

11:00 a.m. Ken Collins (Anniv) – son, Ken Jr.

Bernadette O'Leary - Shirley and Bill Connor

Kevin Kavanaugh & Gladys Gorey-Al and Corinne Kavanaugh

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

**Immaculate Heart of Marv** 

Sunday, December 12th

Sunday, December 19th

Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

# **Exploring Our Faith**

## PREPARE HIM ROOM

For the past three years, I have experienced the Advent season differently because of a reflection from Sr. Ilia Delio, a Franciscan Religious with doctoral degrees in both theology and science, who suggested that during these four weeks leading up to Christmas, we as Christians are not passively waiting for what is not there, but we are preparing room in our hearts for a Jesus who has already come and part of our task is to illuminate his

presence through loving actions. The "coming of Christ" also means an active moving onward towards a new way of living, believing and thinking. In essence, God is waiting for *us* to awaken "as if we're asleep in the manger, and not Jesus."

My experience has been that meaningful transformation does not come easily, because at some point, I must acknowledge I am not "done" with my faith development, and there will always be room for growth and change. The way in which I understand God and relate to Jesus Christ is different at the age of 48 than it was at the age of 18, not because God has changed, but because I have. I have also noticed that my own transformation has often been accompanied by people and situations I might have otherwise avoided given the opportunity. However, these same people and situations have challenged me to reconsider my certainties about God, "to get up from where (I) was and move on" towards Jesus Christ.



So how do we move on in a significant way towards a God who is waiting for us when many of us do not even like to change where we sit at mass each Sunday? How can we make room in our hearts for Jesus when we fear those we consider "outsiders," or people who are different from us? I know when I am forced to change my routine or way of thinking, I often feel a sense of having the rug pulled from beneath my feet.

When I was a child, each year before Christmas a group of adults and catechism children from St. Jude's in Salisbury would visit the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium in River Glade to sing Christmas carols and distribute candy canes and Christmas cards to the residents. Through the eyes of a child, the sanatorium building was intimidating, sitting like a massive, haunted mansion, with its unfamiliar smells, sounds and endless hallways that led to a common room where many residents and staff had gathered. This common room had a stage, which is where we stood to sing our Christmas Carols.

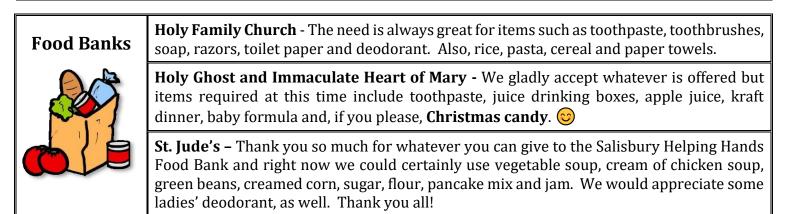
During my first visit, I spent a great deal of time staring at residents because I was unfamiliar with this environment. In particular, I recall one resident who was confined to her wheelchair with a little table crossing the arm rests, maybe as a safety precaution, I am unsure. All I know is she terrified me because she stretched her arms out across that table towards us children as though she was beckoning us, making noises in her throat my ten-year-old mind could not understand. No *way* was I going anywhere near her.

Many years later, I understand better that Jesus was present in every one of us there, residents and carollers both, but the woman in the wheelchair makes me think of how moving towards a God who longs to embrace me can involve frightening steps outside my comfort zone. Maybe I do not treat all children of God with the respect I should be offering every human being, this might be hard for me to admit. The onus was upon me then, and the onus is upon me now, to open my heart to a God who waits patiently for me to prepare room in my heart and awaken to Jesus' presence in each of us as we journey through this Advent season of love, joy, and hope.

> Trevor Droesbeck Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Daily Readings (Week of December 13th – December 19th, 2021)

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Monday (St. Lucy)	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17	7	Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday (St. John of the Cross)	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13	The second	Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday	Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-2	5	Luke 7:19-23
Thursday	Isaiah 54:1-10	A Contraction	Luke 7:24-30
Friday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10		Matthew 1:1-17
Saturday	Jeremiah 23:5-8		Matthew 1:18-24
Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent)	Micah 5:2-5	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45





Thank you to the ladies of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** who knit the wonderful hats, mitts and scarves in support of Albert County Christmas Aid! As the temperature continues to drop, your time, your talent and most of all, your kindness, are greatly appreciated by all our families!

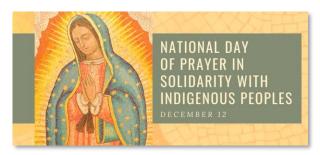
#### **Did You Know?**



John the Baptist is called the 'Precursor', one who precedes and suggests the course of future events. He was to 'make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord'. But the message was not about John. It was to point the way and lead others to Christ. We must remember that we too, like John, are simply vessels to help bring others to the Lord.

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The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated by the Church in Canada



**h Indigenous Peoples** is celebrated by the Church in Canada on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each year the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council prepares a reflection for this occasion. This year the message centers on the theme: "We are called to Healing, Forgiveness, Reconciliation. We, the Body of Christ, are called to live in friendship and harmony with all peoples. We are brothers and sisters of our One Creator God". You may read this reflection on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.cccb.ca

Catholics across the country are invited to join in prayer as a

delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers, and young people travel to Rome to meet with Pope Francis as soon as health condition surrounding international travel will allow it to be done in a safe manner in 2022. The delegation will also help inform the planned pilgrimage of the Holy Father to Canada at a future date. *Archbishop Valéry Vienneau* 



The founder of the Knights of Columbus, **Father Michael J. McGivney**, was a central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America, and he remains a model today. His example of charity, evangelization and empowerment of the laity continues to bear fruit and guide Knights of

Columbus around the world. In his Apostolic Letter that was read at the Mass for Beatification on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Pope Francis stated, '*Blessed Michael McGivney's zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and* 

*fraternal assistance.*' The Holy Father set his annual feast day for August 13<sup>th</sup>, the day between Father McGivney's birthday (in 1852) and the day he entered eternal life (in 1890).





**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 the office 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.



We are accepting donations in memory of deceased family and friends for **Christmas season environment** in each of our churches! A list will be printed in the bulletin of those being remembered. 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 into the collection basket if you're at Mass, or bring it or mail it in to the office, or use one of the online payment options.

Call the office if you have any questions. Thank you!

## **Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule**

**Family/Seniors' Mass – December 23<sup>rd</sup>** 6:00 p.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary 6:00 p.m. – St. Jude's 7:00 p.m. – Holy Family 8:00 p.m. – Immaculate Heart of Mary

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. – Holy Ghost New Year's Eve - Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 4:00 p.m. - Holy Ghost

**New Year's Day - Saturday, January 1**st, **2022** 11:00 a.m. - Immaculate Heart of Mary



## Reservations are required for all Masses. Call 386-6178 (Remember, emails will not be read until the end of the day!)

Holy Ghost	Please contact Teresa directly		
St. Jude's	Monday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Starting at 9:00 a.m.	
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Tuesday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Starting at 9:00 a.m.	
Holy Family	Wednesday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Starting at 9:00 a.m.	

## The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Ellen - 857- 9952 <u>ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com</u> Trevor -

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

#### **Pope Francis Prays for Catechists**

During December 2021, Pope Francis is praying "for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God." He says the Church needs "good catechists who are both companions and teachers. … The lay ministry of catechist is a vocation; it's a mission … an entire way of being." We, the faithful, are invited by Pope Francis to "thank catechists for the interior enthusiasm with which they live this mission at the service of the Church." Check out his video at the link to see what Pope Francis has to say:

https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-11/pope-s-december-prayer-intention-for-catechists.html

#### **Advent Video Series by the CCCB**

Beginning Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Solemnity of Christ the King, and for the four Sundays of Advent, the CCCB will release a video recording of one of Canada's bishops reflecting on the Gospel Reading for that Sunday. This year's reflections were inspired by the Indigenous Delegation travelling to Rome to meet with Pope Francis from 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> December 2021, and may be found at the following link:



https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/.





## Mondays @ The Movies

Connecting faith to popular films, will meet again on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom when we will be discussing the 2006 version of

## The Nativity Story

with Oscar Isaac and Keisha Castle-Hughes. 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). Due to inclement weather, our session scheduled for Monday, November 29th has been postponed until **Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022** 

Register with Trevor or with Karen at 387-4198, <a href="mailto:catechism.set@gmail.com">catechism.set@gmail.com</a>.Register online by going to <a href="mailto:www.diomoncton.ca">www.diomoncton.ca</a>  $\rightarrow$  Pastoral Offices  $\rightarrow$  Youth Faith Development and click on the poster for Faith Experiments Express.



#### **Holy Ghost Church**

**St. Joseph Missals for 2022 have arrived!** They are \$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.

## **Holy Family Church**



The "**Box for Mittens**" has been a traditional Holy Family Advent project for many years but this year with all the COVID changes and the back-and-forth, we didn't have an opportunity to formally collect the goodies! Parishioners though, (such wonderful memories), brought in mittens anyway! Thank you to all who helped in any way...we delivered the mittens to two different schools, and they were very well-received. Much appreciated! Thank you for your support!



#### Snowstorm Mass Cancellations! (ugh)

For the **weekend Masses**, in the event of a snowstorm that's bad enough to cancel Mass at any of our churches, volunteers will email and/or call everyone who was registered for that Mass. And for **all Mass** cancellations: (weekend and weekday), we will post the cancellation on the website (<u>www.setmoncton.com</u>) and on our Facebook page and the office phone (386-6178) will be updated with the cancellation message.



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

Masks are mandatory. 6-ft social distancing is mandatory.

Thank you everyone for your cooperation!

## St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



## Help us reach our financial goals for 2021!

Consider making up missed envelopes, making a special Christmas offering or starting a regular PAD offering. Please call the church office or visit <u>www.setmoncton.com</u> to find out how you can safely and securely make faithful donations to the life and work of our parish! Thank you!

## Weekly Offerings for all Churches – December 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs) Church Support \$2882.50 (59); Loose \$70.00 Maintenance Fund \$187.50 (6)

St. Jude's Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$520.00 (14); Loose \$0.00 Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs)

Church Support \$230.00; Loose \$5.00 Missals 10.00; Flowers \$60.00 Cemetery \$20.00

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (incl PADs)Church Support \$9136.50 (128); Loose \$68.00Property Upkeep \$292.50 (12)Youth \$40.00 (5); Social Action \$224.00 (14)