

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish

Holy Family Church



52 Falkland St
Moncton, NB E1E 4S8
Tel: 854-6099

Holy Ghost Church



2 Church St
Riverside-Albert, NB E4H 3W8
Tel: 882-1123

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



5 Fatima Dr
Riverview, NB E1B 2X8
Tel: 386-6178

St. Jude's Church



3062 Main St
Salisbury, NB E4J 2L5
Tel: 386-6178



Mass Times

Saturdays

4:00 p.m. at Holy Ghost
7:00 p.m. at Holy Family

Sundays

9:00 a.m. at St. Jude's
11:00 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary

To meet with Fr. Phil, Fr. Charlie or for Confession, call to make an appointment - 386-6178



We pray to bring strength to those who are in need of prayer, including Marcia McGrath, Charles Robichaud (brother of Simone Berry), Shelley Langis (daughter of Ann Langis and niece of Marion Walsh), Glenn McCormack (son of Sharon McCormack), Amielya Lewis, Jessica Dockrill and her father, Bobby Dockrill (family of Al and Corinne Kavanaugh), Jack Connor (brother of Bill Connor) and Terry Murphy (brother of Colleen Murphy).

We also pray for those who have died, including Bernie Lamey (brother-in-law of Mary Lamey).

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20th, 2020



Liturgies for December 19th to January 1st, 2021

Holy Ghost Church

Saturday, December 19 th	4:00 p.m.	Fred Mercer – Pauline Mercer, Verna Curtin-Douthwright
Friday, December 25 th	10:00 a.m.	Fred Morrissey – Beulah and family
Saturday, December 26 th	4:00 p.m.	Clara Keirstead – Margaret and Dave Lowell
Thursday, December 31 st	4:00 p.m.	Virginia Nimmo – Lacy McKinley and family

Holy Family Church

Saturday, December 19 th	7:00 p.m.	Deceased family members – Cail and Marie Bastarache
Thursday, December 24 th	6:00 p.m.	Carol Ann Colpitts & Ryan Stewart – Betty Lou Remington
Saturday, December 26 th	7:00 p.m.	Ed Whalen (19 th Anniv) – Maureen and Steve Merrill

St. Jude's Church

Sunday, December 20 th	9:00 a.m.	Walter Constantine – Mona Hicks
Thursday, December 24 th	6:00 p.m.	John and Mary Revie – Mary Anne and Gary Griffin
Sunday, December 27 th	9:00 a.m.	For the People

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sunday, December 20 th	11:00 a.m.	Ken Collins (Anniv) – son, Ken Jr.
Wednesday, December 23 rd	6:00 p.m.	Charlie and Verna Clowater – son, Barry Clowater
Thursday, December 24 th	4:00 p.m.	Anne Greer – Marielle and family
Thursday, December 24 th	8:00 p.m.	Priscilla LeClair – Chris, Denny and Serge
Sunday, December 27 th	11:00 a.m.	Bertha Roy – Bob and Helena Vaughan
Friday, January 1 st , 2021	11:00 a.m.	Fred Kennedy (Anniv) – Alan and Anne Mongraw

St. Elizabeth
of the Trinity

Exploring Our Faith

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!

In this week's Gospel account, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she would bear a child who would be holy, called Jesus the Son of God. His words, "FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD" have resonated over these thousands of years. These seven words have been the inspiration for many followers, faith-believers, over time.

The sport company Adidas had an ad years ago - Impossible Is Nothing. It was a very inspirational and motivational campaign, reminding people that anything is possible. Reminding us that records and human limitations are meant to be broken. Reminding us that we can do great things. And, in the way that is true for worldly things, this is true in the spiritual realm as well. No matter what we are going through right now, no matter how impossible the situation may seem, no matter how helpless or hopeless we may feel, we should remember this, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD. God's power is infinite. Therefore, we should have faith in Him, His power, and His love for us. May we be inspired to have Faith and hope in God, no matter what the situation may be. The flame of Hope should never go out of our lives for, with hope, each of can live with Peace, Faith and Love.



I learned through my parents, who had very strong faith, that things do not always go as planned, as hoped. In my final year of high school (Grade 13 in Ontario) in 1968-69 I wanted to go to university to study Journalism. However, financially, it wasn't possible so I chose the one-year Teachers' College program. I was very disappointed, but my parents both encouraged

me to make the most of the opportunity and trust that things would work out. "Say your prayers and keep faith", they said. My first year with my own class reinforced their idea, their trust and I have had a very rewarding, successful career as an educator. I met my husband and moved to New Brunswick (Albert County) because of this career. I worked with wonderful administrators and fellow teachers who became life-long friends. What I once thought was not what I wanted, became an opportunity for happiness for a lifetime; something beyond my expectations became possible. My parents would not have known it would work so well but they knew, because of their unwavering faith, that with God all things are possible.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, as we get closer to celebrating the mystery of the true Christmas, let us try to have a positive outlook during these difficult pandemic-ruled times. We will miss many gatherings with family and friends and it will be hard to accept. Instead, think of it as a time of character strengthening, reinforcing our lives as a testimony to the miraculous power of Hope. It is important to have Faith because, when we have faith, we trust in God. When we have Faith we begin to become familiar with and know God. When we trust God, we can tap into both a fountain of courage and of life-giving hope. The more we get to know God, the more we can understand that nothing is impossible with God.

Henri Nouwen wrote, "Somewhere we know that without silence, words lose their meaning; that without listening, speaking no longer helps; that without distance, closeness cannot cure." Perhaps we should take the time to appreciate the silence, the listening, and the closeness often sensed when we slow our pace, contemplate, pray, open our hearts to what could be possible in the midst of hurt, grief, turmoil, troubles. We can be still and know that God is there with us.

And remember: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!

Cathy Keirstead

Daily Readings (Week of December 21st to 27th, 2020)

Monday	Zephaniah 3:14-18		Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday	1 Samuel 1:24-28		Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday	Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-6		Luke 1:57-66
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-16
Friday (The Nativity of the Lord)	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-6	John 1:1-18
Saturday (St. Stephen)	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59		Matthew 10:17-22
Sunday (The Holy Family)	Genesis 15:1-6, 17:3-5, 15-16, 21:1-7	Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19	Luke 2:22-40



Did You Know? The religious observances of Advent go largely unrecognized by a wider culture preoccupied with Christmas. Advent offers a 'remedy' to all the cultural impulses of this time of year. It allows us to be ourselves, to slow down and to look inside. If we carve out a bit of space – that hollow, pregnant and open space – God will fill it!
(Pg 5 The Sourcebook 2020)

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!



**Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule 2020
Reservations Required – Thank you**

Family/Seniors' Mass – December 23rd
6:00 p.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary
(recorded and later uploaded to YouTube)

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

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)

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

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



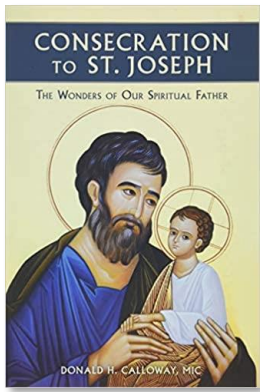
Food Banks

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!

Book Study with Fr. Donald Calloway



"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid..." Matthew 1:20... On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis ushered in the year of Saint Joseph. "Exciting" doesn't even begin to cover how some of us are feeling. Would you like to join in our excitement? There will be a book study and consecration to St. Joseph starting January 1st, 2021. Email goodtiffany@hotmail.com or call 386-5442 for information or to give your Fiat! We already have over 20 people signed up! There is a book to purchase (Consecration to St. Joseph by Fr. Donald Calloway - it is on Amazon) and we will meet weekly on Zoom to pray, discuss and grow in our love with our beloved father, St Joseph. Please let us know by December 30th of your intention to join the group! God bless you!

Tiffany Good



The Albert County Christmas Aid would, once again, like to thank the ladies in the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** for their generous donation of hats, scarves and mittens! They will be a wonderful addition to this year's Christmas boxes and will no doubt, be put to good use.

And so that everybody knows, these knitters and crocheters (aka Christmas Angels) *created and donated* over 100 items for the Christmas Boxes! Fantastic!



Wendy's 50 Plus Fitness (previously St. Paul's Senior Fitness) beginning on January 12th at Coverdale Recreation Center, between 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Cost will be \$30.00 each month. Low-impact workout includes Aerobics, Flexibility, Strengthening and Balance. Instructor is Wendy Saunders who has over 25 years of experience. For more information phone or e-mail Wendy at 384-0395 or wendy.saunders@rogers.com.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



Knights of Columbus support Special Olympics NB!



Here is the presentation of a cheque in the amount of **\$2,200** to Glen Agnew of Special Olympics NB Southeast by Ray March, Grand Knight of Council 9270 in Riverview.

Funds were the proceeds of a "Take Out" Turkey Dinner held in November.

Knights of Columbus support Albert County Christmas Aid!



Here is the presentation of a cheque in the amount of **\$2,250** to Bill Hanson of the Albert County Food Bank by Ray March Grand Knight of Council 9270 in Riverview.

The funds were raised through Soup Sales throughout the year.

St. Jude's Church

Envelope Fundraiser! Almost high-fivin' time! \$1873.00 reached so far!



We are so close!! 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

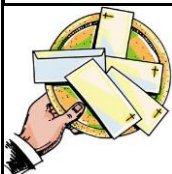
send an e-transfer or donate by credit card. If you are unable to get to church, but wish to participate, give us a call at the parish office and we can get you set up.

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.

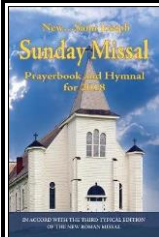


Offering Envelopes for 2021 will soon be available at the church. Anyone not currently using envelopes but would like to, please do not hesitate to contact Teresa.

Thank you all.

2021 Sunday Missals have arrived!

They are available at the entrance of the church and are \$5.00 each for personal copy, but please, if you cannot afford this do not hesitate to take one. With Covid this year, so many are home and not able to attend Mass and this is another way of following our journey with Christ.



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

Ellen - 857- 9952 or ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com

Trevor - 857-4879 or trevord.diocese@gmail.com



Upcoming Meetings:

Adult Faith Commission: Tuesday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Parish Catechetical Coordinators: Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Meetings will take place at the Diocesan Offices on York Street. Masks are mandatory. Please use the Dominion Street entrance.

The End is Nigh of an Era: Exploring the Book of Revelations, Part 2

Preliminary announcement that Dr. Fiona Black and Dr. Andrew Wilson will be joining us again virtually on Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 to answer questions generated at the session held in November. More information will follow.

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



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. ☺
 - 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.

Weekly Collection for all Churches

Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs)
Church Support \$1495.50 (57); Loose \$15.00
Maintenance Fund \$64.50 (5)

Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs)
Church Support \$462.00 (15)
Flowers \$60.00; Missals \$50.00; Booklets \$11.00

St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)
Church Support \$365.00 (13); Loose \$5.00
Fundraiser to date! \$1873.00

Immaculate Heart of Mary (incl PADs)
Church Support \$4275.50 (102); Loose \$15.00
Building Fund \$332.50 (13)
Social Action \$345.00 (10); Youth \$15.00 (2)

thank you ♥



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)

*All of us have had our Christmas plans altered in big and small ways. I suppose the first Christmas 2000 years ago was far, far, far from the ideal. Merry Christmas, everyone. Take care,
Fr. Phil*



Three men die in a car accident on Christmas Eve. They all find themselves at the Pearly Gates waiting to enter heaven. On entering they must present something relating to or associated with Christmas. The first man searches his pocket, and finds some mistletoe, so he is allowed in. The second man presents a cracker, so he is also allowed in. The third man pulls out a pair of

stockings. Confused at this last gesture, St Peter asks, 'How do these represent Christmas?' Answer: 'They're Carol's.'

How do sheep in Mexico greet Merry Christmas?
Fleece Navidad!

*Where does a snowman keep his money?
In a snowbank.*

What do you call Santa's helpers?
Subordinate Clauses.



*How do you know that Santa is a man?
Answer: No woman wears the same attire every year.*

What do you call an old snowman?
Water!



*Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
Answer: Because he had low elf-esteem.*



The following is a list of those who have donated, in memory of loved ones, the flowers that will decorate our churches this Christmas season. Our worship is enhanced by the flowers and greenery. Thank you all!

Holy Ghost Church	
<i>In Loving Memory of.....</i>	<i>By</i>
Tracy and Ralph Dowe	Anne Dowe
Pearl and Michael Bolger	Cathy & Ivan Keirstead; Chris, Sara, Clara and Chloe Keirstead; Jon Michael Keirstead Mary Lou and Norm Trowell; Jennifer and Alex Laurin and boys; Michael and Michelle Trowell and boys
Clara and Clarke Keirstead	Ivan & Cathy Keirstead; Chris, Sara, Clara and Chloe Keirstead Jon Michael Keirstead Dianne Haslam and family
Marion and Russell Black	Cerdic and Sandra Nelson
Andy, Otto and Violet O'Hara and Mary Richardson	Loving family
Phil and Doreen McNaught Gordon and Irene Rossiter	Monica and Earl

Holy Family Church	
<i>In Loving Memory of.....</i>	<i>By</i>
Sandra Cluney	Gerry Cluney
Aldoria Cormier	his wife, Jeannette and family
Evariste Cormier	his wife, Pat
Mother and Father	Mary Helena Delahunt
Josie and Alphonse Dennis Robert and Stewart Dennis	Eileen and Kathleen Dennis
Gerald Donovan	Marie and family
Leoline Gauvin & Helene Comeau	Louis and Louise Gauvin
Darlene Hotham	Jack Hotham
Stella Kyle	Carolyn Kyle
My dear parents, Kay and Ed Whalen	Maureen and Steve Merrill
Maureen Murphy	daughters, Nancy, Susan and Linda
Deceased members of the Dalton and Stewart families	Betty Lou Remington
Syd Wartman	Donna Wartman

The two largest planets in our solar system are coming closer together than they have been since the Middle Ages (1226), and it's happening just in time for Christmas! On the night of December 21st, Jupiter and Saturn will appear so close together in our sky that they will look like the "Christmas Star". The window to see this rare occurrence (next time is expected to be in 2080) is to look southwest, just above the horizon between 5:15 and 5:30 p.m. this coming Monday, December 21st. And if you can't see it up in the sky, you can watch is live-streamed on www.virtualtelescope.eu (click on their link, top right-hand corner of the screen).

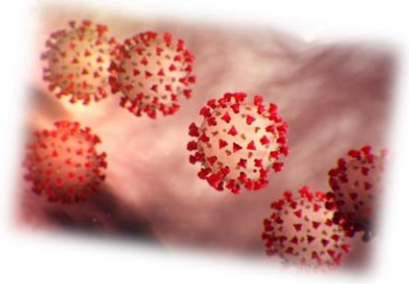
St. Jude's Church	
<i>In Loving Memory of.....</i>	<i>By</i>
Stewart Droesbeck	his loving family
Jim and Louise Griffin John and Mary Revie Robert Revie	Gary and Mary Anne (Revie) Griffin
Ian MacDonald	Albert and Marita Jackson
Walter & Agnes MacDonald Ray MacDonald	Lindsay and Sharon Jones
Tom and Evelyn McMackin	Terry, Susan, Luke and Natalie

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	
<i>In Loving Memory of.....</i>	<i>By</i>
Imelda & Sylvain Basque Rita and Lévi Robichaud	Gil and Claudia Basque
William and Sheila Walsh Jack and Annie Bennett	Wayne, Ellen, Sheila, Mark, Jordan and Randi Bennett
Garth Berry and Deceased family members	Simone Berry
Deceased family members	Lowell and Robert Brine
Helen Broderick	Charlie and family
Charlie & Verna Clowater	Barry Clowater
Shirley and Edmond Richard	Kathy, Andrew, Melanie and Danielle (Curwins)
Emile et Marie Daigle Nora Léger	Evangéline Daigle
Deceased members of the Daly and King families	Al and Bridget Daly
Clair Fisher	Adeline and family
Donald Fournier and Antoine Hébert	Michèle and family
Peter Hanson	Carol Hanson
Brian Haslam	Dianne and family
Clara and Clarke Keirstead	Dianne Haslam and family

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	
<i>In Loving Memory of.....</i>	<i>By</i>
Deceased members of the Joudrey & Fleming families	Lorraine Joudrey
Deceased family members	Al and Corinne Kavanaugh
Vaughan LeBlanc	David & Carolyn Kyle
Cal Luedee	Eileen, girls and families
Deceased family member Luedee and Wall families	Eileen, girls and families
Deceased members of the Lunney and Biddiscombe families	Dan and Carol Lunney
Deceased family members	Mary MacIntyre and family
Chelsea Samantha Marchand	Papa and Nanny Marchand and family
Bernie & Phyllis McTiernan Nola and Marcel LeBlanc	Neil and Monique McTiernan
Deceased family members	Maureen and Emerson Mills
Deceased members of the, Mongraw and LeBlanc families	Alan and Anne Mongraw
Clara and Ben Murphy Hélène & Charlie Joe Gallant	Colleen Murphy and Alvin Gallant
Deceased family members	Glen and Anize Ramsay
Albert Reddin	Pat and family
Randy Robichaud	Mum and Dad
Cora and Hugh Dysart & Annie & Joseph Robichaud	Ron and June Robichaud
Deceased family members	Wally and Cathy Roul
Douglas and Yvonne Simkins	Lucas, Tessa, Emma and Brianna
Brothers, Reg & Bernard Aunt, Mildred Fenton Uncle, Jimmy Duffy	Shirley and Ralph Simkins
Peter K. Smith	Mae, Karen & Stephen
Vance Toner and for Deceased members of the Aubé family	Pauline Toner

COVID-19: A REFLECTION - SEPTEMBER 2020

We will never forget the year 2020 as the year of the pandemic!
A small virus paralyzed the world!



The last months have been difficult. For a time, all activities were put on hold. We suffered through this confinement in many ways: fear, anxiety, uncertainty, routines disrupted, separation from loved ones, job loss, the realization that our planet is very ill. Some people, became infected and died alone under unimaginable circumstances, followed by a cruel period of grief for the surviving loved ones, who no longer had the support of their loved ones and the community.

For many, it was a time to stop and reflect on the importance of their faith. Some report having prayed more than ever because they needed God's strength and peace. They couldn't wait to return to church, in their own faith community. Others found watching mass on television, in the comfort of their home, perfect for them, and still is.

Would it be exaggerating to say that our Church's structure as we know it is being tested? Are our parishes at a crossroads? During this particularly difficult time, it is more important than ever to bring Jesus' message to the people who need him the most. Could it be that Pope Francis' call to *go out there* is becoming more critical than ever as difficult as it is for us to let go some well-established and familiar structures and practices?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are now restraints in our way of doing things. To find enough volunteers so that the guidelines could be followed, we had to work *together*. Our different expertise didn't matter. Has the pandemic forced us to work more closely in order to achieve our goal of keeping everyone safe?



We are very limited in our way of doing things. We have to respect social distancing as well as the other guidelines. This makes it difficult to approach people, to touch them physically. We are very much like the disabled who need to find alternate ways of doing things that other people do without a second thought.

This period of confinement has certainly forced us to stop and concentrate on *what is essential in our lives*. Will the Spirit guide us so that we can take a good look at *what is essential in our Church* as well? Do we truly believe that He is working through us during this trying time? Do we actually ask him for guidance in the same way the early Christians did?

The most essential part of our mission as a Church is to be welcoming, to offer forgiveness and love so that the people we interact with can feel God's love through us. A sincere heart, even with its mistakes and weaknesses, can make Christ's presence felt. If this is true, it therefore means that it isn't uniquely through our rituals and structures that we recognize Jesus first. As such, we can continue the Church's mission even during this difficult period of COVID-19.



The pandemic has put emphasis on our societal weaknesses. We have discovered that essential workers are often the ones who are paid the least. We have realized that the food we eat depends a lot on imported products. We have learned that our elderly do not always receive the care they need and that there is a shortage of personnel.

Yet, the crisis has also highlighted society's strengths. Our political leaders put aside their differences and worked together for the well being of all New Brunswickers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They demonstrated resilience, a capacity to adapt and creativity. At the onset of the pandemic, essential workers ignored their fears and continued to serve their communities.



According to a quote attributed to Pope Francis, once the pandemic is over, we can't expect to do the same things in the same way as we did before. Will society be better or worse? If we look at all the suffering this pandemic has caused...will it have taught us to work towards a just and fair society, a more Christian society? (May 30, 2020 *Agence-Pressé*).

In another message published on June 13, 2020 in the *Journal Le Soleil*, Pope Francis said that the Church does not have global solutions for the cries of the poor. Our spiritual and material wealth has been put to the test and we realize that we are scared. Confined to our homes, we have discovered the importance of simplicity. We have stopped and understood what is truly important.

My greatest wish is that, after this pandemic, we can genuinely focus on fighting injustices, on becoming one with nature and on working towards greater peace with one another. How do we go about accomplishing such a big task?

Henri J.M. Nouwen (in his book *Vivre sa foi au quotidien*), says that when he sees all the suffering in the world and his desire to put a stop to it, he realizes that it is important to not let himself become paralyzed by feelings of powerlessness and guilt. We must be faithful to our vocation, doing small things that are asked of us, and feel the joy, satisfaction and peace it brings. It is important to follow the example of Jesus, confident that we are truly capable, through Him, to be a sign of hope.

I encourage you to be this sign of hope in a world disrupted by COVID-19, always looking at *what is truly essential* in order to come out of this pandemic better than ever before.

Gladys LeBlanc,
Social Justice Coordinator,
Archdiocese of Moncton