

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

As we come to an end in our church's Christmas celebration, let's all take a moment to reflect on the greatness of all that has just occurred. Before Jesus' birth, angels descended upon Mary and Joseph and told them who their son would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognized and accepted Jesus as the Messiah. And here we are at his baptism, where Jesus fully accepts he is God's son, this being a pivotal moment in his acceptance of the mission put forth before him by God. Our Lord's baptism isn't only about Jesus' baptism, but is a reflection of ours as well.

Take a look at today's first reading from Isaiah. We are told of a great saviour. One that will faithfully bring forth justice. A saviour that will not back down when confronted with difficulties. A saviour that stops at nothing to fulfill his mission. And by doing so reminds us that this saviour will be a light to the nations, will open the eyes of the blind, bring out the prisoners from the dungeons and from the prisons, bring forth those who sit in darkness. What an awesome feeling to have such a saviour that leaves us our human freedoms, does not condemn us and even when we reject him, he constantly seeks us. No greater love then that.



The second reading and the Gospel speak of Jesus baptism and it's made clear that this was a major event in his life. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. Think about it, Jesus is truly human while he is truly God. He is innocent and without sin, undergoes baptism to bring about our salvation. Jesus does not need to repent nor to be baptized, but chooses baptism in order to draw us to salvation. For many of us, our baptism is simply something that occurred when we were a baby and for the most part, we do not feel the power and the enormity of this event in our life. Well today we celebrate the baptism of our Lord and let's celebrate ours as well. Let's commit to understand our own baptism and commit to learning more about our faith. But more importantly, let's commit ourselves to living out the divine life that was given to us in our baptism. Let's give glory to God and rejoice in His presence within us.

~Katy Mahoney

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord January 10, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

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Web: <https://ourladyofhope.weebly.com/>

Office Hours:

Tuesday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm,

Wednesday & Thursday – 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Priest-Moderator: Fr. Bill Bernard, C.S.s.R. 523-9788 (house) 233-6587 (cell)

Assistant: Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.S.s.R. 523-9788 (house)

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday – 9:00 am & 4:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Times

Saturday – 4:00 pm

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
Mon	Hebrews 1:1-6	Psalms 97	Mark 14:1-20
Tue	Hebrews 2:5-12	Psalms 8	Mark 1:21-28
Wed	Hebrews 2:14-18	Psalms 10	Mark 1:29-39
Thur	Hebrews 3:7-14	Psalms 95	Mark 1:40-45
Fri	Hebrews 4:1-5	Psalms 78	Mark 2:1-12
Sat	Hebrews 4:12-16	Psalms 19	Mark 2:13-17
Sun	1 Samuel 3:3-19 1 Corinthians 6:20	Psalms 40	John 1:35-42



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose Jan. 1st+3rd: **\$35.40**; Initial Offering: **\$225.00**; Christmas Offering: **\$165.00**;
Envelopes Jan. 1st: **\$323.00**; Envelopes Jan. 3rd: **\$575.00**; Pie Sales **\$870.00**;
TOTAL: \$2193.40

Immaculate Conception Cemetery:

Donation IMO Faye Hudson: **\$20.00**;
Donation IMO Faye Hudson: **\$300.00**;
Other Donations: **\$150.00**;
TOTAL: \$470.00

St. Peter's:

Loose: **\$20.00**; Initial Offering: **\$5.00**; Envelopes: **\$75.00**; Mass Stipends: **\$12.00**; **TOTAL: \$112.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery:

Reimbursement: **\$898.44**

Regional Mass Account: **\$140.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Please note your envelope donations can also be left in the locked box outside the parish hall.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	9	SP	4:00 pm	Réjèanne Huard (Morel)†	Nat & Diane Ferland
Sun	10	IC	9:00 am	Paul Robichaud†	Sharon & Family
Sun	10	IC	4:00 pm	John F. & Beatrice Connolly†	Noreen & Buddy
Tue	12	IC	4:00 pm	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Family
Thu	14	IC	4:00 pm	Geraldine Flynn†	Linda Teakles
Sat	16	SP	4:00 pm	Wallace Best†	Brenda Best & Ray Gillispie
Sun	17	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Bill & Stuart
Sun	17	IC	4:00 pm	Katherine Hatt†	William LeGoff

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat	16	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terry	Stella
Sun	17	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Gloria Pat	Donna
Sun	17	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Readings Intentions	Ginny Stephen	Gerald

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Alverie Robichaud, Charles (Chuck) LeBlanc, Roger Mazerolle, Brenda Beers, and all residents of nursing homes.

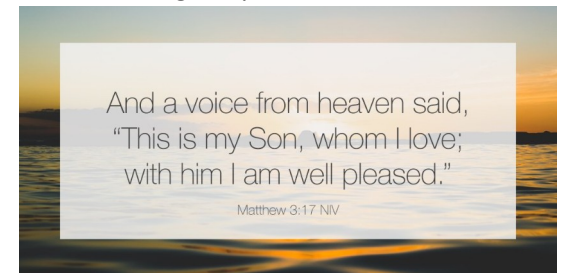
RETURN TO ORANGE ALERT PHASE took place at midnight on January 6th. Archbishop Vinneau has reminded the faithful of the diocese:

- Faith venues can operate under a COVID-19 operational plan. In-person services are limited to 50 participants, or fewer depending upon the size of the facility, with two metres of physical distancing. Continuous mask wearing is required. No singing is permitted.
- Other indoor religious observances, funerals, baptisms, marriage ceremonies, ... of more than 25 people are prohibited.
- Wearing face masks is mandatory in public spaces, both indoors and outdoors.

Fr. Bill has indicated **pre-registration for mass will not be necessary at Immaculate Conception and St. Peter's.**

POT PIE SALES Thank you to those who purchased pot pies in support of the parish, and much gratitude to the ladies of the parish who devoted their time to making the pies.

Income: 58 pies x \$15.00 **+\$870.00**
Expenses: Turkey \$115.23
Supplies **\$93.40**
-\$208.63
Profit: **→→→→→→→→→→ \$661.37**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SNOW REMOVAL to clear the steps of the church and the hall (Rexton) after snowfall. one or two more people ease the load for all. Please contact the parish office if you are able to assist with this task.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Faith Experiments Express (via Zoom)

Learn about faith using science experiments! Designed for young people in grades 1-6, participants will be guided step by step through various fun and simple science experiments that will help them to learn more about faith and scripture. This invitation is extended to the entire diocese. The next three sessions will take place at 6:30 pm on January 11th, February 22, and March 22. Contact Karen at 387-4198 or ihmccatechism@rogers.com to register.

The End is Nigh of an Era: Exploring the Book of Revelations, Part 2

Dr. Fiona Black and Dr. Andrew Wilson will answer your questions from the last session on The Book of Revelations and dig a little deeper into the end of the world images we see in these passages during a second virtual session on Tuesday, January 19th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you're interested in hearing more or would like to join us for the first time, register with Ellen by Monday, January 18th and you will be sent the Zoom link to 'link' into the evening. **Contact:** ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com or 857-9952.