

# **Exploring Our Faith** The heart of the matter

"For this week's reflection, I am going to digress a little from reflecting on the reading/gospel theme, though there is mention of 'priests', as has been a current theme these past few weeks, and I would like to reflect on what it means to be a PRIEST.

Priests are there for Baptism, First Penance, First Communion, Confirmation; for some, commitment in marriage; when the elderly or infirmed are anointed with the oil of the sick, presiding at funeral rites and consoling the bereaved. In between, a priest offers Holy Mass, catechizes the faithful in faith and morals, advises the young, comforts the suffering, advises the confused, encourages the struggling, visits the ailing, heartens the immigrant, promotes justice and peace, and intercedes for all in prayer. All a priest does, is done in conformity with Jesus Christ, who with a brother's love, calls each to form a heart after His own.

A priest is expected to love others more than he loves himself, for he has been chosen to represent Christ's love in a world that has become skeptical of his worth and all too often heedless of his admonitions. There can be great discouragement and frustration especially, when priests are not as trusted as they used to be. Coping with the early days of the pandemic must have been particularly difficult for priests, who usually live 'alone' in a rectory making life even lonelier than usual. The pandemic has prevented priests from doing all they could for their people but, as true representatives of Christ, they are weathering the storm.

A priest has a BIG HEART:

- a Father's Heart a spiritual father who listens to his children's problems and advises and helps them overcome the difficult moments of life.
- a Brother's Heart a priest is a brother to all. Like a brother, everyone is important to him, no matter who they are or what they do, they can be assured that, in the priest, they have a brother they can trust.
- a Friend's Heart a priest is one of the best friends one could have. We know that we can rely on him no matter what. He will always be there when we need him and will care because he wants the best for all of us.

Ultimately, a priest's heart is full of generosity and kindness. He is willing to give away his time his energy, his possessions, even his heart, for God and His people.

Now to get to the HEART of the matter. I want to reflect on one priest in particular, as he celebrates his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 14<sup>th</sup> - our own Father Phil Mulligan. All the previous words describing priests can be applied to Father Phil. Phil was born in Aylmer

Quebec, just across the border from Ottawa Ontario. I grew up in Renfrew Ontario, about an hour's drive from Ottawa and very close to the Quebec border. It means a lot to me that he knows



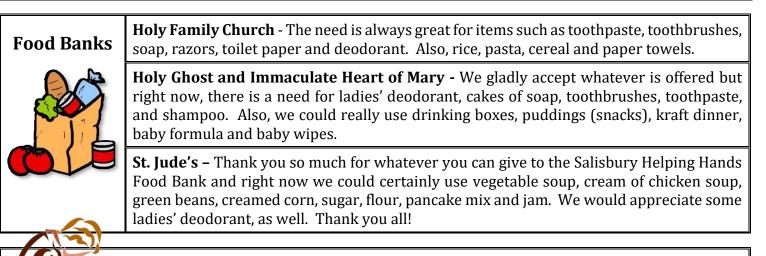
where I'm from. He is from a Catholic family of 8 (6 boys and 2 girls). I wonder if they all have that red tinge to their hair, too? His father is still alive, and Phil was finally able to enjoy a 'wonderful visit' this past August after a long time of separation due to Covid restrictions. Phil was ordained on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1997, and has been the best example of a priest, that you could ever want.

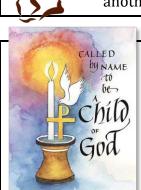
Father Phil keeps it all simple and real for the people. He takes the Scriptures and brings them to life with stories from real life experiences. He has built a true faith community - his constant reminder of community, in all we do. He would never ask more of anyone than he asks from himself. Pope Francis has stated that 'a sense of humour is one of the characteristics of holiness' and Fr. Phil certainly has that sense of humour. His helpful and understanding manner highlights his special character and is inspiring for everyone. He has unmeasurable faith and dedication to his churches (4 churches in his parish grouping) and to his parishioners. We are so grateful to have him not only as our parish priest, but as our friend. "So here we all gather and are all proud to know, you are our Father, just so you know."

Fr. Phil *may have*, maybe just a little, hinted at gifts for his birthday and that's all fine, but maybe this year we could also think of doing something 'in his name'. For example, spend time with family playing a game together, bring a meal to someone living alone, pay it forward at Tim's. Of course, Phil's favourite pie is blueberry and I'm sure homemade bread/rolls could find their way to his table, too! Also, let us keep him in our prayers that he is able to sustain his efforts to show he is God's representative here for us.

In the sport of golf there is a Mulligan. A mulligan is a do-over - usually for tee shots that go awry. Well, Fr. Phil is a 'Mulligan', but he doesn't need a do-over. If God was golfing, he wouldn't need a mulligan in directing our Father Phil... everything is just right!

Daily Readings (Week of November 15 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2021)			
Monday	1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64		Luke 18:35-43
Tuesday	2 Maccabees 6:18-31	Contraction of the second	Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)	2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31		Luke 19:11-28
Thursday	1 Maccabees 2:15-29		Luke 19:41-44
Friday	1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59	× · · ·	Luke 19:45-48
Saturday	1 Maccabees 6:1-13		Luke 20:27-40
Sunday (Feast of Christ the King)	Daniel 7:13-14	Revelation 1:5-8	John 18:33-37





### Did You Know?

When the light of Jesus shines in our heart, it transforms us, calling us to share Christ with one another, to be like Christ for one another. Page 79 Sourcebook 2020

# Sacrament of Baptism

Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we welcome

#### Noah Delfin, beloved son of Daniel and Geraldine

May the grace and blessings received at Baptism guide you throughout your life little one, and may this holy occasion bring your family great joy.

God bless you, sweet child of God!



#### Mass at Holy Family on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. Resumes

and this particular Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, will be Fr. Charles Lakoka's first Mass within our parish grouping. We are so happy to welcome him into our wonderful faith community!



During the month of November, a *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be placed out at each of our churches for all parishioners to write in the names of deceased family and friends, who will be prayed for at each Mass during the month.



#### Let Us Love One Another A Three-Part Journey of Reconciliation

The third liturgy in our three evenings of prayer and discernment around the Residential School situation will take place

#### Wednesday evening, November 24th at 7 o'clock at Holy Family Church in Moncton.



Each evening stands on its own, and you do not have to have been at the first two liturgies to come to the third. We are looking to come together as community and come to God to find a path forward.

All are welcome!

# Fifth World Day of the Poor, Sunday November 14th, 2021

The World Day of the Poor has been celebrated on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time since 2017. In the message, entitled 'The poor you will always have with you' (Mark 14:7),

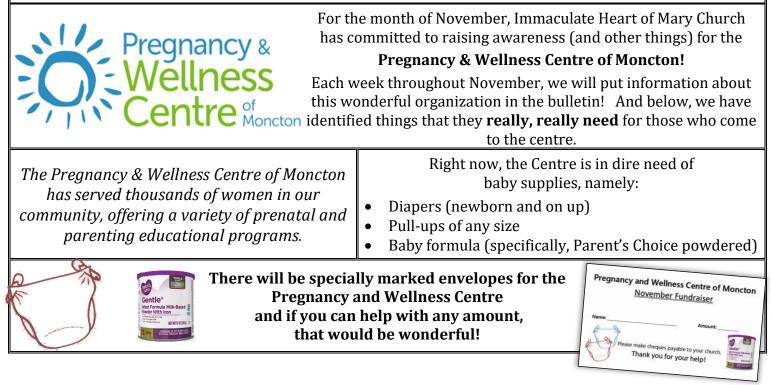
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Pope Francis states: "The *poor*, always and everywhere, *evangelize us*, because they enable us to discover in new ways the true face of the Father. 'They have much to teach us. Besides participating in the sensus fidei, they know the suffering Christ through their own sufferings. It is necessary that we all let ourselves be evangelized by them. The new evangelization is an invitation to

recognize the salvific power of their lives and to place them at the centre of the Church's journey. We are called to discover Christ in them, to lend them our voice in their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to understand them and to welcome the mysterious wisdom that God wants to communicate to us through them. Our commitment does not consist exclusively of activities or programmes of promotion and assistance; what the Holy Spirit mobilizes is not an unruly activism, but above all an attentiveness that considers the other in a certain sense as one with ourselves. This loving attentiveness is the beginning of a true concern for their person which inspires me effectively to seek their good' (Evangelii Gaudium, 198-199)."

**Pope Francis** 

# **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**



# From the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

*Ellen - 857- 9952 <u>ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com</u> Trevor - 857-4879 <u>trevord.diocese@gmail.com</u>* 

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Adult Faith Commission: Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Diocesan Offices on York Street. Please use Dominion Street entrance.



**Youth Faith Commission:** Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm via Zoom.

# **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?

Given our current reality, it has been decided that this session will now only be offered virtually, taking place via Zoom on Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m.



While the session is open to anyone interested in exploring more about the sacrament of Eucharist, parents of children preparing to receive First Eucharist in the spring of 2022 at any parish within the English sector, are asked to participate in this session, which will deepen your understanding of what the Church believes and teaches about the sacrament of Eucharist. 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. Registration will need to be done by contacting Ellen or your parish catechetical coordinator so that the Zoom link can be sent to you.



# Mondays @ The Movies

Connecting faith to popular films, will meet again on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom when we will be discussing the 1947 version of *Miracle on 34th Street.* 

All participants will have watched the film prior to the session, register with Trevor or Karen at <u>catechism.set@gmail.com</u> or 387-4198. Register online by going to <u>www.diomoncton.ca</u> → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development and click on the poster for Mondays @ The Movies.

# Faith Experiments Express

Learn about faith and scripture using science experiments (for grades 1-6).

We will be holding another Faith Experiments Express (via Zoom) on Monday, November 29th at 6:00 p.m. Register with Trevor or with Karen at 387-4198, <u>catechism.set@gmail.com</u>. Register online by going to <u>www.diomoncton.ca</u> → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development and click on the poster for Faith Experiments Express.



# **Albert County Christmas Aid**



White Gift Sunday will be on November 28<sup>th</sup>, and this year, some of the things being requested are knitted items (hats, mitts, etc.), toys for any aged child, and gift cards (Sobeys, Walmart, toy stores, etc.).

Please deliver all items UNWRAPPED to your church and we will arrange to get them to Moncton Headstart.



Phone lines for the Albert County Christmas Aid will be open from Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Monday to Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

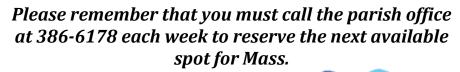
Please call 386-1771 to register your family.

Have Medicare numbers for all those in the family registering available when you call.

For those wishing to visit Headstart Toyland, an appointment will be assigned to you.

Only one family per address can be registered. You can not register for another family.





Masks are mandatory.

6-ft social distancing is mandatory.

Thank you everyone for your cooperation!

# **Knights of Columbus**

**Reserve Your Spot** 



Get ready for winter with some wonderful books, fun puzzles and comfort food!

This will be the last fundraiser of the year for Albert County Christmas Aid and it's all happening on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Dan Bohan Centre

Thank you for your continued support!

# **Holy Ghost Church**



St. Joseph Missals for 2022 will be arriving soon! They will be \$5.00 each for a 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.

For the month of November, we will again, place pictures throughout the church of our loved ones who are departed. Please feel free to bring a picture and we will put it up.

# **Holy Family Church**



**CPR/AED (Defibrillator) Training** – Holy Family Church is considering the purchase of a defibrillator and we are looking for volunteers

who are already trained, or would be willing to be trained, on its use. Please call or email the parish office if you are interested. Thank you!

#### Weekly Offerings for all Churches – November 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs) Church Support \$1842.50 (40); Loose \$12.00 Maintenance Fund \$52.50 (2)

**St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)** Church Support \$1745.00 (14); Loose \$50.50 Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$320.00; Loose \$5.00

Cemetery \$80.00

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Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$5912.50 (114); Loose \$90.00 Property Upkeep \$340.50 (11) ✓ Youth \$17.00 (3); Social Action \$196.00 (6)