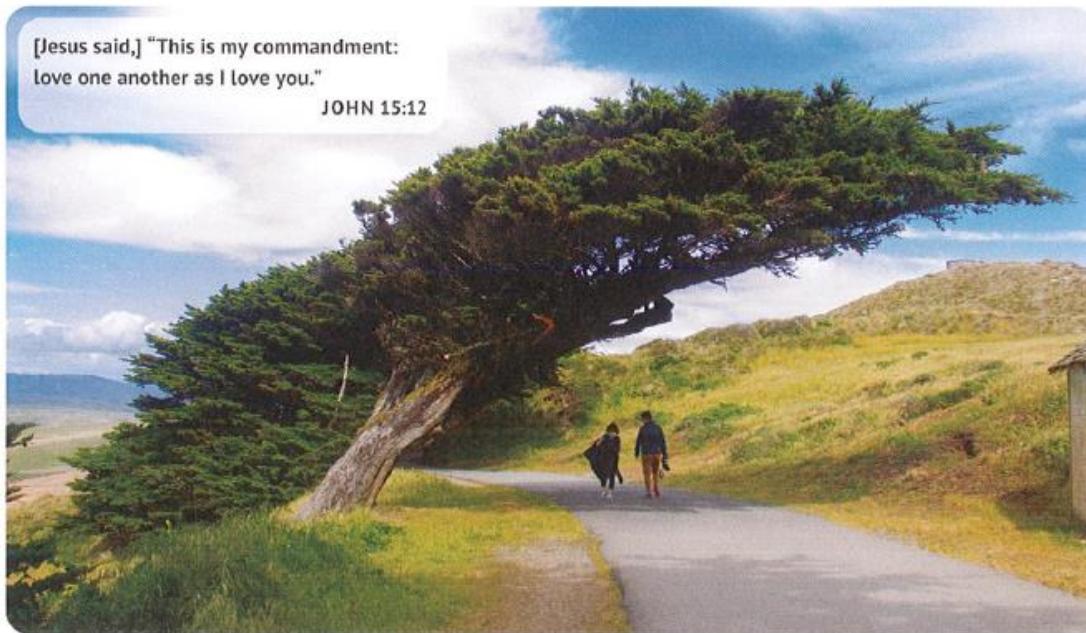




[Jesus said,] "This is my commandment:  
love one another as I love you."

JOHN 15:12



## We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight*. So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

### Reflect

**Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.**

Welcome to The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit



**St. Bernard's, 43 Botsford St., Moncton, NB E1C 4W9**  
**Phone:** (506) 857-0425 **Email:** [sbhf@rogers.com](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com)  
**Office hours:** Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM to 12 noon & 1-4 PM  
**Website:** [www.stbernardschurch.ca](http://www.stbernardschurch.ca)



**St. Vincent's, 63 Charlotte St., Sackville, NB, E4L 2Y5**  
**Phone:** (506) 536-1460 **Email:** [stvince@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:stvince@nbnet.nb.ca)  
**Office hours:** Monday & Thursday @ 10 AM- 2 PM



**St. Clement's, 14 Church St., Port Elgin, NB E4M 2C9**  
**Phone:** (506) 538-2262 **Email:** [stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com](mailto:stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com)  
**Office hours:** call office to verify

Mass times / Intentions:

**St. Bernard's**

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Anniversary Late Joann LeBlanc	Family
<b>Thur.</b>	<b>May 9</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Late Jeffrey Ermen	Mellie Wright
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	For the People	
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Anniversary Late Norma Power	Gerry Power
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	Anniversary Late Anne Donovan	Lorraine Montford

**St. Clement's**

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	For the People	
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**St. Vincent's**

<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	For the Sick	Jean Williamson
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**St. Bernard's Sacrament of Reconciliation regular schedule**  
**Prior to weekday masses:** Monday, Thursday. & Friday: 8:30 – 9:20AM  
**First Friday of the month:** 8:00 – 9:00 AM  
**Saturdays:** 1:00 PM

**St. Bernard's Offerings – April 27 and 28, 2024**

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$8,384.00	<b>Loose</b>	\$882.60	<b>Donation</b>	\$15.00
<b>Karing Kitchen</b>	\$29.00	<b>Capital Campaign</b>	\$1,750.00	<b>Good Friday</b>	\$20.00
<b>Share Lent</b>	\$5.00	<b>Papal Charities</b>	\$40.00	<b>Indigenous</b>	\$20.00
<b>Easter</b>	\$90.00	<b>Reconnect</b>	\$110.00		
<b>Syrian Relief</b>	\$35.00	<b>Special Collection: Youth</b>	\$50.00		

**St. Clement's Offerings – April 27, 2024**

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$355.00	<b>Collection</b>	\$20.00	<b>Donation w/ Receipt</b>	\$30.00
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**St. Vincent's Offerings – April 28, 2024**

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$1,930.00	<b>Loose</b>	\$20.00	<b>Maintenance</b>	\$10.00
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*Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!*

<b>In Sympathy</b>	<i>A time to mourn... sincere sympathies to the families of:</i>
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**St. Bernard's**

Phyllis White	Mother of Anastacia, Sarah, Darlene, Glenn, Cylvester, and Felix
Maureen Murphy	Partner of William MacAdam, Sister of: Danny, John, Kevin, late: Raymond, Hubert, Gregory (Laura), Patrick, Neil, David; Sisters Joan, Ann, and Bernadette (Gary)



*Ecclesiastes 3, Under every season there is a time,  
A time to heal.*

**St. Bernard's**

Norm Gallant	Al Gallant	Judy Chiasson	Roger Berube
Patricia Devine	Barb Bowes	Deacon Frank Quinn	Carmella Murphy
Connie Wilden			

**St. Clement's**

McGraw Family	Carol Murphy	Ken Murphy	Hudson Sweeney
Baby Owen	Emma Cormier	Adrienne Fagan	Angelia
Deacon Frank Quinn			

**St. Vincent's**

Tim Nye	Vince Wood	Art Chase	Leone Campbell
Evelyn Ayer	Teresa Vermette	Barbara Bowes	Bertha DesBarres
Deacon Frank Quinn			

*And all who care for them...*

### The Good Shepherd Pastoral Ministry Team

<b>Priest Administrator</b>	Fr. Charles Broderick	charlesbroderick1@gmail.com
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	sbhf@rogers.com
<b>Liturgy</b>	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
<b>Catechetics</b>	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
<b>Social Justice</b>	Claudia McCloskey	
<b>Adult Faith</b>	Andrew Wilson	
<b>St. Bernard's Parish Staff</b>		
<b>Pastoral Associate/ liturgy</b>	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
<b>Receptionist / Bookkeeper</b>	Geneva Rivera	sbhf@rogers.com
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
<b>St. Vincent's Parish Staff</b>		
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Lorraine Horyl	
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Cathy Crinnion	
<b>St. Clement's Parish Staff</b>		
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Pam Van Egmond	



**We would like to remind everyone that if you receive suspicious emails or text messages claiming to be Fr. Charlie, Fr. Carlos, or any of our parish staff, please be cautious and bring this our attention. Call our parish offices to verify any suspicious email.**

**For the avoidance of any doubt.**

This monastery, Our Lady of Calvary Abbey has officially closed, and we will gradually close this year. We want you, our friends, and faithful Christians to know this. We ask you to please respect our privacy, and bear with us. We will update this information at appropriate times. Thank you. The monks.



**Please - No Scent Policy**

**Out of respect for those with sensitivities, please avoid wearing scented products in the Church, Parish Office & the Church Hall. Thank you.**



**St. Bernard's Fire Lane: We ask that you do not park in the Fire Lane and keep this area clear. This space is dedicated for emergencies ONLY.**

# St. Bernard's

## Mark Your Calendar

<b>RCIA</b>	Sat, May 5, 11 and 18: 10 – 11:30 AM
<b>Next Baptisms</b>	To be determined
<b>Carmelites</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of the month: 9:30 AM
<b>Prayer Group</b>	Sat, May 11 and May 25: 7:00 PM



## Children's Faith Formation Jan – May 2024

**Years 1-2-3 @ 6 PM:** May 7  
**Years 4-5-6 @ 6PM:** May 8



His Grace, Archbishop Guy Desrochers conferred the sacrament of Confirmation to following St. Bernard's and St. Therese youth on Sunday April 28, 2024.



<b>Leila Drio</b>	<b>Quinn Harris</b>	<b>Mairan Jensen</b>	<b>Steli Lising</b>
<b>Owen McDonald</b>	<b>Lauralynn Michaud</b>	<b>Maria Dominique Papin</b>	<b>Allen Wage</b>

*A special Thank You to The Knights of Columbus 1310 for the beautiful confirmation picture frames gifted to our youth.*

## St. Bernard's

# Bursaries

**St. Bernard's Church is offering a \$1000 bursary** to a student graduating from High School in June 2024, who is a parishioner, and is pursuing post-secondary studies. **Mail or email your letter of application, including your future plans, to arrive no later than Friday, June 28, 2024 to:** St. Bernard's Church, 43 Botsford St., Moncton, NB, E1C 4W9 or Email to: [sbhf@rogers.com](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com)

**The WAK Chapter of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of NB** is pleased to offer a **\$500.00** Dan & Marie McGee Medical Science bursary to a student entering or attending a post-secondary study in the medical field. Please include a personal letter detailing your future plans by mail to The Irish Association, P.O. Box 26022, Moncton, NB E1E 4H9 or email: [watchdog@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:watchdog@nb.sympatico.ca) Deadline: June 28, 2024.



**To the knitters of St. Bernard's Church**, we want to thank you so much for the lovely donation of hats, mitts, and socks. Our students regularly need these items as they go outside everyday for both recess and lunch; it's a comfort to see them all wrapped up warmly. The colors are so pretty, and as a beginner knitter myself, I appreciate the time and talent necessary to make these. Thank you from the staff and students at Forest Glen School



St. Bernard's spring potluck was on Sunday, April 28. Just a short note to say **thank you to all who participated!** Including the LPC for organizing & preparing it, all those who brought food, cleaned up, and for all those who attended.

**Local Pastoral Council:** The LPC is an important element in the functioning of the parish and its pastoral life. **As a consultative body it is a privileged place of reflection and orientation of the pastoral activities of the local community.** Two of our current members, **Sam Ermen & Heather Morris**, have fulfilled their term / commitment to this council. On behalf of St. Bernard's, thank you for your service and time. We will be looking for two new candidates to fill these roles. As a **first step** parishioners are invited to pray over and discern who in our midst are best suited for this role. **second step:** we will call for nominations May 3/4, 2024, and the **third step** will be an **election to follow the weekend of June 1/2, 2024.** Please think about possible candidates, including yourself, and be prepared to submit nominations when called for. **To nominate a candidate**, simply send the name and telephone number of your nominee to the parish office either by dropping it in the collection, sending it by email or hard copy. Parish administration will contact each nominee to get his / her consent to have his / her name on the ballot. **Nominations will be received up to noon Friday,**

**May 31. General Qualifications for Members of LPC:** Must be 18 years of age or older, be a Christian of "proven faith, good morals, and outstanding prudence.", be a registered member of the parish (or be willing to register), be reasonably familiar with the parish and its activities, be able to work in a group setting, be committed to personal growth.



### Holy Communion for the Homebound

If you are aware of someone who is homebound or in a special care home who would like to receive Holy Communion, please have them contact the parish office @ 506-857-0425



**YMCA ReConnect Moncton** provides short-term and long-term assistance through outreach to youth and adults who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. YMCA Re-Connect is looking for donations of new or gently used sweaters, sweatpants, socks, hand / foot warmers and warm blankets. If you can donate any of these items to St. Bernard's Church, baskets will be set up at the entrance of the church to receive these donations. We will ensure

donations get to Re-Connect. Thank you in advance for your kindness!



**Used postage stamps** have been gathered by numerous churches since 1984 to support various mission initiatives. We are setting up a collection box for people who would like to donate their used stamps at St. Bernard's Church's main entrance. To raise money for their projects in developing nations, the New Brunswick Catholic Women's League is collaborating with The Saint John Diocesan Council for Development & Peace to collect stamps from parishes that are involved across the province and send them to the Montreal office. To generate revenue for projects? Dealers purchase the stamps, who subsequently resell them to artists and stamp collectors. Consider snipping the stamp off an old envelope before discarding it.



**Volunteers needed:** St. Bernard's is tentatively looking to have the church open from 12-1 PM during the weekdays to allow persons to come in for a time of quiet reflection /personal prayer. Interested? please contact the

parish office by email, [sbhf@rogers.com](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com) or by phone, 506 857 0425.



**ST. VINCENT CHURCH WILL BE 100 YEARS OLD IN 2028!** – At the presentation of the church's history on April 14th, there was enthusiasm for collecting more stories and bits of history from parishioners for a 100th anniversary celebration. A small committee is being formed to organize this project. Stay tuned!



**SCENT FREE** – Please help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals we use in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies, and other medical conditions. To respect the needs of others, we ask that you do not wear perfume, cologne, after shave and other fragrances when attending masses and other events in our church building.



**INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND** – The 2024 collection of funds for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will take place on Sunday, **May 12, 2024**.

**DONATIONS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS** – What a great time to declutter!! THANK YOU to all our parishioners and friends who have donated items or offered transportation of items to apartments. Here are some items that would be most welcomed and appreciated by our “new to Sackville and Canada” friends: kettles, coffee makers, blenders, mixers, slow cookers, irons, small vacuums and/or electric brooms, pots, pans, and frying pans, everyday dishes, linens, bedspreads, and new pillows, furniture such as beds, dressers, tables and chairs, armchairs and/or sofas. Please call the Parish Office [506-536-1460 or [stvince@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:stvince@nbnet.nb.ca)] if you have items in good condition that you wish to donate.



**FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's** – In-person catechism sessions take place on Sunday mornings following Mass. For any participant or volunteer inquiries for the program, now until mid-May, please contact Cathy Crinnion at [crrinnion@yahoo.ca](mailto:crrinnion@yahoo.ca) or 536-4470. Adults of the parish, no previous experience is necessary for you to share your time with our Faith Formation families, as a helper or as a catechist!

*~ Elementary group (grades 4+) ~ St. Vincent's Hall ~ April 28th (10am) and May 12th\* (10am)  
\* May be shifted if families are otherwise busy on Mother's Day!*

St. Vincent's will celebrate the Sacraments of 1st Eucharist and 1st Reconciliation this spring, and preparatory resources have been shared with the families. If your child is ready for one of these Sacraments and you haven't yet talked with the Faith Formation Coordinator, please speak with Cathy as soon as possible.



**PSALM SINGING** – Please consider the Ministry of Psalmist, which requires singing the verses of the Psalm between the First and Second Readings and leading the people in singing the Response to this Psalm. The hope is to have a rotational schedule of Psalmists with help and support available. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Karen Olscamp 506-536-3050 or [kolscamp@live.com](mailto:kolscamp@live.com)



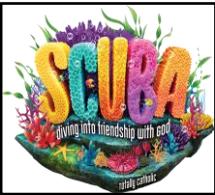
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON**  
Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Trevor Dreesbeck 857-4879 or [trevord.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:trevord.diocese@gmail.com)

Karen LeBlanc – 387-4198 or [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com)

**MONDAY @ THE MOVIES** Our next Monday @ The Movies will be on **April 29th at 2:00 PM** when we will discuss the 2022 film *The Whale*, starring Brendan Fraser. Monday @ The Movies is a film discussion group which meets monthly on Zoom to discuss faith themes in popular films. Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com)

**R.C.I.A. FORMATION WITH CATHERINE ECKER** Sessions Three and Four of our Zoom R.C.I.A. formation with Catherine Ecker will take place on **Monday, May 6th, and May 13th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 – SAVE THE DATE!** This year's Vacation Bible School (for ages 3 up to the end of sixth grade) is scheduled to take place this upcoming June 26th, 27th, and 28th (mornings). It will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary church in Riverview. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. This year's theme is **SCUBA: Diving into Friendship with God.**



**Welcome to SENIORS CONNECT** A safe space for Seniors to gather, socialize, learn about, and discuss issues related to aging in New Brunswick. Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday May 9th at 10:30am** at the Holy Family Church, 52 Falkland St. Moncton. Our topic of the day will be "Being Safe in the Sun", things to consider as we enjoy the lovely days of summer! Do not forget to bring your favorite summer hat! Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com)

**NATIONAL FAMILY AND LIFE WEEK** A message to all Catholic families: National Family and Life Week (NFLW) this year will take place from **13 May to 19 May 2024**. The theme for this year is "Love hopes all things," which is taken from Saint Paul's hymn on love in 1 Corinthians 13.7: "[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." This description of love is also at the heart of Pope Francis's reflection on the dynamics of spousal and family love in the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, chapter 4.



World Communications Day, May 12 - Catholics are invited to reflect upon the media of social communication (films, radio, television, newspapers, audiovisuals) and how these influence our lives. The media can promote values that lead to a more fully human society. The Church's ministry is twofold. The media can

be used to help promote the gospel. At the same time, as receivers of the materials presented by the media, the faithful have a duty to support and promote worthwhile presentations on media and reject those which promote values contrary to the spiritual growth.



Canada Health Day, May 12 - Canada Health Day is celebrated in health care facilities and community services across the country. This day reminds us that health and healing are essential aspects of our baptismal vocation. We are called to take responsibility for our personal health: to prevent illness and to seek a healthy

lifestyle. Good health concerns the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health of our communities, respect for God's creatures and nurturing of the whole earth.

## Did you know?

Knowing that Canadians from coast to coast to coast, have differing and passionate opinions about the taxes we pay at the pump, the **Laudato Si' Committee** would like to pose a question. *How can it be that we must pay more at the pump, in an attempt to get people to move away from gasoline-powered vehicles, yet all the while different levels of government give huge financial support and/or tax breaks to fossil fuel companies?*

A billion here and a billion there and oil and gas companies can boast about record profits, yet Canadian tax payers are footing the bill. We must speak to our MPs and tell the Canadian government:

- **Do not** introduce any new subsidies for oil and gas companies!
- **Do not** extend the lifespan of any existing subsidies!
- **Be honest** with us about how much taxpayer money you spend each year on incentives and tax breaks for oil and gas companies!

Each year Canada gives **\$3.3 billion** in subsidies to oil & gas companies.

That's enough to pay for **44,000** hospital beds

StopFossilFuelSubsidies.ca

environmental defence

SOURCE: ISD

The infographic features a dark blue background on the left with a white oil barrel containing a dollar sign, and a white background on the right with a blue hospital bed. The text is in white and blue. The website URL and logo are at the bottom.



**Knights of Columbus, Council 1310, 84 Broadway St., Moncton: Sunday breakfast: May 5, 2024** - Come join us for our Sunday Morning Breakfast and enjoy an awesome meal for a great price while supporting local charities! Our breakfast menu includes scrambled or boiled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, pan fries, pancakes, baked beans, toast, coffee, tea, and juice. This event runs from **8:30 am - 12:30 pm**, cost \$12/adults & \$5/children. We hope to see you there!!! All are welcome to attend.

**Palliative Care Week is May 5-11, 2024** *"Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of care of one another, especially of those who suffer. It is a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and old age."* Pope Francis

Following the **Thursday morning mass on May 9th**, please join in reflection as we pray the luminous mysteries for palliative care.

**Reflections to Lead the Luminous Mysteries** During the recitation of the rosary, we place our petition for increased palliative care and hospice care, and for the renewed protection of the rights of conscience for individuals and faith-based institutions, in Our Blessed Mother's hands, to present to her Son. Jesus has promised that he would not deny anything that his mother asks of him.

*(Resource: The Catholic Women's League of Canada: 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care)*

- 1. Baptism of the Lord** We pray today for those in palliative care. That they may feel the love and compassion that their faith can bring. We pray that they feel God's love as they did on the day of their baptism. *Spiritual Fruit: Gratitude for the gift of faith; God will hear our prayers for palliative care.*
- 2. The Wedding of Cana** We pray today for the children and spouses of those in palliative care. That they may find solace in prayer, and in the love of God the Father during this time of their lives. We pray that they find the support they need, so that they may bring comfort to those whom they love. *Spiritual Fruit: Fidelity; for continued commitment to the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.*
- 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom** We pray today for all health care professionals. That they may be able to care for their patients in palliative care with courage and compassion. We pray that they can continue their important work without the fear of having to go against their beliefs regarding the sanctity of life. *Spiritual Fruit: Desire for holiness; moving us to action in support of access to palliative care and protection of rights of conscience for individuals and faith-based institutions.*
- 4. The Transfiguration** We pray today for the families and friends who accompany those walking through their last days. That they find the support they need as their loved ones take their final walk towards the Lord. We pray that they have the courage to accompany those whom they hold dear. *Spiritual Fruit: Spiritual courage; to support the sanctity of life in spite of contrary public opinion.*
- 5. The Institution of the Eucharist** We pray today for those in palliative care. That they might wrap themselves in God's love and offer themselves up to him as God gives himself to us in the Eucharist. We pray that comfort is found in the Lord. *Spiritual Fruit: Love of our Eucharistic Lord; providing strength to continue to speak for the vulnerable facing end of life.*



Moncton, May 1, 2024  
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

**Pastoral considerations and an administrative and financial recovery plan to start afresh!**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Since the very beginnings of our Archdiocese, the faithful have been blessed to be able to celebrate their faith in a large number of churches built here thanks to the generosity, tenacity and dedication of our ancestors. We must always remember that they worked hard in their time: they didn't count the many hours, sacrifices and even generous gifts they invested in their local church and in the diocesan Church. Their gifts and labors have enabled our churches to establish themselves, grow and endure over time, despite the difficult times they have had to endure.

For the faithful, these churches were and still are places of formation in Christian and human life; places where each member can meet alone or in a group to pray to God; privileged places where we can celebrate the important moments of our lives: baptisms, communions, confirmations, weddings, funerals.

And what about the celebrations we sometimes create because they have had a decisive impact on the lives of members of our Christian community in one way or another? They allow us to express inwardly and outwardly the emotions that we often tend to repress deep down, and which are detrimental to our well-being. Finally, is it appropriate here to recall the beauty of our liturgical celebrations, which recur every year during liturgical high points, and which constantly remind us of the extent to which God loves us personally, unconditionally, and infinitely?

In the light of the foregoing, it's now easier to understand the link between our parish churches and our family homes: our churches are in reality extensions of our family homes, with the difference that our churches are places where we can gather in greater numbers, and where the Lord Jesus himself becomes our heavenly food through listening to his Word and through the sacraments. This supernatural food is given to us to strengthen and sanctify us in the midst of the difficulties, obstacles and sufferings that punctuate our path during our earthly pilgrimage.

When I wrote my letter to parishes last January, I explained how we had narrowly avoided bankruptcy thanks to the generous donations of several organizations. We even managed to raise a certain surplus to manage our annual operations, which we didn't have in the bank until the end of December 2023. However, the surplus we currently have on hand will quickly melt away if we consider the enormous amounts required each month (close to \$100,000.00) to keep our archdiocese running.

You can guess where I'm going with this last comment. Our 2024 budget forecast calls for a deficit of \$311,000.00 this year. As our ancestors did when the archdiocese was first founded, we must now roll up our sleeves and stick together for a while, making sacrifices that will enable us to gradually rebuild our capital, so that our parishes, which are currently struggling, can once again count on loans or make withdrawals in the future through the archdiocese.

I now give the floor to our new Director of Finance, Mr. Ronald Drisdelle, to explain what our new Economic Affairs Committee intends to do to help us turn around our current financial deficit.

Towards administrative and financial recovery (R.D.)

We urgently need to rebuild the Archdiocese's finances. Since Archbishop Desrochers' correspondence to us last January, the new Economic Affairs Committee has been conducting a thorough review of the elements impacting the archdiocese's financial results. This exercise was necessary to provide us with clear, easy-to-understand information on projected expenses and revenues, enabling us to interpret the information correctly and put in place the necessary measures to regain our financial stability.

As you know, in the past, parishes were invited to deposit their surplus funds (reserves) with the Archdiocese, with the understanding that interest would be paid in return, if circumstances so warranted, and that they would have the possibility to withdraw sums from these investments.

To comply with court orders relating to the abuse cases and to avoid the insolvency of the diocese, all of these funds were used as a source for court-ordered payments to be made at the very beginning of 2024. Consequently, none of these funds are available today to meet the original objective of this Loan and Investment service.

Faced with this new reality that we are now experiencing in 2024 - that is, the lack of funds available to process withdrawal requests - the archdiocese must take strategic measures with regard to any withdrawals. It goes without saying that, from now on, requests for funds will be a financial burden for the archdiocese, increasing its operating expenses. Consequently, the archdiocese will have to adopt a policy that will be much more restrictive than the previous unwritten policy. As a result, the Archdiocesan Economic Affairs Committee will have to considerably limit future withdrawals in these exceptional times.

We look forward to continuing to support parish initiatives such as renovation projects, major construction projects, cemetery projects, and to support parishes facing difficult financial circumstances. However, we must do so in a calculated and measured way.

Under normal circumstances, we would expect that funds deposited by parishioners at the Archdiocese would always be available. However, the current financial situation of the Archdiocese is such that we are not in a position to continue as in the past when there was no approval protocol to follow or review. A parish would ask and usually be granted the amount requested. Because of our recent past, we have to manage our resources very carefully and unfortunately, do what we can with what we have.

Recently, the Archdiocese restructured its Economic Affairs Committee which now includes professional accountants. This committee is responsible for the sound financial management of the Archdiocese and, in the future, will oversee the withdrawal program. Thanks to the advice we'll receive from our accounting experts, I'm confident that we will achieve positive results in the future.

There are four types of requests that are forwarded to the archdiocese:

1. Withdrawals for new construction, renovation projects and major construction work, and cemetery maintenance.
2. Withdrawals to help balance a parish's operating budget.
3. Withdrawals to maintain the Cathedral.
4. Withdrawals from Archdiocesan trust funds.

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of an important and difficult decision that was taken in the last few days by the Economic Affairs Committee and that Mgr. Desrochers and myself strongly support. Matured in prayer and discernment, this decision was not taken lightly. It represents a last resort, since it is a matter of ensuring the long-term viability of the Archdiocese. In light of the above, and as part of its fundamental mandate to ensure the sound financial management of the Archdiocese, we will undertake the following corrective financial strategy:

### **1. Withdrawal requests for new construction, renovation projects and major construction, and cemetery capital costs.**

For the year 2024, the amount reserved for withdrawals that fall under this heading will be capped. We will proceed in examining the financial situation of parishes individually, i.e. on a case-by-case basis.

### **2. Withdrawal requests to finance daily parish operations.**

For the first year, i.e. 2024, we will use a case-by-case approach and will study all requests individually based on the parish's financial situation. The year 2024 will serve as an adjustment period for parishes. No approval will be granted for withdrawal requests related to parish operations starting January 1, 2025.

### **3. Withdrawal maintenance of the Cathedral**

The Cathedral is the main church of the Archdiocese and home to our Archbishop. This church is managed by the cathedral's pastoral and finance committees. It is they who host, coordinate and organize ordinations, special events and major celebrations such as the Christian feasts scheduled during the liturgical year. Because these major "diocesan" events take place there, in 2024 the Archdiocesan Economic Affairs Committee will approve requests for withdrawals from the Cathedral Finance Committee. For subsequent years (2025 and after), a projected budget for the Cathedral must be submitted to the Archdiocesan Economic Affairs Committee for analysis and approval.

### **4. Withdrawal of trust funds from the Archdiocese**

No withdrawal of these funds will be permitted at this time. It will be necessary to examine each trust to find out whether or not they have restrictive clauses and whether certain withdrawals should be permitted on an exceptional basis if required by the terms of these agreements.

### **5. Interests**

Henceforth, the Archdiocese will not credit interest on any amounts deposited by parishes at the Archdiocese until such time as financial stability is achieved.

## 6. Diocesan tax

In order to rebuild the Archdiocese's finances, an increase in the diocesan tax will take place according to the following formula:

**10%** - first \$100,000.00

**12%** - next \$100,000.00

**14%** - next \$200,000.00

Its scope will be limited to ordinary collections: Sundays, donations, Christmas and New Year's Day.

[Example: If a parish declares revenues of \$220,000.00, it will be taxed at 10% on the first \$100,000.00, 12% on the second \$100,000.00 and finally 14% on the remaining \$20,000.00].

5% will also be taxed on all other income from various activities.

This increase in the Diocesan tax and the new tax on various activities are effective as of January 1, 2024.

**Note:** The amount reserved for withdrawals for construction/renovation and operation projects is capped at \$300,000.00 for the 2024 period.

***All these new measures - except for the diocesan tax and for the tax on activities (which take effect on January 1, 2024) - are effective on May 1, 2024.***

## Conclusion

As Archbishop, I fully support the approach and recommendations of the Director of Finance and of the Economic Affairs Committee in relation to our Archdiocese. I understand that, at first glance, these new measures are destabilizing for parishes and for our diocesan community. Financial challenges, as you can see, sometimes lead to difficult decisions. We ask for your understanding and support during this period of austerity and financial restructuring.

I invite you to remain resolute in solidarity and prayer through these turbulent times. I hope you will continue to support us, and that you will always keep us in your prayers, as we do for each and every one of you.

In these challenging times, I ask God to bless you and grant you courage and fervor. We don't know what the future holds, but we do know that God is faithful and will never abandon us.

In Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and with Mary, our Blessed Mother,



Mgr Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R.  
Archevêque de Moncton.

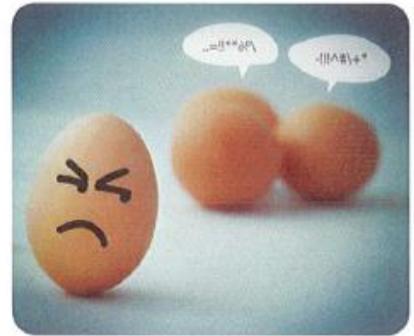
# Dear Padre,

*Please clarify for me what the Church considers as “gossip.”  
Is it that bad?*

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are “detraction” and “calumny.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is “without objectively valid reason, disclosing another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them.” Calumny occurs when a person, “by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them” (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today’s Gospel: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). ●

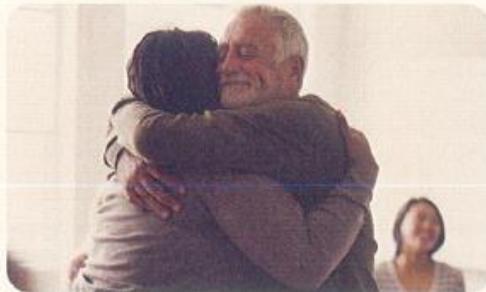


[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists/DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>
Acts 16:11–15	Acts 16:22–34	Acts 17:15, 22–18:1	Acts 18:1–8	Acts 18:9–18	Acts 18:23–28	Acts 1:1–11
Jn 15:26–16:4a	Jn 16:5–11	Jn 16:12–15	Jn 16:16–20	Jn 16:20–23	Jn 16:23b–28	Eph 1:17–23 or Eph 4:1–13 or 4:1–7, 11–13 Mk 16:15–20



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## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021