



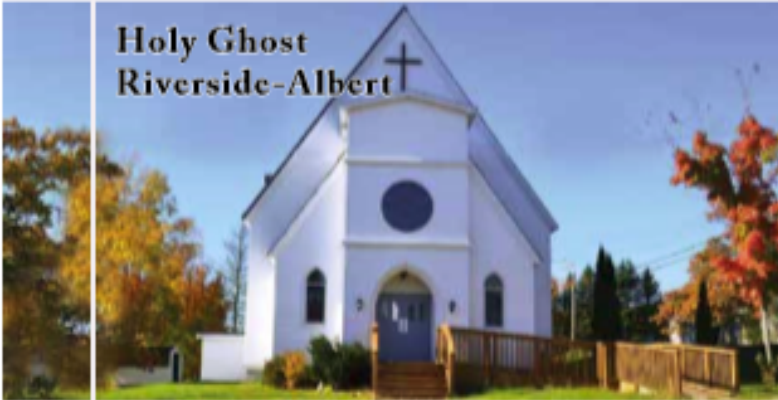
St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish

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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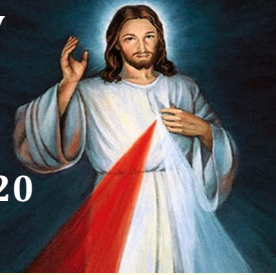


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*Jesus, during your ministry on earth
you showed your power and caring
by healing people of all ages and stations of life
from physical, mental and spiritual ailments.
Please be present now to people who need your healing touch.
May they feel your power of healing through
the care of doctors and nurses.
Amen*

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 19th, 2020



Until further notice

**Weekend and weekday Mass
has been cancelled**

Parish Office is CLOSED

All of our churches are CLOSED

Cathy Kennedy Lending Library is 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 regularly.**



We pray for those who are sick and today, we hold in our hearts Kelly Campbell 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 Doris Sanderson, mother of Bob Sanderson and for those who are grieving the loss of a dear friend, Hazel Hendriks.

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 20th – 26th, 2020)

Monday	Acts 4:23-31	John 3:1-8
Tuesday	Acts 4:32-37	John 3:7-15
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-26	John 3:16-21
Thursday	Acts 5:27-33	John 3:31-36
Friday	Acts 5:34-42	John 6:1-15
Saturday (St. Mark)	1 Peter 5:5-14	Mark 16:15-20
Sunday (3 rd Sunday of Easter)	Acts 2:14, 22-28	1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE #5



The Resurrected Lord told his disciples to **remain** in Jerusalem and to **wait** for his spirit to come to them, a spirit he promised them at the Last Supper, a spirit that would clothe them with power from on high (see Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4). Waiting is easier said than done. Waiting implies we remain in the same spot, even, and especially, when we would rather be elsewhere.

With the coronavirus severely curbing what we can do and who we can visit, we are forced to remain and wait. Whenever I have to live something difficult, I either want to go back in time long

before the difficulty presented itself (the good ol' days), or I want to leapfrog to some idyllic future where the difficulty is only a distant memory in the rear-view mirror (the happily ever after days).

What the Church invites us to do during these 40 days, the time between Easter Sunday and Ascension, is to grieve and adjust, to **remain** and **wait**. Why? Because there must be something happening in the “now” that is worth waiting for, something God wants to give us that we cannot give ourselves. Something essential. Something life-giving. Something that can never be attained by living in the past or the future.



Three guides have helped me to be present to what God is doing in my life and in the life of the world right now. In one way or another, these guides have been like horse whisperers saying, “Phil, the main thing is to know the main thing and to keep the main thing the main thing.” Got it?

My first guide on this 40-day journey is Mary Magdalene. According to John’s gospel (John 20:1-18), Mary is the first to the tomb on Easter morning. Distressed by the discovery that the stone had been rolled away, she panics and runs to tell Peter and John. Running is code language for “false consciousness.” As long as we are running, we won’t get it, we won’t understand what is really important to understand. As long as we are running, we are convincing ourselves that the present situation cannot possibly hold any solution to our anxiety. And so, we run from it. When Mary runs back to the disciples with the news that the stone to Jesus’ tomb had been removed, Peter and John start running (more false consciousness) towards the tomb. They do a cursory inspection of the empty tomb and **returned to their homes** (John 20:10).

Mary does something very different, though. She **remains** and she **waits**—the very thing Jesus told his disciples to do at the Last Supper (Acts 1:4). She probably felt like just going home as Peter and John did. Nevertheless, Mary doesn’t run from her pain, her sadness, her disappointment, her emptiness. She does not do anything rash nor heroic. She simply remains and waits, and her patience pays off. She encounters the Risen Lord speaking peace to her anxiety, reassurance to her fear, and hope to her disappointment. She does not run seeking the consolations of God, but she remains and waits until the God of all consolations finds her. If this is true of Mary, it’s also true of each of us. Can we, like Mary, believe that God is present to us right here, right now? With all my stress, frustration, disappointments and fears, can I believe that the Risen Lord is present to me in his Presence speaking my name as calmly as he spoke Mary’s name?

A second guide for me through these 40 days is the world-renowned author, Eckart Tolle. Many of you may have read Tolle’s first book, *The Power of Now*, which sold millions. Through this book and his teachings, Tolle tries to get us to see that real power lies not in the past or future but in the present, the Now. He says such things as, **“To the ego, the present moment hardly exists. Only past and future are considered important.”** Thankfully Mary Magdalene did not listen to her ego. Tolle also writes, **“Stress is caused by being “here” but wanting to be “there,” or being in the present but wanting to be in the future.”** How true!

And my third guide helping me to live these 40 days between Easter and Ascension is prayer, meditation in



particular. I have had to learn that meditation is not what I initially thought it was. It is not about meditating on this holy thought or that one; it's not about pondering the reality of God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. Meditation is simply about sitting in the presence of God. Period. There is no agenda to be accomplished. In meditation, there is nothing to live up to or down to, no expectations or demands. It is simply being fully present to the Presence of God. That is enough. It has always been enough contrary to what our ego tells us.

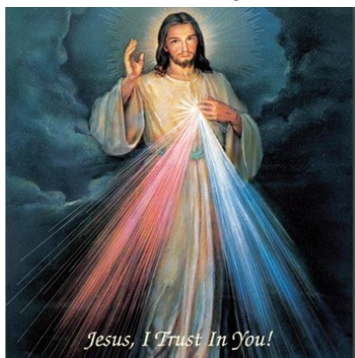
This pandemic is forcing us, mostly against our wills, to **remain** and **wait**. We can wait with a sense of frustration, punching in time until this passes so that we can get back to the way things were. We can wait, similarly, with a sense of anxiety about what the future may hold. Or, we can wait, like Mary did in the land of the dead, with a sense of hope that Life stands in the middle of the tombs and calls our name.

We will all think differently, feel differently, and approach life differently when this lockdown is over. It is inevitable. You cannot not be changed. Until then, let us put frustration and bitterness aside and use this time to surrender ourselves to the molding hands of God. Let us also surrender to guides who know how to **remain** and **wait**. Like clay in a potter's hands, we are going to come through this pandemic shaped one way or another. Why not let it be in the hands of God, the Master Potter?

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans when, in Poland, a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the Index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, (representing blood) and the other "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom. her, "I promise that the soul that



from whose heart shone two rays, one red "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told will venerate this image will not perish."

When she was canonized in 2000 Pope John Paul II, he proclaimed henceforth be known as Divine devotional practices associated many communities.

under the direction of fellow countryman that the Second Sunday of Easter would Mercy Sunday, thereby widely promoting the with Faustina's visions, already popular in

St. Faustina, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions she claimed continued for years. Her entries focus on God's mercy, the call to accept God's mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus' own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: "I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls... I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy."

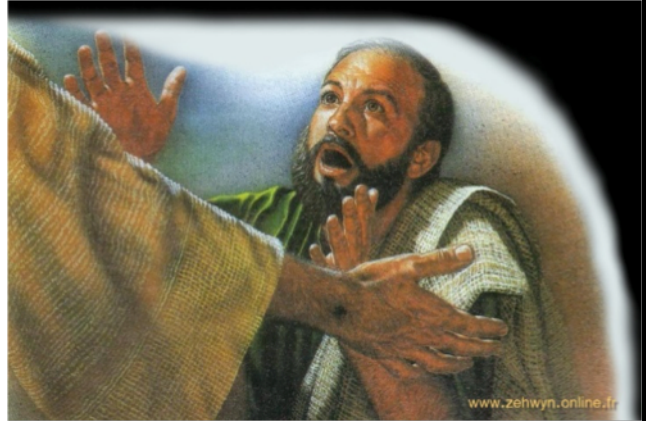
The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the theme of how God's mercy can overcome sin and, as the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments states, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come."

Source: May 2011 issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 76, No. 5, page 46).

Exploring Our Faith

Yes, We Can!

This week, the readings for the 2nd Sunday of Easter have a theme of “doubt,” as evidenced by Thomas who could not believe that Jesus was alive unless he saw proof. We all have moments of doubt, uncertainties, confusion, disbelief, hopelessness, selfishness and frustrations. Henri Nouwen has stated that, *“Doubt stubbornly exists. It’s an unmistakable part of life that we can’t seem to get rid of. We doubt ourselves; we doubt whether or not we’ve made the right decisions, we’re full of doubts about the future. It is our nature to choose control over faith almost every time. When it feels like we can’t control our faith, we can easily give up, especially if it feels like God has given up on us, which is how Thomas must have felt. Faith is hearing God’s clear message in Scripture that we are not alone, that God is with us and He is for us. He gives us peace, peace that comes from knowing that while we may be uncertain about God, God is certain about us.”*



At this time, we are all experiencing the stress of the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 virus. By staying at home, we **cannot** enjoy the company of family and friends; we **cannot** relax from stresses by socializing, going out for dinner; we **cannot** take our children/grandchildren to a park to play; we **cannot** celebrate Mass and receive Holy Communion which so often rejuvenates the soul for the week ahead.

There are so many “cannots,” but conversely there are a number of “cans” also. We **can** take time with our family at home, play games, sit and talk, take the time that a busy household had difficulty doing recently. We **can** do a purge in our homes and take much needed items to Salvation Army or Harvest House for the homeless, less fortunate. We **can** say “thank you” to the clerk at the grocery store for working so we can still buy necessary food. We **can** phone elderly neighbours, single mothers to ask if they need supplies so they don’t have to leave the house. We **can** pray for those who are on the front lines of this pandemic in our hospitals and for those afflicted that they survive the virus.

Our faith can help us cope with the difficulties, worries at this time. We should not doubt or feel discouraged as Thomas did at first (in today’s gospel reading), but may doubt be transformed into a great acclamation of faith. As long as there is still hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding us in His hands.

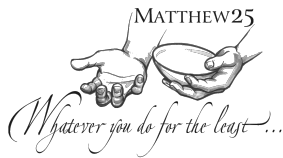
Cathy Keirstead

God’s Holy People in the Midst of a Pandemic

While we continue to celebrate Easter and Jesus’ resurrection, together let us pray for an end to this pandemic and perhaps, even add an element of fasting to our prayer response. Giving up something is ultimately a form of fasting. We can deprive ourselves of some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God. An experience of want, however temporary, can help us to appreciate the true abundance in our lives. We don’t have to make this complicated, maybe something as simple as giving up dessert for one meal a day, although each of us could do, as we feel called. Imagine, if everyone did one small act, the overall impact would be very great. Our front line workers and researchers need all the support that we, as people of faith, can give them.



Did you know?



In the bible, we see the word 'alms' and that word means anything given to the poor or needy. We give *alms* as a symbol of all that God gives to us. We fast because we hunger for God and we do not look gloomy about it because we are not gloomy. We are living for God!

(2020 Sourcebook, Pg. 110)

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!



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



Knights of Columbus Council 9270 is offering 4 bursaries of \$500 each to all graduates who are children and grandchildren of fellow Knights. Application forms are at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, and if you want one, please call 386-6178 and we will place an application form in the mailbox for you to pick up. Same idea for when you want to drop it off. Applications must be received no later than May 4th.

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

Weekly Collection for all Churches

Holy Family and Peoples Park Tower

Church Support \$583.50

Easter (to date) \$75.00

Good Friday (to date) \$65.00

Share Lent (Dev and Peace, to date) \$255.00

St. Jude's Church

Church Support \$170.00

Easter (to date) \$25.00

Good Friday (to date) \$5.00

Share Lent (Dev and Peace, to date) \$20.00

Holy Ghost Church

Thank you to those who have arranged to have their envelopes picked up or sent in. We will put a total in next week, of Envelopes and Fundraising moneys received. Thank you, too for your continued support to our parish during this unprecedented time, to ensure we are able to pay expenses.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Church Support \$1664.50

Building Fund \$147.50; Youth \$5.00

Social Action \$15.00

Easter (to date) \$1225.00

Good Friday (to date) \$440.00

Share Lent (Dev and Peace, to date) \$1081.25



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

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