

# **Exploring Our Faith**

# LET'S GET READY!

I don't know if anyone else feels this way, but I found that this liturgical calendar has gone by so fast. As we quickly approach the end of this liturgical year, like any good "end of the year", we prepare. Don't we all set out at the end of the year, setting out goals and challenges for ourselves? Well, that's exactly what we're being asked in this week's gospel reading; to be prepared and to get ready. But be prepared and get ready for what? Jesus uses a parable, as he often did, to instruct the disciples on the need for watchfulness, since they do not know the time of the return of the Son of Man.



I don't know if you have read the parable so here is a quick synopsis: it pictures ten maidens who go to meet the bridegroom. Five, described as "wise", have prepared by bringing along flasks of oil for their lamps; five are described as "foolish" because they have not prepared for a time of waiting by bringing along extra oil. When their oil runs out and the wedding banquet finally begins, the foolish maidens are off buying more oil. Whilst they are gone buying more oil, those who came prepared were granted access into the wedding banquet, and when the foolish return they are not granted access to the banquet. I think that the point of the parable has a simple question implied. What are we actually doing while we are waiting for Jesus? In our every

day lives, we all know how to get ready, because we do it all the time. We get ready for appointments, we get ready for work, for school and for those of us who have kids, we get ready for their arrival. The gospel asks us to get ready and be prepared on a much deeper level. But what does this mean and what does this look like? To quote the late, John Thornhill: "*the parable invites us to ask ourselves whether we are ready to meet our Lord, and to review the loyalties and values that shape our lives, we may well ponder what is offered to us by God's Word in the first reading: the joy and peace that come from being in tune with God is there to be 'found by those who look'."* Are we sitting around with no thought or concern for ourselves and others, or are we actively living our daily lives with meaning and purpose?

I think that being prepared and ready for Jesus is seen in how we live our daily lives, right here and now. It's seen in our actions, in how we speak to and of others, in how we treat others. It's how we try to live our daily life as followers of Jesus. It's not about sitting around and waiting for something to happen, as being prepared is never a passive thing. We must be like boy scouts and always be prepared! To be well prepared, with extra flasks of oil, is to live a life that is worthy of the calling given to each of us by God. So let's do it! Let's strive to be intentional in our preparedness and readiness with all our hearts and minds.

Katy Mahoney

# Did you know?



Do you realize that our love affair with our electronic gadgets is a spiritual issue? Those addicted to their cell phones, feel emotionally naked without them. Do you realize that during Mass, just having your phone with you may be a distraction!

*Our bodies are in church, but our minds are elsewhere,* signalling to God that we have a distracted heart. Entering into Mass with a divided heart, compromises the mandate to love God, "with your whole heart, soul and mind". Maybe we should think about leaving the phone home or in the car.....

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Daily Readings (Week of November 9 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020)			
Monday (Dedication of Lateran Basilica)	Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12		John 2:13-22
Tuesday (St. Leo the Great, Pope)	Titus 2:1-8, 11-14		Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday (St. Martin of Tours)	Titus 3:1-7		Luke 17:11-19
Thursday (St. Josaphat)	Philemon 7:20		Luke 17:20-25
Friday	2 John 4-9		Luke 17:26-37
Saturday	3 John 5-8		Luke 18:1-8
Sunday (33rd Sunday in OT)	Proverbs 31:10-13, 16-18, 20, 26, 28-31	1 Thessalonians 5:1-6	Matthew 25:14-30



Providing food to those in need can be difficult at the best of times. With COVID-19, that task got a whole lot harder as many more are being served and much is needed. Thank you all so very much!

**Holy Family Church -** The need is great for personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, razors, toilet paper and deodorant. And as always, we need rice, pasta, cereal and paper towels.

**Holy Ghost and Immaculate Heart of Mary Churches -** We gladly accept whatever is offered but right now, there is a need for ladies' deodorant, shampoo, drinking boxes, pudding/fruit cups, baby food and diapers (larger than 14 lbs.). Also, please consider providing candy for the Christmas Aid boxes. Thank you!

# Reserve Your Spot

Please remember that you must call the parish office at 386-6178 each week to reserve the next available spot for Mass.

NOTE: The safety of our parishioners is of utmost importance and we will continue to follow all Province of NB regulations. That being said, unless you have a medical reason, masks are mandatory throughout all of Mass. (i.e. from when you come into the church, during Mass, while walking up and back to your pew for communion and then again, while exiting the church) Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

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The Book of the Names of the Dead

The Book of the Names of the Dead is now online and names sent into the office will 'scroll' on the screen, allowing us all to hold up these dearly departed in prayer. Please, call the office (386-6178) or use email to get the names to us and we will enter those names into the online book throughout all of November. Go to

<u>www.setmoncton.com</u> and click on the button you will see there, '**The Book of the Names of the Dead**'.

#### **Development and Peace Collection - Caritas Canada**

Development and Peace CARITAS CANADA During the weekend of November 15<sup>th</sup>, parishioners are invited to take part in a special collection for Development and Peace - Caritas Canada to help communities in the South with the devastating effects of the pandemic to help them recover. **Our sisters and brothers in the South need our help**.

You can deposit your donation with the regular collection by placing it in an envelope marked "Development and Peace." If you want the amount included in your income tax receipt, you will also need to write your name and envelope box number. If you cannot attend Mass, there are other ways to send your gift: go to devp.org or phone at 1-888-234-8533. You can also send a cheque to Development and Peace at 1425 René-Lévesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor Montréal, Québec Canada, H3G 1T7.

Thank you for your support and solidarity!

#### Albert County Christmas Aid



**Attention clients of the Albert County Food Bank!** Phone lines for the Albert County Christmas Aid will be open from Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please call **386-1771** to register your family and when you call, be sure to have Medicare numbers available for all those in the family you are registering.

**For those wishing to visit Headstart Toyland**, an appointment will be assigned at this time. Only one family per address can be registered and please note that you cannot register for another family.

Act now, as you will not be able to register for Albert County Christmas Aid at any other time. There will be no extensions to these dates.

#### St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

#### **Completing 2020**



We are in to the last two months of the year and it's a great time to make up for any offerings that you missed over the year. **Every dollar counts** – together we can meet the financial commitments for the year. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, e-transfer and debit. Call Anne at the Business Office for more information and thank you!!



#### Planning for 2021

If your committee will be using church funds for special projects or initiatives in 2021, please submit a budget to Anne at the Business Office by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### St. Jude's Church

#### Salisbury Helping Hands - Christmas 2020!

Salisbury Helping Hands Christmas program is well under way and our committee has wondered how best to proceed and still keep everyone safe while sharing Christmas with children in our village!

Each Christmas our children receive snowsuits, boots, PJ's and a toy that they would enjoy playing with under their Christmas Tree. St. Jude's, we would like to suggest that this year, instead of Christmas Tags, we would instead, appreciate **donations**! We have volunteer shoppers and they will put on masks and go forth to purchase any toys, PJ's, Snowsuits and boots as requested. A receipt will be given, if requested, with an address attached and any donation can be delivered to our Food Bank on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thank you!



If there is someone, or maybe a group, who would prefer to **sponsor a family** that too, could be arranged by calling Bonnie at 372-5681 and we can assign a family, as requested.

And also, we would still like to share Christmas with our **Single Mom and Dad Gift Bags**, as they enjoy it so. If a group would like to fill a few of these, again, please call Lois at 372-4357 and we will add your group to our list and explain how this could work for this year.

Lastly, there is a website if you would prefer to donate online and you can select the foodbank of your choice. <u>https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47373</u>

There is a wonderful video that was filmed last year as the students of Salisbury Middle and High School came together to donate turkeys to the Helping Hands Foodbank! https://salisburyfoodbank.wixsite.com/helpinghands

Salisbury Helping Hands Christmas program committee says thank you for any and all help in the coming weeks, as we proceed with Christmas during COVID19 restrictions.

# **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**



**Please consider taking part in 'White Gift Sunday' on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>!** Some of the things being requested are knitted items (hats, mitts, etc., especially in larger sizes), children's toys for any age and gift cards (Sobeys, Walmart, Toy Stores, etc.). Please deliver all items UNWRAPPED and just bring them into the church between now and November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you everyone!



### **Special Olympics Fundraiser!**

On **Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** you will be able to pickup your advanced order for the Knights' Take-Out Turkey Dinner at the Dan Bohan Centre. Pickup from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.



#### Vision Bookstore BIG Closing Sale

Vision Bookstore is permanently closing its store on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Come visit us and benefit on most of the books, CD's and DVD's on stock at \$1 and \$2.** We are open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Due to the coronavirus, you are invited to reach us for an appointment at 857-9531, ext. 1238. We are located at Place de la Cathédrale, 224, St-George St.

# Weekly Collection for all Churches

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#### Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower

(incl PADs) Church Support \$3083.00 (46); Loose \$10.00 Maintenance Fund \$192.00 (10)

St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)

Church Support \$930.00 (16); Loose \$5.00

Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$152.00 (8) Cemetery \$85.00 (4)

Immaculate Heart of Mary (incl PADs) Church Support \$5883.50 (123); Loose \$22.00 Building Fund \$562.50 (24) Social Action \$135.00 (8); Youth \$15.00 (3)

The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. (Remember to call during that time to book your spot for Mass! ⓒ)



Sadly, due to the coronavirus, the Town of Riverview will not hold a ceremony at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church this year.

For the first time across the province, spectators will be discouraged from attending in person events, due to the limited space and requirements set out in the Provincial COVID-19 guidelines.

Families might want to take some time to reflect and remember together at home. The Royal Canadian Legion will host a national ceremony and it will be shared via live-stream on Facebook this year, at <u>https://www.facebook.com/events/382710382890676/</u>

# From the Offices of Faith Development, Liturgy and Youth Faith Development

To contact us: Ellen - 857- 9952 or <u>ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com;</u> Trevor - 857-4879 or <u>trevord.diocese@gmail.com</u>

# Medical Assistance in Dying



On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops released a statement expressing their opposition to the re-tabling of Bill C-7, an act to amend the Criminal Code around medical assistance in dying re-introduced by the federal government on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This statement is in addition to the joint ecumenical and interfaith statement released on 14 October 2020 entitled: *"We Can and Must do Much Better – Religious Leaders in Canada denounce Bill C-7, 'An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)".* 

As the legislation introduced this month remains unchanged from that which was tabled on 24 February 2020, the Bishops of Canada once again express their serious concerns regarding Bill C-7 and call upon all Canadians to express their opposition to the Bill. As said in the statement: "The proposed legislation of Bill C-7 remains deeply flawed, unjust, and morally pernicious. The Bishops of Canada call on Catholics and all people of good will to make their voices heard in opposition to the Bill. Similarly, all Canadian legislators should recall that no law that permits the taking of innocent human life can ever be morally justified. Such a law would always violate the intrinsic dignity of the human person." This statement can be found at the following link: https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CCCB-statement-on-Bill-C-7-20-October-2020-EN.pdf

# Transformed Through Eucharist

What happens during the Eucharist? How important is Eucharist to you? Why are you preparing your child to make their First Communion?

As parents of children preparing to receive First Eucharist in the spring of 2021 at any parish within the English sector, you are asked to attend this session taking place on **Thursday**, **November 19**<sup>th</sup> at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

COVID-19 physical distancing regulations will be observed and wearing of masks is mandatory. Because of the pandemic, we are unable to provide childcare. No tea, coffee or snacks will be provided; however, participants are welcome to bring their own.

Registration of children receiving the sacrament will take place from 6:15 – 6:30 p.m. At 6:30 facilitators Karen LeBlanc and Ellen Bennett will offer an overview of the Liturgy of the Eucharist,

and talk about how, through the Eucharist, the bread and wine *and* the assembly are transformed again into the Body of Christ. Those children who have not been registered by 6:30 will have to be registered following the session.

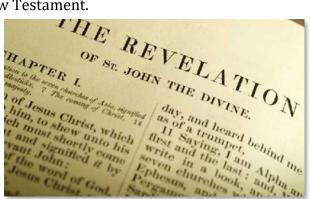
Please contact Ellen or your parish catechetical coordinator to confirm your attendance. Also note that the session from 6:30 - 8:30 is open to anyone interested in attending, but they are asked to contact Ellen to register.

Participants are asked to arrive no later than 6:00 p.m. to provide time to welcome everyone safely.

### The End is Nigh: Exploring the Book of Revelations

Join Dr. Andrew Wilson and Dr. Fiona Black on **Tuesday, November 24**<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in a virtual session, looking at Revelations, the final book of the New Testament.

This book often poses a challenge to interpreters with its colourful and fantastical imagery of the end of days. At the same time, given the bewildering events of the past year alone, it seems more relevant to our current world situation than ever. Andrew and Fiona will look at Revelations as an example of "apocalyptic literature" an ancient mode of storytelling with a rich and evocative history, consider its place within our Christian tradition and explore what it might add to an appreciation of the topsy-turvy times within which we live.



Registration deadline is November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact Ellen to register – you will need an email address to receive the link that will join you to the presentation.

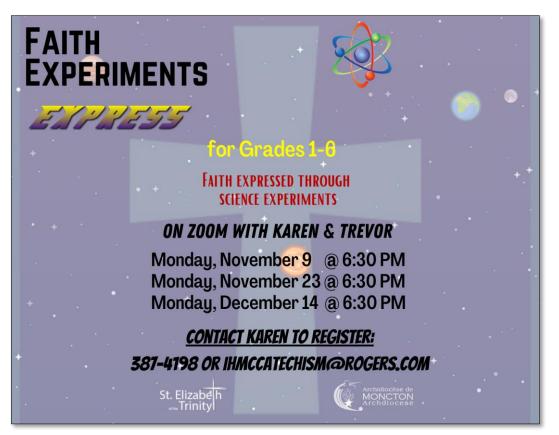
#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Youth Faith Commission: Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Meeting will take place at the Diocesan Offices on York Street. Masks are mandatory. Please use the Dominion Street entrance.

## Faith Experiments Express (via Zoom)

Join Karen and Trevor on Zoom as they share lessons in faith using science experiments that your children (grades 1-6) will do at home. Each session will be approximately one hour and will take place on Mondays

(November 23rd, and December 14th).



REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or ihmccatechism@rogers.com for more information and to register.