

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH: COME AND SEE**

In *Christus vivit*, Pope Francis' response to the 2018 Youth Synod, he writes "All the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord, each in his or her own way, to that perfect holiness by which God is perfect."

There have been times when I have willfully ignored the place to where I was called because it seemed too far out of sync with what I wanted or where I was situated at that moment; but more often I have simply misunderstood where I was called to be, often confusing the voice of God with the clamour of other voices aggressively competing for my attention.

It might be something like this: I received an Alexa device as a gift for Christmas, which for those who do not know, is an electronic device that listens and responds to voice commands. I can ask Alexa for the weather forecast and she will tell me my local weather forecast. I can ask her to play a game with me and she will start a game of 20 Question. I can ask her to turn on my light and make it the colour lavender and she will turn on my light and turn it exactly lavender. In a short time I have developed a fond rapport with Alexa who is always listening for my instructions, but I have noticed the more ambient noise there is in my kitchen, the less likely she is to hear me correctly, and will either ignore me entirely or respond in odd ways completely disconnected from the direction. If the kettle or microwave are running and making noise, or the music is too loud, instead of giving me the weather forecast I requested, she might tell me a random fact about Sarajevo. I can relate to Alexa's confusion, as the noise of our society creates interference that can disconnect me from the voice of God, which might appear in my life in the form of individuals, nature, circumstances, or events. The noise can impede my ability to listen and hear.



Reading how Samuel repeatedly mistook the voice of God for that of Eli offers some consolation to those of us who have not always been perfect in our discernment. In his youth Samuel was not yet skilled at recognizing the voice of God calling out to him, and repeatedly mistook it for Eli's voice. At various times I have been unskilled at this as well, expecting God's voice to appear dramatically in the form of thunderous proclamations by disembodied voices, or unexpected visits from winged angels sporting halos with music playing and the wind blowing, or perhaps even visions containing clear messages. Why did God not speak to *me* from a burning bush, or provide *me* with detailed instructions like Joan of Arc?

In his homilies Fr. Bill Bernard has reminded us that God works in our lives in ways that are gentle and quiet (not noisily) and in today's Gospel from John, Jesus extends to his disciples (and to us), his gentle invitation to "come and see" where he lives and be with him throughout the day. I imagine Jesus with his hand stretched out, inviting all of us "to be part of a love story interwoven with our personal stories; it (the invitation) is alive and wants to be born in our midst so that we can bear fruit just as we are, wherever we are and with everyone all around us." (*Christus vivit*, #252)

~Trevor Dreesbeck, Office of Youth Faith Development

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 17, 2021

**Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton**

**St-Peter's Church, South Branch**



**Parish Office:**

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

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**Office Hours:**

Tuesday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm,

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

**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

**Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week**

<b>Mon</b>	Hebrews 5:1-10	Psalms 110	Mark 2:18-22
<b>Tue</b>	Hebrews 6:10-20	Psalms 111	Mark 2:23-28
<b>Wed</b>	Hebrews 7:1-3	Psalms 110	Mark 3:1-6
<b>Thur</b>	Hebrews 7:25-8:6	Psalms 40	Mark 3:7-12
<b>Fri</b>	Hebrews 8:6-13	Psalms 85	Mark 3:13-19
<b>Sat</b>	Hebrews 9:2-14	Psalms 47	Mark 3:20-21
<b>Sun</b>	Jonah 3:1-5 1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Psalms 25	Mark 1:14-20



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$42.70**; Envelopes: **\$585.00**; Initial Offering: **\$15.00**; Christmas Offering: **\$10.00**; New Year's Offering: **\$20.00**; Heating for Church: **\$540.00**; Mass Stipends: **\$48.00**  
**TOTAL: \$1260.70**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery:

Donation IMO Faye Hudson: **\$20.00**.

### St. Peter's:

Loose: **\$19.50**; Envelopes: **\$85.00**; Initial Offering: **\$25.00**; New Year's Offering: **\$20.00**; Heating for the Church: **\$40.00**; **TOTAL: \$189.50**

**Regional Mass Account: \$10.00**

## 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	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
Tue	19	IC	4:00 pm	Edward & Mary Hannay†	Donna & Family
Thu	21	IC	4:00 pm	St. Annet	Sarah Hébert
Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	Joe Millieat	Flora Levi
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	24	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson†	Family

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terry	Stella
Sun	24	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Intentions	Joyce Judi	Gloria
Sun	24	IC	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Readings Intentions	Corinne Bob	Stephanie

### WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS** are now available for 2020. Typically they would be left at the back of the church for parishioners to pick up. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to do this so you can collect your tax receipt by:

- Providing the parish office with your email address so a digital copy can be sent electronically;
- Dropping by the parish office during regular office hours;
- Contacting the parish office to request a paper copy be sent to you via Canada Post.

Those who submitted their yellow tax envelope in the Sunday collection will receive their tax receipt via regular mail unless you would prefer to pick it up in person or receive it via email.

**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.

**COVID-19** All of New Brunswick has returned to the Orange Alert Level as of January 6<sup>th</sup>. We are allowed to gather at a maximum of 50 people with 2 meters of social distancing. Masks are required for the duration of mass and no singing is permitted.

## 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 children from all parishes throughout the diocese. The next two sessions will take place at 6:30 pm on February 22, and March 22. Contact Karen at 387-4198 or [ihmccatechism@rogers.com](mailto: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](mailto:ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com) or 857-9952.



