

Please note that last weekend's liturgy corner was written by Rev. Charlie Broderick, and not Ellen as stated.



On this fourth Sunday of Advent, our energy and attention are focused on Christmas, sometimes on the wonder and hope of the birth of Jesus, sometimes on the bustle and celebration of the holiday, but definitely on Christmas. Yet the final line of today's gospel challenges us to change that focus. "Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Elizabeth's words call us beyond preparation for Christmas and into preparation for the second coming. Luke is reminding us that we too are blessed when we believe that there will be fulfillment of what has been promised but has not yet happened.

Throughout the season of Advent we have listened to the prophecies that were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. For four weeks we have walked with the Jewish people in exile and fear waiting for God to change the world. On Friday, when we celebrate Christmas, we will be invited into the moment when God did change the world, the moment when God became one of us so that we could no longer be exiled from God's presence in the same way. The Advent scriptures fulfilled in the celebration of the incarnation serve as proof of God's faithfulness. What God promises, God will do, even if the wait is long.

Today we are invited not only to witness the faithfulness of God, but to allow our understanding of the faithfulness of God to shape our lives. We are told that if we keep our focus and our trust on the faithfulness of God, we, like Mary, will be blessed; we will live joy filled lives. Elizabeth's words are not just addressed to Mary. She does not say, "Mary, you are blessed because you believed." Instead, Luke writes her words in the third person: "blessed is she who believed ..." Everyone who believes and trusts is embraced in this blessing.

It is easy to become scared or depressed about the future. It is easy to think of Christmas joy as something for children or the lucky few whose lives are easy. Every day we are made aware of potential imminent doom for our civilization from war, from newly emerging illnesses or from natural disasters brought about by climate change. Many among us are coping with devastating illness or watching helplessly as those they love face death much too soon. When the future looks bleak we can easily become angry or selfish or just plain tired. Yet God has promised that the hardships and the pain will not be the end of the story. God has promised that the lion will lie down with the lamb. God has promised that every tear will be wiped away. God has promised that death will be no more. If we allow ourselves to truly believe in those promises we will experience the joy and blessing of Christmas even in those times when we are coping with hardship, uncertainty and loss.

Pam Driedger



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

Saint Augustine's Church
340 Dominion Street
Moncton, New Brunswick



Saint Lawrence O'Toole Church
Église St-Laurent O'Toole
2340 Route 115
Irishtown, New Brunswick



Our Lady of Mercy
11 St. Andrews Street
Pointe-du-Chêne
New Brunswick



PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

- Priest-Moderator: Rev. Allison Carroll
Assistant Priest: Rev. Laurence Quin-Morris
Community Life: Carroll Ann O'Leary
Liturgy: Carole Penney
Justice and Solidarity: Marilyn McCleary

Parish Office: 340 Dominion Street, Moncton, NB E1C 6H8
Telephone: 857-4223 Fax: 857-0020
Email: parish.office@gasmoncton.com
Website: www.gasmoncton.com

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Faith Development—Children: Eileen Caissie eileen.caissie@gasmoncton.com

St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Cemetery: Linda Evans 389-9300

Mass Schedule—Heures des Messes

- St. Augustine's: Friday—12:00 noon
Saturday—4:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m.
St. Lawrence O'Toole: Sunday —9:00 a.m.; dimanche—9h00
Our Lady of Mercy: Saturday 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE INSIDE

Ray of Hope Needy Kitchen: (857-4224)
Meals served: Monday to Friday 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

St. Vincent de Paul Society: (857-2088)
Clothing Depot Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

## Daily Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-18; Luke 1:39-45
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
<b>Wednesday</b>	Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6; Luke 1:57-66
<b>Thursday</b>	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12; 16; Luke 1:67-79
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Solemnity: Nativity of The Lord</b> Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feast: St. Stephen</b> Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feast: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52



The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Augustine's is in need of an **Assistant to the Director**. This is a one day per week position from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00

p.m. This person will assist in managing the day to day operation of the Depot and will **replace vacation and all other absences** of the Director. A daily "Stipend" will be paid. For more information contact Jim Fenwick at 857-2088 or leave a message.

### REMINDER

All contributions for income tax purposes for 2015 must be received by the parish office prior to the New Year.

**2016 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** for St. Augustine's parishioners are available for pick up at the church entrance. Please remember to include your name and donation amount on the envelopes to ensure proper credit. Please contact the parish office if a box has not been assigned to you and you wish to receive envelopes, or if there are any changes required to your information.

## SYRIAN REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP



The Refugee Sponsorship Team is hard at work! Affordable housing is a top priority. Furnishings and other necessities will be collected in the near future—Watch the bulletin for details. In the interim, please consider using the **DONATION CARDS** as a way of financially supporting the project and giving a unique, thoughtful gift. Thank you for your continued prayers. God Bless.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Day	Time	Church	Intention	Family
Sat	19	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	St. A OLMercy	Family Maureen LeMay
Sun	20	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. L O'T St. A	Wife Rita, Linda, Joanne & Alyssa
Mon	21	7:00 pm	St. A	Deirdre & Family
Tues	22	6:00 p.m.	St. L'OT	Danny & Nicole Sullivan
Thur	24	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	St. A OLM St. L O'T	Irene & Family Odette & Family
Fri	25	10:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. A St. A	Claudia & Family Bill & Susan
Sat	26	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	St. A OLMercy	Family Anne Marie & Family
Sun	27	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. L O'T St. A	Wife Genevieve Florence & Family Alma & Family

### OFFERINGS FOR LAST WEEK

**Saint Augustine's:** Envelopes: **\$5,253.00** (230 env.); Loose: **\$611.00**; Building Fund: **\$575.00** (25 env.); All Souls: **\$10.00**; Syrian Refugee Aid: **\$495.00** (10 env.); Flowers: **\$270.00**; Christmas Offering: **\$130.00** (9 env.); Needy at Christmas: **\$465.00** (17 env.); Pre-Authorized Payments: **\$727.00** (17 env.).

**Saint Lawrence O'Toole:** Envelopes: **\$1,001.00** (50 env.); Loose: **\$135.01**; Christmas Boxes: **\$45.00** (3 env.); Syrian Refugee Aid: **\$250.00** (4 env.); New Year's Offering: **\$5.00**; Pre-Authorized Payments: **\$28.00** (2 env.).

**Our Lady of Mercy:** Envelopes: **\$567.00** (38 env.); Loose: **\$74.95**; Candles: **\$90.00**; Christmas: **\$150.00**; Flowers: **\$70.00**; Vestiare: **\$74.00**; Print Fundraiser: **\$70.00**.

Mass will be celebrated at St. Lawrence O'Toole Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

An **ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE** will be held at St. Augustine's this Monday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

St. Augustine's will hold their monthly **FAMILY FRIENDLY MASS** next Sunday, December 27th.

**Need a last minute gift?** Donation cards are available at the parish office for the **RAY OF HOPE NEEDY KITCHEN INC.** and **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**. Proceeds go to the organization, the needy get fed and clothed, you get a card to give to the recipient notifying them that the donation has been made in their name, and you will also get a tax receipt for your charitable donation.....it's a win-win situation!!!



**DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE TO ADORATION AT ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE.**

Adoration will be held on Wednesday, December 23rd and 30th at 7:00 p.m. instead of the regular Tuesday night.



Thursday, December 24th

St. Augustine's	4:00 pm
Our Lady of Mercy	7:00 pm
St. Lawrence O'Toole	7:00 pm
St. Augustine's	10:00 pm

Friday, December 25th

St. Augustine's	11:00 am
-----------------	----------

Thursday, December 31st

St. Augustine's	4:00 pm
Our Lady of Mercy	7:00 pm

Friday, January 1st

St. Augustine's	11:00 am
-----------------	----------

**OTHER ENGLISH PARISHES**

Thursday, December 24th

Immaculate Heart of Mary	4:00 p.m.
St. Bernard's	5:00 p.m.
Holy Family	7:00 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary	7:00 p.m.
St. Bernard's	8:00 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary	9:00 p.m.
St. Bernard's	10:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25th

St. Bernard's	11:00 a.m.
---------------	------------

Thursday, December 31st

St. Bernard's	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Church	7:00 pm

Friday, January 1st

Immaculate Heart of Mary	10:30 a.m.
St. Bernard's	11:00 a.m.



**Wishing you happiness  
as you share God's gifts of  
peace, hope and love  
with others this Christmas.  
Joyeux Noel!  
God Bless!**



*The following memorial donations have been received for Christmas Flowers*

*In Memory of Dennis Madden, Deceased Members of Madden Family and Robert Cameron from Diana Madden and Family*

*In Memory of Deceased Members of Elward and Collins Families from Maxine (Elward) Collins and Family*

*In Memory of Husband Victor, Son Bob and Deceased Family Members from Lena Thornton*

*In Loving Memory of Serge and Stephane Landry from Parents Normand and Anne Marie*

*In Memory of Agnes and Garth Allen, Annie and Donald MacLellan from Sharon, Don, Jaime and Joselyn MacLellan*

*In Memory of Kathleen and Laurie Savage from Brenda and Fred Fitzsimmons*

*In Memory of Matthew Murray from Mum, Dad & Family*

*In Memory of Deceased Members of Loalbo and Picone Families from Anne Marie and Family*

*In Memory of Neil and Shannon McDonald and Deceased Family Members from Irene,*

*Heather, Erin and Families*



*In Memory of Fred Burchill*

*In Memory of Late Husband Kenneth*

*In Memory of Audrey "Nannie B" Benoit*

*In Memory of Fr. Emery Doucet from Denis Myatt*

*In Memory of Don Lahanky from Anne and Family*

*In Memory of Pius Hughes from Bernadette Hughes*

*In Memory of Robert Poirier from Karen and Mathieu*

*In Memory of Donna MacLeod from Mike, Jared and Josh*

*In Memory of Husband and Parents from Patricia Jardine*

*In Memory of Norman LeBlanc from Dolores and Family*

*In Memory of Jack and Barb Gould from the Gould Family*

*In Memory of Laura and Roy Day from Nancy, Linda and Families*

*In Memory of Deborah McLellan-Bourque from Godson Mathieu*

*In Memory of Elsie Furlong and Jean Ryan Sr. from Jean and Dale Ryan*

*In Memory of Robert & Marion McLellan from Karen, Mathieu and Joline*

*In Memory of Deceased Members of Murphy Family from Albertine Myatt*



Parishioners wishing to contribute **FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON** in memory of loved ones may still do so by placing a donation in an envelope with your name and the name of the loved ones you wish to have remembered.