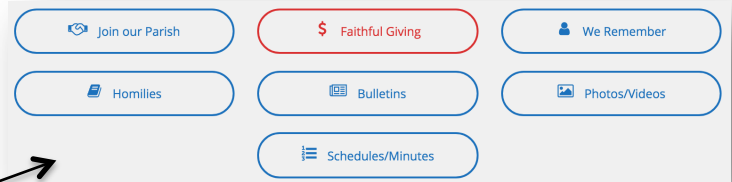
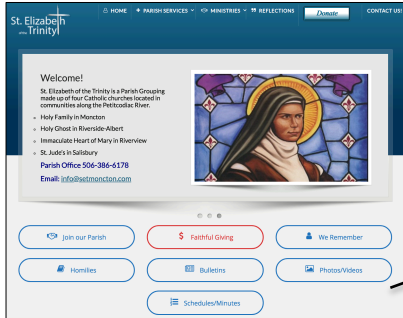
All Catechism activities are currently cancelled until further notice.





If you have the internet, please **'Follow'** our Facebook page. We will be live-streaming Mass, scripture readings, and continue to post messages and words of hope and encouragement for all. Even if you do not have a Facebook account, you can still follow the page. Just go to: www.facebook.com/saintelizabethofthetrinity

You can also visit our website at www.setmoncton.com where we are posting links to the live-stream Masses, weekly homilies from Fr. Phil and Fr. Charlie, messages from Fr. Phil and the weekly bulletins. Go have a peak!



Holy Ghost Church



Holy Ghost parishioners are still selling tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) on a wonderful combination of gift cards worth \$300!!
The draw for this great prize will take place once we can gather together again for Mass. Thank you for your support!



Thank you for being faithful with your church donations as we navigate this difficult time. Although we cannot 'pass the collection basket', you are encouraged to continue in your stewardship and make a regular offering. May God bless your gifts!

Options available are:

- Postdated cheques which you can mail to the parish office or drop them off in Fr Phil's mailbox
- E-transfer: Please put your name and contact information in the message.
ihmc@rogers.com (for Immaculate Heart, St Jude's and Holy Ghost) and
holyfamily.set@rogers.com (for Holy Family)
- By credit card online through the DONATE button located on our website www.setmoncton.com
- By credit card over the phone – call the parish office on Mondays (10-11.30 a.m.) to speak with Anne Marcoux

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Karen LeBlanc 506-387- 4198 ihmccatechism@rogers.com

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