

Exploring Our Faith LOVE EMPOWERS US TO RESPOND BEYOND OUR FEELINGS

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful…it hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Today's gospel from Luke follows Jesus as he begins his public ministry. His reputation as a teacher of great insight is spreading and he is *"praised by everyone."* At first, when Jesus returns to Nazareth and teaches in the synagogue in which he grew up, *"all spoke well of him and were amazed at [his] gracious words."* Soon after, however, these same people are so angry at his words that they attempt to throw him off a cliff. What did Jesus *say* to change their opinion of him so quickly and so drastically?

The Hebrew people had experienced a long history of persecution and hardship. They endured their struggles, in part, because they believed they had a special relationship with God; they were "*God's chosen people*." For many, this meant that they alone had been given an insight into God's mind and they alone had God's favour. They believed the promised Messiah was coming for their exclusive salvation. No wonder they were shocked and angry when Jesus, merely a local carpenter's son, alluded to himself as that promised Messiah and then tells them that they would not be, and never had been, the only ones entrusted with God's truth or favour. How dare *he*, of all people, make such blasphemous claims in their place of worship?



I think similar scenarios have happened for many generations in our homes, communities, and churches, usually at times when we are forced to revaluate our sense of truth and to discern what the mind and will of God might be in those situations.

How many of us as parents, have been absolutely certain of the truth of our viewpoints, only to have them stretched and expanded (sometimes to a point

of painful discomfort), by our growing children who present us with a different perspective of humanity and the world in which we live? Our initial reaction may often be visceral as we wonder, "How can a child, that *I've* raised be so *wrong* in their viewpoint??

How many times over the past few difficult years, have we found ourselves filled with anger and exasperation when confronted with opinions other than our own concerning health care and political policies? We may even have voiced our anger to other like-minded people saying, "What irresponsible and gullible idiots!!"

How often have we seen indignation as a response to people within our own church, who propose that church leadership should also include others who are not just male and single, or propose that our criteria as to who can share at our Eucharistic table should be expanded? We may hear comments like: "It's against tradition! It's heresy!"

Whatever side we may lean within these differences, we may feel certain in thinking *we* know the truth. We are confident that *we* know God's mind and "it happens to be the same as ours!" But if today's readings tell me anything, it is that "God's mind" is filled with more love, tolerance, and forgiveness than any of us can ever envision. To even *begin* to know the mind of God, we many need to begin with viewing our fellow humanity through the lens of the love described by St. Paul in the second reading. It isn't a love that is warm and fuzzy, or based on being like-minded. It is a love that is sometimes difficult; stretching us to the point of discomfort. Many of us have only heard St. Paul's reading at weddings, but it is God's challenge on how to see *all* of our relationships. Our attempts to live in this love must *"never end."*

Mary Joshi

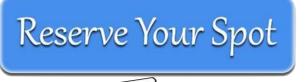
Daily Readings (Week of January 31 st – February 6 th , 2022)				
Monday (St. John Bosco)	2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13		Mark 5:1-20	
Tuesday	2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-26, 30 – 19:3		Mark 5:21-43	
Wednesday (The Presentation of the Lord)	Malachi 3:1-4	Hebrews 2:10-11, 13-18	Luke 2:22-40	
Thursday	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12	And the second s	Mark 6:7-13	
Friday	Sirach 47:2-11		Mark 6:14-29	
Saturday (St. Agatha)	1 Kings 3:4-13	the second se	Mark 6:30-34	
Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)	Isaiah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11	

Food Banks	Holy Family Church - The need is always great for items soap, razors, toilet paper and deodorant. Also, rice, past	
	Holy Ghost and Immaculate Heart of Mary - Items toothpaste, juice drinking boxes, apple juice, kraft dinner,	
J'L	St. Jude's – Right now the Salisbury Helping Hands Food	

-- such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, a, cereal and paper towels.

s required at this time include , baby formula.

d Bank could use vegetable soup, cream of chicken soup, green beans, creamed corn, sugar, flour, pancake mix and jam. We would also appreciate some ladies' deodorant. Thank you all!



We are back!

Please remember though, 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!



Did You Know?

True and holy love leads us to value others; when we truly love others, we help them and serve them. God has called us to humility.

Indigenous Communities



In Laudato Si' paragraphs 145 and 146, Pope Francis tells us that the disappearance of a culture can be just as serious as, or even more serious than, the disappearance of a species of plants. The Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the US (Turtle Island) have been living in harmony with nature for thousands of

years. "For them land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space, with which they need to interact if they are to maintain identity *and values.*" May we be open to learn from their wisdom and their teachings.

You are invited to our diocesan website at http://www.diomoncton.ca/en/news-item/diocesan-committeelaudato-si- to view the third presentation from our Laudato Si' Committee, prepared by Sr Denise Lirette, FJ.



Charismatic Renewal

I have appointed Mrs. Roberta Brine to be in charge of the English-speaking sector of the diocesan Charismatic Renewal. She will work with Fr. Gaston Ouellet, diocesan chaplain of the Renewal.

Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

Prayers of the Faithful for January 30th, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For the power of God's Word to transform the lives of all Christians and for harmony among all people who offer their gifts in service to God's kingdom. *We pray.*

For government leaders, for the gifts of faith, hope and love, to acknowledge God and be of true service to those they govern. *We pray.*



For nations and lives affected by extreme

cold, volcanoes and tsunamis; and for all who hunger for justice and thirst for truth.

We pray.

For those who are working under great pressure in the health professions and education, at this time; and for the sick, the home-bound and the recovering. *We pray.*

For the ongoing Synod and its participants seeking to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit into a renewed vision of church.

We pray.

Memorial Gifts are a special way to give to the life and works of the church. These gifts can be made in memory of a loved one and they can also be made to honour a living person.

During the month of January 2022

At St. Jude's, a donation was made to the church in memory of: Deceased family members by Jim and Carole Power



At Immaculate Heart of Mary, donations were made to the church in memory of:

John Eaton by Simone and Linda Berry Thérèse Senechal by daughter, Anne Gerald Dunlop by Simone and Linda Berry Diane Hachey by Ed and Karen Stack

Relatives and friends who have died by Lou and Pat McGinn Corinne Kavanaugh by Al and the girls, Associates of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Simone and Linda Berry, Mary Burns, Bill and Shirley Connor, Al and Bridget Daly, Marguerite Dockrill, Walt and Polly Forsey, Anne Griffin, Carol Hanson, Jackie Hayes, John Kavanaugh, Charles and Jeannette Lagacey, Dan and Carol Lunney, Ben and Honnie Macht, Deborah Mahoney, Reg and Anne Marie McCurdy, Teri and Phillip Muir, Peter Rafferty and family, Leo and Beryl Ronan, Bernie Stafford and family, the Toner family, Gordon and Liliana Trail

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: rescheduled to Friday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m. Taking place at 45 York Street. Use Dominion Street entrance please.

Mondays @ The Movies

Our next Mondays @ The Movies conversation will take place on Monday, February 14th at 10:30 a.m., when we will be discussing the 2000 film *Chocolat*, starring

Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche.

Contact Karen at 387-4918 or Trevor for more information or to register.

Faith Experiments Express



Our next Faith Experiments Express for young people in grades 1-6 will be on **Monday, February 7**th **at 6:00 p.m.**

Faith Experiments Express uses science experiments to help children learn about faith and scripture, and it's on Zoom so you can participate from the comfort of your own home.

Contact Karen for more information at 387-4198 or Trevor.



2021 Tax Receipts will be sent by email!

Please verify your email address at info@setmoncton.com

If we don't have your email on file, you will receive a printed version by mail.

If you have any questions, please give Anne a call at 386-6178.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with the parish!

Weekly Offerings for all Churches

Holy Family/Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs) Church Support \$147.50 (7) Maintenance Fund \$12.50 (1) Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs) Church Support \$0.00

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (incl PADs)

St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)

Church Support \$1770.00 (18)

Church Support \$2088.50 (56) Property Upkeep \$192.50 (6) Youth \$5.00 (1)

Social Action \$135.00 (5)

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

