

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH: STAR OF WONDER

Epiphany (from Greek for "appearance") used to be one of the Great Feasts of the Liturgical calendar, along with Easter and Pentecost. The weeks following January 6th were called the Sundays "after Epiphany" and the season extended to Ash Wednesday. This is my excuse for still writing about Epiphany, the feast that traditionally celebrated St. Paul's mission to the Gentiles. Paul's mission was fiercely opposed by some of the other apostles who wanted to cling to the rites and traditions passed down from the Covenant with Abraham. But Paul preached a New Covenant to people who came to the truth by different routes.

Matthew tells us of the Magi who reported to King Herod that they followed a "star" which led them from East to West and then "stopped" (disappeared?). Question by Herod, they said it had appeared about two years before. These were men of "great" intelligence who knew the science of the day, which understood the universe as a great dome which moved around the earth with wonderful, understandable regularity. Then this "star" suddenly appeared and broke through the dome of the heavens and actually guided them toward Jerusalem. This unexplained event made them think a great king had been born.



How you look at something matters. Back in 1997, I stepped outside several times to look towards the North Star (which guides by staying still) and stare at the comet named for Hale and Bopp. It was visible to the naked eye for 18 months. Above is my drawing of what I saw. It was huge. It appeared to be pointing west and along with the sun it moved west. It made me think of the Magi and their "star", although the math puts our comet's last visit before Abraham's time. It did just appear and then after 18 months it disappeared. It made me believe that the star followed by the Magi was really real, and made me believe that people of science searching for truth could find Christ.

~Agnes Byrne, Holy Family Parish

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 31, 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)

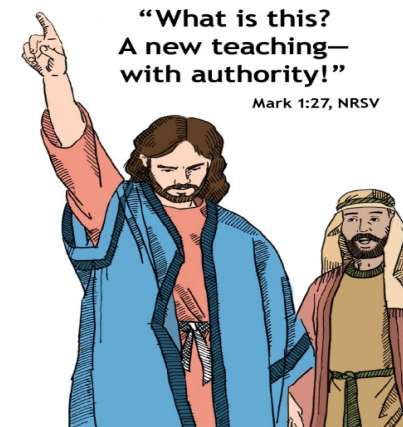
**AT THE TIME THIS BULLETIN WAS PRINTED, HEALTH ZONE 1 (MONCTON)  
WAS STILL SITUATED IN THE COVID-19 RED ALERT LEVEL  
ALL ADVERTISED MASSES CANCELLED**

### Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

<b>Mon</b>	Hebrews 11:32-40	Psalm 31	Mark 5:1-20
<b>Tue</b>	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 24	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Wed</b>	Hebrews 12:4-7	Psalm 103	Mark 6:1-6
<b>Thur</b>	Hebrews 12:18-24	Psalm 48	Mark 6:7-13
<b>Fri</b>	Hebrews 13:1-8	Psalm 27	Mark 6:14-29
<b>Sat</b>	Hebrews 13:15-21	Psalm 23	Mark 6:30-34
<b>Sun</b>	Job 7:1-4,6-7 1 Corinthians 9:23	Psalm 147	Mark 1:29-39

“What is this?  
A new teaching—  
with authority!”

Mark 1:27, NRSV



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Envelopes: \$160.00; Initial Offering: \$5.00;

**TOTAL: \$165.00**

### St. Peter's:

Envelopes: \$20.00; **TOTAL: \$20.00**

### St. Peter's Cemetery:

Donation IMO Richard (Dickie) Murphy: \$20.00

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Please note your envelope donations can also be left in the locked box outside the parish hall, mailed to the parish at 12 School Street, Rexton, NB E4W 2E5, or dropped off at the parish office during office hours.

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

Alverie Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle, Brenda Beers, and all residents of nursing homes.

**WE MOURN** the loss of a long-time member of Immaculate Conception Parish, Charles (Chuck) LeBlanc, who passed away on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family, friends, and those who knew him.

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS** for 2020 are now available and can be obtained 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. Please contact the parish office if this is the case.

**COVID-19 Updates** will be posted on our website and Facebook page as we receive them, so please check regularly and share the information with those who do not use the internet if you can. If you would like to be added to the parish e-mail list, contact the parish office at [icprexton@rogers.com](mailto:icprexton@rogers.com) and you will receive updates via email.



**NB Public Health has announced that Zone 1 (Moncton area), Zone 2 (Saint John area) and Zone 3 (Fredericton area) will move to the red alert level of COVID-19 as of midnight January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**This will result in the closure of all our churches, as religious services or indoor gatherings are not permitted. All announced masses are cancelled starting January 20th inclusively.**

**We need to understand the apprehensions of Public Health and work with them in following the guidelines to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.**

**As a Church, we are concerned for the health and well-being of our faithful.**

**May the Lord bless us and continue to watch over us.**

**+ Valéry Vienneau, Archbishop of Moncton**

## 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.

### "We're All in this Together": Exploring Pope Francis's encyclicals, *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*

In all his writing, Pope Francis calls us to see the world through a different lens, emphasizing the unconditional and unending love of God for all God has created and the importance of our connectedness with this creation. In *Laudato Si'*, calling us to care for our common home, he states: "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change." (LS#13) In *Fratelli Tutti*, on fraternity and social friendship, he says: "To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves.

