

***St Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping
December 22nd, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent***

Holy Family Church	Holy Ghost Church	Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	St. Jude's Church
			
52 Falkland St Moncton, NB E1E 4S8 Tel: 506- 854-6099 Saturdays at 7 p.m.	2 Church St Riverside-Albert, NB E4H 3W8 Tel: 506- 882-1123 Saturdays at 4 p.m.	5 Fatima Dr Riverview, NB E1B 2X8 Tel: 506- 386-6178 Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.	3062 Main St Salisbury, NB E4J 2L5 Tel: 506- 386-6178 Sundays at 9:00 a.m.



The St. Elizabeth of the Trinity parish grouping acknowledges that we carry out our worship and ministry on the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) Peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which these nations first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but, in fact, recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Welcome to our parish grouping! If you are new to any of our churches, please reach out to the parish office to find out more about the life and work of our parishes!

Staff Directory
The parish office is open Monday to Friday 9-4:00pm
To meet with Fr. Phil, please call the parish office.

Priest Moderator	Fr. Phil Mulligan	philstoryguy@hotmail.com	(506) 386-6178 ext 106
Pastoral Associate	Mark Mahoney	markmahoney.set@gmail.com	(506) 386-6178 ext 101
Parish Secretary	Debbie Brideau	debbiebrideau.set@gmail.com	(506) 386-6178 ext 103
Director of Catechetics	Karen LeBlanc	catechism.set@gmail.com	(506) 387-4198
Business Manager	Anne Marcoux	annemarcoux.set@gmail.com	(506) 386-6178 ext 102



We pray for the sick, and those who are awaiting or recovering from surgery, those receiving treatment, and those needing strength including Eric Tracy, Helen Skidmore, Glenda O'Hara, Evelyn Danahy, Leo Ronan, Chris Hachey (nephew of Terry Clancy), Johanna Van Elst, Kris Jensen, and Albert Jackson; for those who have died including Emerson Mills, and Linda Constantine; and for those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Daily Readings Dec 23rd – Dec 29th, 2024

Monday	Malachi 3.1-4;4.5-6		Luke 1.57-66
Tuesday	Isaiah 9.2-4,6-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-16
Wednesday	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-6	John 1.1-5,9-14
Thursday	Acts 6.8-10;7.54-59		Matthew 10.17-22
Friday	1 John 1.1-4		John 20.2-8
Saturday	1 John 1.5-2.2		Matthew 2.13-18
Sunday (The Holy Family of Jesus;)	Sirach 3.2-6,12-14	Colossians 3.12-21	Luke 2.41-52

Upcoming Liturgies Dec 13th — Jan 1st 2025

St. Elizabeth
of the Trinity

Fri, Dec 13th	Canterbury Hall	10:15 a.m.	Janet Gordon—Carol Lunney
Wed, Dec 25th	IMH	9:30 a.m.	No Mass—Merry Christmas
Fri, Dec 27th	People's Park Tower	2:00 p.m.	Phyllis Legere—Roger & Judy Bourque
Sat, Dec 28th	Holy Ghost	4:00 p.m.	Clara Keirstead—Late Marion Black
Sat, Dec 28th	Holy Family	7:00 p.m.	Bill Morano—Sheila Morano
Sun, Dec 29th	St. Jude	9:00 a.m.	Bradley Downey— Janet Gordon & Family
Sun, Dec 29th	IHM	11:00 a.m.	For the People
Tues, Dec 31st	Holy Ghost	4:00 p.m.	Mum & Dad, Sharon & Shelda Morrissey— Sylvia & Hilyard Rossiter

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Are you interested in joining a parish activity?
Or seeking a faith formation time?

Please see below for a list of upcoming meetings and events.

DATE	LOCATION	
Tues, Dec 24th		Office is closed for the week, returning Jan 2nd.
Wed, Dec 25th		Merry Christmas !

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity

Did You know? In the scripture, an angel appeared to Mary's husband, Joseph and told him that her child was from God. The name "Jesus" means "He saves."
"Wondrous events fill the season, a virgin gives birth to God's Son, the barren conceive, the old are given youthful vigor. Elizabeth is the first to recognize Mary as the Mother of God and she is the first to recognize Jesus, hidden in His mother's womb. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and she cries out the beautiful prayer ..."
Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Like Mary, we need the company of people who will strengthen and confirm our faith in God and who will help us to believe.



(p.22, SB 2024)

2024 Donations and Tax Receipts

Thank you for your faithful and generous offering to our parishes over the past year. For your donations to count toward your 2024 tax receipt, they must be received in the offering plate **at one of our churches by Sunday, Dec 29**. If you want to drop it at the church, it **must be received by Monday, Dec 23 by 4 pm**. **The parish office will be closed from Tuesday, Dec 24 until Thursday, Jan 2. Donations cannot be dropped off when the office is closed.** E-transfer is an option as well as donating via our DONATE button at ww.setmoncton.com. Tax receipts will be available at the end of January 2025. God bless all these gifts!

Parish office is closed from

Tuesday Dec 24th - Thursday Jan 2nd 2025.

**Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season.
Celebrating the birth of Christ is so much more meaningful
when it's shared with people like you.**

Christmas and New Years Schedules



Christmas Eve

Peoples Park Tower **2:00pm**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Family) **4:00pm**

Holy Ghost **4:00pm**

Saint Jude Church **7:00pm**

Holy Family Church **7:00pm**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church **8:30pm**

New Years Eve Mass

New Years Eve

Holy Ghost Church **4:00pm**

New Years Day

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church **10:00am**



***Prayer Shawl Ministry is cancelled Dec 31st for the Holidays ,
see you in the New year!***

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Many thanks to **two of the Social Action Committee members** who donated a beautiful almost new WALKER to an elderly lady in great need.

Delivery and presentation were made through very emotional activities as the lady welcomed this special Christmas Gift from the Committee.

You know who you are!



Thank You for Supporting Your Local Karing Kitchen!!

With the 'Let's Do Lunch' donations Since 1983, the Karing Kitchen in downtown Moncton, N.B., has been offering up hot, nutritious lunches for those who need it. Every Monday to Friday, the team of volunteers serves up a full plate with a sweet or two. Their clients love the meals, the service and your generosity is greatly appreciated !

Carol Lunney

Dayle Smith

Debbie Brideau

Sam Albert

Lynda La Vigne

Ken & Carmelle Cochrane



COFFEE TIME SNACKS

LOOKING FOR **2 PEOPLE EACH WEEK** TO BRING
COOKIES, CUPCAKES, 2-BITE BROWNIES
AND SUCH!



Any kind of sweet treat will do! Please sign your name on the form attached on the triangular bulletin board at by the library.

Holy Family Parish



Holy Family Church is seeking an enthusiastic, musically gifted team player to serve as **Music Leader**. The perfect candidate will lead the music at mass celebrations and choir practices. This is a paid position. For a detailed position description or additional information, please reach out to Mark at the parish office: 506 386 6178 this posting will remain open until filled.

Community

It's the most wonderful time of the year!



Light Up Riverview is back with the community's beloved holiday light display on the Riverfront Trail. During the holiday season, It is a perfect time to take a stroll along the River front and snuggle with your favorite lady or gentleman or make it a family night and enjoy the beautiful lights.

Exploring Our Faith

“THE WORD OF THE LORD.”

“THANKS BE TO GOD!”

When the first and second readings are proclaimed at Mass, they are always followed by the lector (reader) saying, “The Word of the Lord,” to which we all chime in, “Thanks be to God!” They are such short sentences, not unlike everyday quips like, “Good to see you” or “Have a nice day.” Because they are so short, they can easily lose their punch. However, “The Word of the Lord” and “Thanks be to God” are anything but laidback phrases. They are the language of ritual, therefore they’re intentional...or, at least they should be. These two small phrases are packed tightly, but they beg to be unpacked.

When we unpack “The Word of the Lord” and “Thanks be to God,” we soon discover that they are statements of faith. “The Word of the Lord” isn’t important merely on its own but, moreover, because of who says them, and when, and why. It’s not simply a statement that this is God’s word proclaimed from the lectionary. More is going on than what meets the eyes...or ears, in this case.

Picture your favorite lector, the one who perks your ears and makes you want to pay attention at Mass. I’m picturing a lady in her 90s at Peoples’ Park Tower. (If she’s not in her 90s, she’s going to kill me). When this baptized, anointed Christian looks us—an assembly of the same—in the eyes, she doesn’t read the Word...she PROCLAIMS it.

“In the BEGINNING
was the WORD”

She is saying **her name**. She is the word of the Lord, the same breath breathed into our primordial parents, Adam and Eve, way back when. Because of that breath the clay, from which they began, took on life and began to breathe on its own. It’s nothing less than the breath of God calling creation into existence. God said, “Let there be...,” and there was, there is, and there will be. Getting back to our lector, she takes the Word of God in with her eyes, and breathing it out with her voice, from her lips, she is the living proclamation of salvation, charged by Christ himself to go into the whole world to spread good news.

She is saying **our name**. We are the word of the Lord, that resounding, thundering echo of God’s voice, in this time and place, a word the world yearns to hear amidst so much depressing news. Receiving the word in our ears, you might say we become impregnated by it, much like Mary was at the Annunciation. And like the living Word inside Mary, the Word in us gestates. It kicks at our insides and tumbles in our gut and struggles to be born—flesh of our flesh. It will not be held back. This Word wants to enter into conversation with the world with the same passion Jesus spoke with 2000 years ago. All he asked of them, is all he asks of us...that we have ears to hear (and eyes to see).

She is saying **God’s name**. Whenever the Word is proclaimed, Christ is present in the assembly. It is the yeast that makes this bread, this people, rise. It is this yeast that ferments this water into wine thereby freeing our tongues, our minds and our spirits. This is the Word that not only has the power to create but also to save. Jesus said, “This is my body broken for you. This is my blood poured out for you,” and in those words we are redeemed. This is a word that has the power to call us to life. “Lazarus, come out!” and the dead man left the tomb.

On Christmas morning, the readings do not speak of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes laying in a manger. Instead, the gospel writer John tells us, “the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.” All we can say to that is, “Thanks be to God.”

Fr. Phil

Sharing God's Gifts

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish:

Loose \$486.
Church \$3,150.
Property Upkeep \$161.
Youth Support \$201.
Social Action \$131.



Peoples Park Tower:

Loose \$130.
Church Support \$220.
Maintenance Fund \$5.

Holy Family Parish:

Loose \$137.
Church Support \$1,365.
Maintenance Fund \$95.

Holy Ghost Parish:

Env \$168.,
Christmas \$50.
Flowers \$40.

St. Jude's Parish:

Loose \$128, Church Support \$257.



2025 Offering Envelopes are available to anyone who would wish to use offering envelopes. Also, 2025 may be your year to start donating by PAD (pre-authorized donations) or online via canadahelps.org.

The church is the people and we cannot function without your gifts of time, talent and treasure!

Thank you for faithfully and generously sharing with our parishes!



Trevor Droesbeck - 506 857-4879 or adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca

Karen LeBlanc – 506 387-4198 or Youth@diocesemoncton.ca

FORMATION FOR BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAMS: To provide continuing formation for members of parish baptismal preparation teams, they are asked to gather on **Saturday, January 26th at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon**. This formation is relevant to new members of baptismal preparation teams as well as a refresher for existing members. Facilitated by Trevor Droesbeck and Mark Mahoney, the formation will follow the themes and guidelines outlined in **Pastoral Recommendations for the Baptism of Children**, and will involve the resource that has been used in our diocese for the past several years and will include a dialogue around working with parents, the rewards and challenges of being involved in the ministry; what's working and (maybe) what's not; as well as ways we can be more effective. Please contact Trevor at adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca or 857-4879 to confirm your attendance.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 6th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm - **Parish Catechetical Coordinators** – Immaculate Heart of Mary

January 22nd, 2025 @ 7:00 pm – **Adult Faith Commission** – Immaculate Heart of Mary

January 23rd, 2025 @ 10:00 am – **Pastoral Care Committee** – Immaculate Heart of Mary



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
we invite you to a gathering of prayer and song at the
Christmas Nativity Scene in downtown Moncton
to honour the Holy Family and celebrate the birth of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Join us for this time of reflection and joy around the manger, as we sing Christmas hymns and pray for peace and love in our hearts and in our families on Saturday December 28, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Christmas nativity scene at Moncton city hall

Saint Jean-Paul II pastoral unit's Saint Ephrem Choir will guide us in song from 6:00 pm and during this celebration. Snacks and hot drinks will be served at Saint Bernard's Church, 43 Botsford Street, after the gathering.

Fraternally, Knights of Columbus of Greater Moncton***



As we arrive at our 4 weeks of Advent, we mark a period of joyful anticipation and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

This sacred season, observed by many Christian denominations, serves as a time of reflection, hope, and renewal.

CHRISTMAS 2024

I heard of a Christmas Eve liturgy (not in this diocese) where the priest wanted to impress upon his parishioners whose birthday the feast of Christmas was really meant to celebrate. Perhaps there was too little of “putting Christ back in Christmas” and too much of “Santa Claus, presents, and office parties.” With enough liturgical acumen and with having his eyes and ears attuned to the secular world, this priest found a creative way of putting together faith and culture. Perhaps a hundred children, under the age of eight, were gathered around the altar. Instead of launching into a homily—even a homily geared towards younger minds—he just pointed to the back of the church. The children turned around and down the aisle came Santa Claus. The normal quiet church became abnormally quiet. Santa walked in front of the children, and without saying a word, went over to the crib. He took off his hat, genuflected, said a prayer, and walked out of the church. Nothing more needed to be said about whose birthday it was.

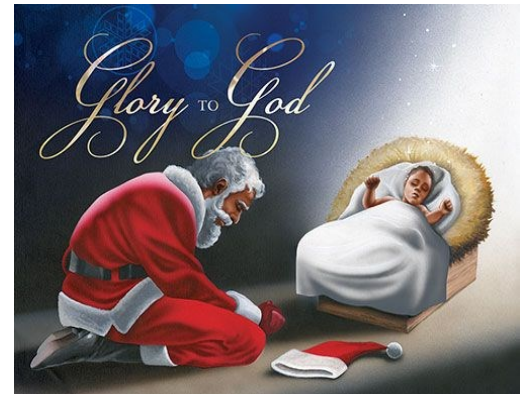
At an earlier time in my life—when I was a holier person and even holier priest—I would have cringed at such a secular encroachment especially during Christmas Eve Mass. Now, I don’t subscribe so rigidly to a denunciation of culture and separation of faith. Part of my softening around the edges, as I like to call it, has to do with the Christmas lights that seem to go up earlier each year. My previous stance would have had me inwardly protesting, “Why can’t people appreciate Advent more and learn its lessons before leaping headlong into Christmas?” Now, I see how Christmas lights and Christmas trees may be a subconscious response to Advent longing. I say

“subconscious” because there is a drive within every human being (not just Christians), a drive that’s deeper than the mind, that longs for light. Light is a universal theme. On the flip side, every human being has also experienced darkness. Darkness is personal and universal. Perhaps, deep down, we are all yearning to know **“a light that shines in the darkness, a darkness that couldn’t put it out”** (Jn. 1:5). And maybe Jesus wanted us to know that this light is accessible anywhere and anytime. After all, in his inaugural speech to begin his public ministry, he told the crowd, **“You are the light of the world”** (Mt. 5:14). If Jesus is the savior of the world, as I do believe his is, his message must be addressed to all hearts, all fears, all anxiety, all stress, every situation that smacks of darkness.

In my holier moments, I know the feast of Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, a birth that still needs to happen through Word and Sacrament. Encrusted around those holy thoughts, though, comes a sleigh full of cultural trappings. We do not have to see these “traditions” as rivals and eliminate them until only the simple birth of Jesus remains. Ponder the Christmas tree for example. On top is the angel or a star. The tree itself may be adorned with ornaments, perhaps even handmade pieces handed down from generation to generation full of personal meaning. Underneath the tree might be a village or brightly wrapped gifts or the crib. Through the tree, heaven (angel or star) and earth are united. In the middle of the night, while Santa Claus, God’s unsuspecting accomplice, is struggling down the chimney, the Son of God is climbing down this brightly lit tree and entering into the village of the human race. He is God’s gift to us.

John Shea, in his book Starlight, says it well. **“If Christmas is about incarnation, it is about the permeation of matter by spirit. That means that all matter, even, as St. Athanasius once intimated, our toes, is suffused by spirit. Therefore, eliminating trees and lights and cookies and gifts and elves and Santa and feasts may just be suggesting that there is something created that is not holy and cannot reflect the Light of the world. “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (Jn. 9:5). Banning the cultural expressions of Christmas may be inadvertently banning the revelation. We cannot blame Santa Claus for not being Christ, but we can make sure he stops by the crib to say a prayer.**

Merry Christmas, everyone...right down to your toes!



Fr. Phil