

Daily Readings (Week of December 14th to 20th, 2020)			
Monday (St. John of the Cross)	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17		Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13		Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday	Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25		Luke 7:19-23
Thursday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10		Matthew 1:1-17
Friday	Jeremiah 23:5-8		Matthew 1:18-24
Saturday	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25		Luke 1:5-25
Sunday (4th Sunday of Advent)	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38

Exploring Our Faith

SENT TO BRING GOOD NEWS

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

This year, I hear these words in a new way. They are not just words that set the stage for Jesus' earthly mission. They are not simply a prelude to the gospel; they are a promise and a gift of comfort and joy, as we come to the end of a year that has been marked by strife and suffering. In some ways all of us have experienced captivity this past year. We have not been able to go where we wanted to go. We have not been able to spend time with those we wanted to spend time with. Some have been separated from family. Others have suffered financial strain. Many have been overwhelmed by worry and a growing sense of doom. And it is into this pain that God is sending good news. This will not last. We will experience the Lord's favour.

But we are not just passive recipients who await this favour; we are also active agents of this favour. Our response to suffering makes the Lord's favour a reality for ourselves and for others. We, who have been



anointed by the Holy Spirit through baptism and confirmation, are asked to be the voice of compassion and comfort. We are asked to give voice to the Word that creates reality.

Even though we have listened to these words year after year, many of us have failed to see just how powerful our voice can be in the face of suffering. In recent years, however, modern neuroscience has begun to recognize that the voice of compassion is a primary source of healing. We now know that there are three basic things that are needed to activate the part

of our brain that sooths us. The first is supportive touch. The second is warmth, both physical and emotional. And the third is the voice that "coos" comfort. – No matter what our age, if we are suffering, we need these same three things that a crying baby needs.

That can be a difficult concept in a world in which we pride ourselves on strength and endurance, a world in which comparing someone to a baby is a horrible insult. Perhaps that is why our lectionary calls us to be the voice of comfort only two weeks before we welcome the coming of God as a baby. If the almighty, all-powerful God can come as an infant who needs to be comforted, surely there can be no shame when we need to be comforted. If Mary and Joseph could offer comfort to the Son of God without embarrassment or resistance, surely, we can do the same for other human beings.

This week may each of us practice being the voice of comfort. Place a gentle hand over your heart, feel the supportive touch and the warmth. Speak in the gentle tones you would use to soothe an infant. "I know this hurts. I know this is incredibly hard. We are going to get through it. Everything is going to be okay." Notice what happens. *Pam Driedger*



Did You Know? Advent is a time of joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise. It is a grace-filled season of new hope, new life and new love. God already comes to us in the world through the things of this world. All the gifts of creation – food, water, animals, friends, plants and trees are ways in which God is being generous to us. What a gift! Advent inspires us to prepare ourselves, and our world, for the full coming of the kingdom of peace and justice. (Pg 3,11 The Sourcebook 2020, 2021)

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: We 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 leave your car to walk into the church, during all the Mass, while walking up and back to your pew for communion and then again, while exiting the church, all the way back to your car). Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



We are accepting donations in memory of deceased family and friends for Christmas season environment in each of our churches! The easiest way for you to do this is to call the Parish Office (386-6178) and then put your donation in a clearly marked envelope and drop it in the collection basket, mail it in to the office or use one of the online payment options. Call the office if you have any questions. Thank you!

Holy Family, St. Jude's and Immaculate Heart of Mary Churches Making a Reservation for Christmas Mass

There are not too many things that could be more disheartening than knowing that maybe not everyone who wants to, will be able to go to Christmas Mass this year. Please know that we're going to do our very best and starting Monday, December 14th we begin taking reservation calls for Christmas. Please note:

- You must call the office. To make this as fair a process as possible, no emails will be accepted.
- **Do not get discouraged if you have to call more than once to get through.** *There are four phone lines coming* into the parish office and there will be four of us taking the calls. Phones line open up at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning.
- **Do not leave a message.** Call back until you speak to a person. *Imagine how busy the phones might be and* it could mean that we take 30 calls before we can stop and listen to your message. Please don't let that happen to you.
- **Remember that you still need to call for your weekend Mass reservation.** *Reserve your spot(s) for upcoming* weekend Masses as well as Christmas with that one phone call!
- Let's keep the calls short we know there will be many people trying to get through.
- **Spaces are limited and every single seat is important** so if you make your reservation and plans change, call and let us know. We expect to have waiting lists for all Masses.

Ugh, for so many reasons, none of us will forget 2020.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule 2020

Family/Seniors' Mass – December 23rd

6:00 p.m. - Immaculate Heart of Mary (recorded and later uploaded to YouTube)

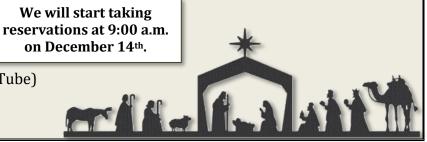
Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary 6:00 p.m. - St. Jude's 6:00 p.m. – Holy Family 8:00 p.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary (live-streamed and then uploaded to YouTube)

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th 10:00 a.m. - Holy Ghost

New Year's Eve - Thursday, December 31st 4:00 p.m. - Holy Ghost

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1st, 2021 11:00 a.m. - Immaculate Heart of Mary





Food Banks

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). Thank you!

Let's Do Lunch! Want to consider something different for gifts this year? How about sharing your blessings with those less fortunate by donating a number of dinners to the Karing Kitchen! When \$1 buys one serving, this is a wonderful gift idea! We have red 'Karing Kitchen' cards at both Holy Family and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches that could be put under the tree for your loved ones! Especially this year, Karing Kitchen says thank you for your generosity and for sharing your love.

Family in Crisis – A Call for Help

A family crisis can occur when a family has to change. It is a turning point: things will either get better or



n occur when a family has to change. It is a turning point: things will either get better or they will get worse. Such was a change for the Kadlu family. On September 16th, 2020, 44-year old Wahed Kadlu realized his dream and brought his wife, Almas, and their four children safely to Moncton, NB, Canada. Wahed had been working tirelessly to get all of his children out of Syria, but most especially, his 8-year old son Mustafa. You see, Mustafa has Down's Syndrome.

Leaving your home, leaving everyone you love, coming to a strange country where you don't understand the language, where everything smells and tastes differently....that would very much be a 'family crisis' but Wahed was so excited to be here! He was excited to learn the language, to work, to fit in! Then one week ago, the unthinkable happened

and this husband and father suffered a massive heart attack. Wahed died enroute to the Moncton Hospital.

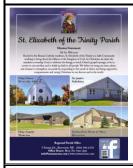
Dear faith community, this is a call for help. Our hearts break at the anguish, the loneliness, the hopelessness that must be overwhelming Almas right now and honestly, we don't really know what we can do. The young Syrian family that IHM and Holy Family had sponsored, Mohammed and Zouzan Daoud, have befriended this family. Mohammed stepped in to help with funeral preparations, while Zouzan is visiting daily, offering comfort, cooking and mostly, just listening. So what can we do?

They most definitely will need help financially. They have just lost whatever income Wahed was and/or would have brought in. This family is government-sponsored...there is no help coming to them from a caring faith community. They will have this minimal government help for only one year and then Almas must find a way to feed her family. Please give whatever you can. No amount is too small. Send your donation into the office over the next week, any way that you can. Put an envelope marked '**Kadlu Family**' in the collection basket, drop off your donation to the office, mail it in, use e-transfer, whatever – please call us for all the options.

I quoted Fr. Ron Rolheiser in my homily last weekend. "The quality of your faith will be judged by the quality of justice in the land will be judged by how the weakest and most vulnerable groups in society (widows, orphans, strangers) fare while you were alive." The idea was that our standing with God depended not just on our private prayer and integrity but also on how we stand with the poor...In effect, Jesus told us that nobody will get into heaven without a letter of reference from the poor.

Thank you all. 🖌

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



As we approach 2021, there is a small window of time where new advertisers are able to sign on. If you own a business or know of a credible company that may benefit from this advertising, please call Shani Court at 506-875-1962 or you can email her at <u>church.bulletin.adverising@gmail.com</u>. Space on the back of our bulletins is an effective way to advertise in a highly credible local venue. Please note that these advertisements will appear in seven local parishes in Moncton/Riverview area. Also, as we have all year long, we encourage our parishioners to support these advertisers, as they are supporting our parish grouping!



Completing 2020 - We are coming into the last month! Let's 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 in so many ways! Call Anne at the Business Office for more information and thank you!!

2020 Charitable Donation Receipts



Thank you for being so generous to the church at Christmas! To count for your 2020 offering income tax receipt, donations must be received in the collection baskets by Sunday, Dec 27th or at the parish office until Dec 28th. The office will be open to receive donations on Monday, December 28th from 9-11 a.m. You are welcome to donate in person, by email, e-transfer or by credit card (during office hours) or online by using the Donate button on the website, www.setmoncton.com.

The 2021 offering envelopes are now available.....but how to get them safely to parishioners??

- St. Jude's, your envelopes have all been delivered to the church.
- Holy Ghost, your envelopes should be available at the church a bit later in December.
- IHM and Holy Family:
 - Over the next several weeks, for those who are attending Mass, expect to receive your box of envelopes as you enter the church and/or you'll find them waiting for you in your pew. ③
 - If you are not attending Mass but would be able to come to the parish office to pick up your envelopes, please do so!
 - If you are not attending Mass and cannot pick up your envelopes, please give us a call!



AND, for everyone, when you receive your envelopes:

- Have a look at the mailing label and let us know if we need to make corrections.
- Do we have your email address? It sure would help us stay connected if we did!
- Would you like to receive a box of envelopes? Just call Anne at 386-6178!
- Would you like to start a Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) offering? Just call Anne.

Holy Family and Immaculate Heart of Mary Churches

Even in the COVID-craziness, thank you for supporting this fundraiser and buying Grocery Gift Cards!

You can buy your grocery cards at the Parish Office!

They make wonderful Christmas gifts and slide neatly into a Christmas card. 😁

You can choose from:

- Superstore \$50 and \$100 cards and these can be used at all Loblaw stores including Superstore, No Frills, Independent Grocer, Save Easy, and Wholesale Club!
- Sobevs \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards and these can be used at Sobeys, IGA, Foodland, Lawton's and Needs Convenience Stores!



For more info, please call the Parish Office. Remember, your church earns money on each card purchased!



From the Offices of Faith Development, Liturgy and Youth Faith Development Ellen - 857- 9952 or <u>ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com</u> Trevor - 857-4879 or <u>trevord.diocese@gmail.com</u>

Journey Through Advent



In preparation for the third weekend of Advent, the newest video of the series Journey through Advent is now available on the CCCB's website. This week, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton, proposes ways to rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances. https://www.cccb.ca/liturgy-sacraments/resources-in-english/liturgicalcalendar/video-reflections/

A Wonderful Life in Christ (via Zoom)

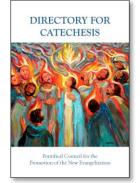


Everyone is invited to join us for a series of four discussions as we reflect on the themes of the 1946 film "It's a Wonderful Life," and relate it to our Christian story. Sessions are open to anyone, will take place on Zoom the four weeks of Advent, with two weeks remaining: December 18th and 21st at 10:00 a.m.

Contact Karen for more information at 387-4198 or register through the website for St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, www.setmoncton.com.

Directory of Catechesis

In October 2020, the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC) of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops hosted a four-part webinar series on the recently released *Directory for Catechesis*. The webinar recordings and the supporting PowerPoint Presentations are now available on the CCCB website and the following link will access the Directory for Catechesis Webinar Series Resource Kit.



<u>https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-</u> <u>resources/directory-for-catechesis-recorded-webinar-series-resource-kit/</u>

In the coming months, the OEC will continue to provide webinars and/or podcasts to focus on themes from the *Directory for Catechesis*. Examples of key themes for exploration include *accompaniment, "Kerygmatic catechesis", catechesis in a digital age* and *missionary discipleship*. Additionally, the OEC will examine the recently released Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* and its relationship to the themes of the *Directory for Catechesis*. Information will be publicized on these initiatives as it becomes available. The *Directory for Catechesis* is available for purchase in both English and French at https://www.cccb.ca/cccb-publications/.

For more information, please contact Marg Shea-Lawrence, Director, Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, at <u>m.shea-lawrence@cccb.ca.</u>

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

The IHM Ladies Society is doing something wonderful for Harvest House this Christmas! We are calling on



all Ladies, and anybody else who wants to participate, to bring in your \$5 or \$10 Tim Horton's gift cards and maybe some candy or chocolates. Craft supplies are appreciated especially adult coloring books, colored pencils or crayons, puzzles and puzzle books. Hand warmers are a big help too!



Bring your contributions into IHMC, loose and unwrapped and you will see a blue bin right there in the foyer for your contributions.

St. Jude's Church

Envelope Fundraiser! Raise your hands in the air...... \$1613.00 reached so far!



We are almost there! As you know, our goal is to raise an extra \$2,500 for the church before the end of 2020. Please help if you can, by picking an envelope! You can choose one off the fundraiser wall and donate that amount to the parish. It's so simple! This is your chance to make up for missed Sunday's collection or to put a little extra in with your regular collection. We are so grateful that we have been able to gather as a community at our church and we need your help to make our financial commitments for this year. You could choose your favorite number, the ages of your kids, your anniversary date, or a combination of amounts or any number! All donations are accepted! Give the parish office a call if you want to

send an e-transfer or donate by credit card. If you are unable to get to church, but wish to participate, give us a call at the parish office and we can get you set up.

Thank you all!

Holy Ghost Church

Christmas Mass at Holy Ghost Church will be on December 25th at 10:00 a.m. and on New Year's Eve at 4:00 p.m. **Holy Ghost is asking that all parishioners start to call now, if they plan to attend.** With COVID, we need to ensure seating is appropriate and registered. You can reach the office at 386-6178 or contact Teresa at 874-6123. We will do our best to accommodate as many as we can.

Advent Tree - Let's again this year attempt an Advent tree of Gifts for the less fortunate. We will conclude on the third Sunday of Advent so that the gifts can be forwarded on. Thank you all!



Offering Envelopes for 2021 will be available at the church a bit later in December. Anyone not currently using envelopes but would like to, please do not hesitate to contact Teresa. Thank you all for your support.

Weekly Collection for all Churches

non

Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs) Church Support \$3133.00 (69); Loose \$20.00 Maintenance Fund \$322.00 (14) Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$327.00 (13); Loose \$5.00

St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)

Church Support \$667.00 (16); Loose \$25.00 Fundraiser to date! \$1613.00 Immaculate Heart of Mary (incl PADs) Church Support \$5841.50 (134); Loose \$5.00 Building Fund \$527.50 (19) Social Action \$254.00 (12); Youth \$95.00 (8)



Please note that the Parish Office will be closing at noon on Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) and reopening on Monday, January 4th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular (COVID) office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)