

Immaculate Heart of Mary<br/>Sunday, December 5th11:00 a.m.Infant daughter, Lena (Anniv) – Ken and Carmelle Cochrane<br/>9:00 a.m.Wednesday, December 8th<br/>Sunday, December 12th9:00 a.m.Darryl Roy (Anniv) – parents, Al and Nina Roy<br/>11:00 a.m.Ken Collins (Anniv) – son, Ken Jr.

# **Exploring Our Faith** PREPARE AND MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY

'Tis the season, the season of Christmas! I don't know about you, but it's been a busy couple of weeks in the Mahoney household, as we prepared our home with lights, wreaths, garland, and other decorations for the Christmas season. We've put in a lot of time, effort, and elbow grease into making our home festive. I guess what I should have said



at the start of this paragraph is, 'tis the season of Advent! But I'm sure you already knew this. Advent is a time for change and preparation, we've entered into a new liturgical calendar year. You'll notice some change already, the colors of the church to purple, the advent wreath with its four candles (one for each week of Advent) as we prepare to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. Doesn't seem like a lot of preparation, does it? Where's all the time, effort, and elbow grease for Advent like we have for Christmas? What if I told you there's more you can do to prepare? What other changes or preparation are we called to do?

In the first reading, Baruch speaks to us of the reunification of Jerusalem and her 'children'. He likens the devasted city as a mourning mother and tells her to remove her cloak of mourning because it is time to celebrate "*rejoicing because God has remembered them*". The humiliation of their forced march into exile on foot will be undone and they will be "*carried in the glory, as on a royal throne*". The heights of despair and the depths of depression will be leveled out, "*for God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low, and the valleys filled up, to make level ground so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God*". It is not that the suffering is forgotten, or that anything could go back to being the way it was before the tragedy, but now the divine gift of joy settles over the grieving mother as rebuilding life out of the ruins begins. The returnees are led by God's light, and their companions are mercy and justice, "*For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him*". What can we take as change and preparation? Isn't funny how something that happened so long ago, can be so easy for us to relate to? I mean, hasn't this pandemic felt like a kind of exile? And like Jerusalem in Baruch's time, we can't go back to what was before, but we can let God enfold us in mercy and righteousness as our companions. With them we can move toward healing, restoration, and the chance for a new beginning.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist talks to us about an opportunity for a new beginning. The start of the Gospel is a bit menacing, so John's invitation to us is said with some urgency; to repent and to turn away from personal choices that impede God's coming and collectively turn toward divine mercy. To quote sister Barbara E. Reid, OP, Abiding Word, "Using Isaiah's words, John first speaks in imperatives: prepare and make straight the way. But then the verbs shift to the passive voice, implying that it will be the Coming One himself who will do the filling in of the valleys and leveling of the mountains, straightening out winding roads, and smoothing the rough ways. The Coming One does not eliminate the suffering and sorrow along life's path, but fills us with saving joy, justice, forgiveness, and mercy as we open ourselves to the great things God has done and continues to do for us."

During the season of Advent, we watch and wait. We hope in the promise of salvation. The message of salvation, impressed upon us by the prophets, makes us who we are this Advent -- a people preparing for the day, hoping in God's promise. John the Baptist announced a promise of salvation. He points the way to Jesus, our hope. At the start of this reflection, I asked, 'Where's all the time, effort, and elbow grease for Advent like we have for Christmas? What other changes or preparation are we called to do?' After reflecting on the readings, it became very clear; to make straight our path and prepare for the coming of the Lord. It might be made clear, but I promise there's more time, effort and elbow grease needed to accomplish this feat. I found a few questions that I hope will offer some deep reflection, should you choose to make time, put in a bit of effort, and let your mind and heart put in a bit of elbow grease. What are some things that lead you off the path of goodness? How can you avoid those things to make straight your path this season of Advent? Where do you find hope this Advent season? What can you do to help others find hope?

God bless, Katy Mahoney

Daily Readings (Week of December 6 <sup>th</sup> – December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021)					
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10		Luke 5:17-26		
Tuesday (St. Ambrose)	Isaiah 40:1-11		Matthew 18:12-14		
Wednesday (The Immaculate Conception)	Genesis 3:9-15, 20	Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12	Luke 1:26-38		
Thursday	Isaiah 41:13-20		Matthew 11:11-15		
Friday	Isaiah 48:17-19		Matthew 11:16-19		
Saturday	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11		Matthew 17:10-13		
Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)	Zephaniah 3:14-18	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:10-18		

Food Banks	<b>Holy Family Church</b> - The need is always great for items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, razors, toilet paper and deodorant. Also, rice, pasta, cereal and paper towels.		
	<b>Holy Ghost and Immaculate Heart of Mary -</b> We gladly accept whatever is offered but items required at thi time include toothpaste, juice drinking boxes, apple juice, kraft dinner, baby formula and, if you please, <b>Christmas candy</b> .		
	<b>St. Jude's –</b> Thank you so much for whatever you can give to the Salisbury Helping Hands Food Bank and right now we could certainly use vegetable soup, cream of chicken soup, green beans, creamed corn, sugar, flour, pancake mix and jam. We would appreciate some ladies' deodorant, as well. Thank you all!		

**Did You Know?** If you think that you have not 'seen' or 'felt' God, start to question, why not! Stop at various points during your day and ask yourself where you have encountered God that day. You are not allowed to conclude that God simply wasn't present. God created the world, declared it good, and left divine fingerprints everywhere. Christ came and redeemed us, the fallen. The Spirit is constantly breathing new life into our world. If you can, in all honesty, say that you did not encounter God's presence, then rejoice and be glad; God sent you there, to bring God there! Page 228-229 Sourcebook 2021



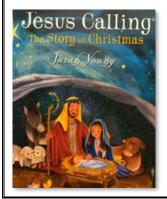
## The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception

This Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Immaculate Heart of Mary in Riverview will be celebrating this Solemnity with Mass that morning at 9 o'clock.

All are welcome.

Please note that masks are mandatory and social distancing will be respected.

### Storytime with Deacon Ed on Zoom!



#### "Long before you were born, I thought of you, and I loved you," said Jesus. 🐵

Snuggle up with your favourite stuffed animal and join Deacon Ed on Zoom as he shares God's plan for Christmas, **over 5 Monday evenings starting on November 29**<sup>th</sup> **at 6:00 p.m**. He will be reading a little bit each week from the book, "The Story of Christmas" to reveal how much Jesus loves us. Although the book is geared towards 5–10-year-olds, **anyone who loves to hear about Jesus will not want to miss these 30 minutes with Deacon Ed**!

*Jesus is coming, let's get ready for Him together! Woohoo!* Email Tiffany at <u>goodtiffany@hotmail.com</u> to register or to ask questions. Advent Reconciliation - Once again this year, due to COVID-19, our Advent Reconciliation will be done a

little bit differently.



# Reconciliation Preparation Service on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

This will **not** be sacramental, but rather a preparation for individual confession. You can call the church and book an appointment for individual confession for Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, or for Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This liturgy will be live-streamed on Facebook, so if you cannot be here in person, you will be

able to participate online. If you are watching from another parish unit, you can call your own parish office to schedule a time for individual confession.

Remember, if you plan to attend in person, you must call the office (386-6178) to register.

# Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph



#### Conclusion of the year dedicated to Saint Joseph

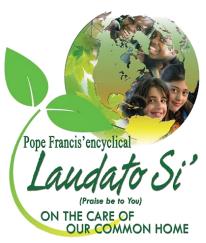
On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Pope Francis announced a year devoted to St. Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. This particular year of individual and collective prayers to St. Joseph ends next week on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. However, the challenge of living like St. Joseph continues. He submitted himself to the will of God and loved Jesus and Mary in simplicity and fidelity. May our devotion to St. Joseph inspire us to implore his intercession and imitate his virtues and way of life within the Holy Family. Let us pray Saint Joseph to intercede for our families. *Archbishop Valéry Vienneau* 

Lastly, Saint Joseph, as you humbly worked in the hidden life of Nazareth, we ask that you implore from our compassionate Lord deep joy and renewed zeal for those whose lives and efforts are hidden yet play an indispensable role in our communities, parishes and families in the unfolding of God's plan of salvation. V. O Saint Joseph, righteous and loving in the sight of God,

R. Lead us on the path of holiness.

(From the Consecration to St. Joseph (CCCB)

### Laudato Si' Project Archdiocese of Moncton



In last week's bulletin, Archbishop Vienneau introduced the Laudato Si' committee and their project to educate our diocese about Pope Francis' encyclical on climate change and inequality. I would like to thank him for his support and encouragement. Thank you also to the committee members for pledging to help us rediscover our Christian vocation as stewards of the Earth, (Genesis 2:15), and work toward healing our relationships with creation and with our neighbor.

In January 2022, the committee will focus on an education campaign of the encyclical Laudato Si' by offering presentations on our diocesan website and information tidbits in the bulletin.

On behalf of the Laudato Si' committee, thank you for your participation in this important project. May God be our guide and show us the way to a better future for humanity and all of creation. *Sister Denise Lirette, fj* 



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**տ 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 1st, 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 $15^{ m th}$	Starting at 9:00 a.m.	

## **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.



#### We hold in prayer, Audrey Campbell and Beulah Morrissey

for a speedy recovery from surgery. May God's healing hands be over them.

# **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**



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## The IHM Ladies Society will be meeting on

Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Dan Bohan Centre.

We will be doing something a little different again this year, something wonderful for Harvest House! So, Ladies please, if you can, bring in \$5 Tim Horton's gift cards or 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! Please don't put whatever you bring into stockings or gift bags, rather, bring your contributions loose and unwrapped. Thank you all!

# 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**

**Youth Faith Commission:** Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. **Adult Faith Commission:** Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. on York Street.

### 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  $13^{th}$  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.

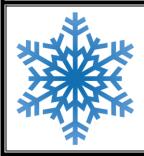
Register online by going to <u>www.diomoncton.ca</u>  $\rightarrow$  Pastoral Offices  $\rightarrow$  Youth Faith Development and click on the poster for Mondays @ The Movies.

## **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.



## 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.



**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.

Reserve Your Spot

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



**Completing 2021** 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!!



In thanksgiving and gratitude, please consider an offering to the life and work of one of our churches! Thank you.

**Planning for 2022** If your committee will be using church funds for special projects or initiatives in 2022, please call Anne at the Business Office by December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Weekly Offerings for all Churches – November 27th/28th, 2021

Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs) Church Support \$917.50 (29); Loose \$17.00 Maintenance Fund \$72.50 (3)

# St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)

Church Support \$324.00 (12); Loose \$30.00

Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$580.00 Missals \$5.00; Flowers \$40.00

0.00 Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$4565.50 (96); Loose \$93.00 Property Upkeep \$147.50 (8) Youth \$5.00 (1); Social Action \$160.00 (7)