

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: IT'S ABOUT LOVE

Hearts, flowers, chocolate, wine, jewelry, poetry, love songs, romantic movies ... today is Valentines' Day and all around us attention is focused on love. But even when our attention is on love, even when we are contemplating extravagant acts of devotion, we often neglect the expressions of love to which today's readings call us. Perhaps that's because they point us toward sacrificial love rather than reciprocal love. Today's scripture readings aren't about the kind of extravagant Valentines' Day love that blesses both giver and receiver; they are about the kind of love that places all the attention on the receiver with nothing in it for the giver.

The Leviticus reading provides instruction for those with leprosy. These rules are often understood as a cruel rejection of those who are suffering, but they can also be understood as a call to communal love. Those who are ill are not simply cast out of the community; the community is not told what to do with the leper. Instead the instructions are given to the ones who have leprosy, telling them what to do to protect the rest of the community. They are to move to the outskirts of the camp where they are to continue to show care for the others in the community by covering their upper lip, effectively blocking much of the airflow from their nose and mouth, and by calling out a warning of disease to any who came near.

In the gospel reading, Jesus cures a man of leprosy and instructs him to show himself to the priest and follow the rituals for reinstatement into the community, but tell no one about how he had been cured. Jesus is instructing him to keep the focus on the care for the community that the gradual reinstatement of the rituals entailed. The man who was cured chooses instead to turn the focus away from the community and toward himself, and the result was that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly. The joyful celebration and the inability to contain his excitement are so easy for us to understand that we often overlook Jesus' request that he make the sacrifice of remaining unnoticed and unappreciated for the sake of others.

Today's call to make choices that benefit others more than they benefit us, is expressed most clearly in Paul's letter to the Corinthians when he instructs them to imitate his choices to seek the advantage of others rather than his own advantage. "Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the Church of God." Paul spoke these words to a community that was frequently polarized, like much of our society today. In such a community, the only way to avoid giving offense to one group or another is to set aside one's own need to be "right" and to try to see from the perspective of the other.

This week we will enter the season of Lent. I find myself wondering, how different my world would be if, between now and Easter, each time I found myself wondering how to get someone to understand my perspective, I changed the question to: what could I understand if I tried to see the world from their perspective? And what would change, if each time I was upset because someone did not recognize or understand my needs, I asked myself: do they have needs that I am not seeing or understanding? It seems like it would be a lot easier to just show love by giving chocolate and prepare for Easter by giving up chocolate, but maybe easy is not the goal.

~Pam Driedger, St. Jude's Parish



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 14, 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	Genesis 4:1-15,25	Psalms 50	Mark 8:11-13
Tue	Genesis 6:5-8	Psalms 29	Mark 8:14-21
Wed	Joel 2:12-18 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2	Psalms 51	Matthew 6:1-18
Thur	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalms 1	Luke 9:22-25
Fri	Isaiah 58:1-9	Psalms 51	Matthew 9:14-15
Sat	Isaiah 58:9-14	Psalms 86	Luke 5:27-32
Sun	Genesis 9:8-15 1 Peter 3:18-22	Psalms 25	Mark 1:12-15



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Envelopes: **\$280.00**; Initial Offering: **\$5.00**;

Heating Envelopes: **\$20.00**

TOTAL: \$305.00

St. Peter's

CEWS Reimbursement **TOTAL: \$65.65**

Regional Mass Account

Reimbursement **TOTAL: \$166.53**

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	13	SP	4:00 pm	Réjèanne Huard (Morel)†	Nat & Diane Ferland
Sun	14	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Betty Wilson & Family
Sun	14	IC	4:00 pm	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Family
Tue	16	IC	4:00 pm	Marie-Anne Chevarie†	Geralda Comeau
Thu	18	IC	4:00 pm	Odette & Ron Sawyer†	Dianne, Jeannine & Family
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	Richard Murphy†	Lillian & Leon
Sun	21	IC	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	21	IC	4:00 pm	Ken Sawyer†	Dianne, Jeannine & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terry	Stella
Sun	21	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Donna Judi	Gloria
Sun	21	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Readings Intentions	Stephen Stephanie	Gerald

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



RETURN TO ORANGE ALERT PHASE took place at midnight on February 9th. 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.

THE PARISH MOURNS the loss of long-time member Emile Cormier who died on January 24th. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Noella, Rose-Marie and Monique as well as those whose lives he touched.

Ash
Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Wednesday, February 17th

Elsipogtog:	6:30 p.m.
Indian Island:	5:00 p.m.
Rexton:	7:00 p.m.
South Branch:	No Service



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

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, February 16th from 7:00-9:00 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.

Mondays at the Movies

Everyone is invited to join our film discussion series this Lenten season designed to connect popular films to our faith. On Monday, March 8th at 6:30 PM we will meet via Zoom to discuss the film, *My Sister's Keeper* (2009), based on the novel by Jodi Picoult. On March 29th, we will meet via Zoom at 10:00 am to discuss the film *Forrest Gump* (1994), based on the novel by Winston Groom. For each session, participants will have watched the film ahead of time. Contact Karen for more information and to register at or ihmccatechism@rogers.com or 387-4198. **Mondays at the Movies** is a collaborative effort between St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit and the Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith Development.



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

Lent – a season of repentance and conversion. Pope Francis continuously calls us to see the world through a different lens, a lens which emphasizes the unconditional and unending love of God for all God has created; a lens which highlights the connectedness of all God has created. Join Sr. Denise Lirette, fj and Dr. Andrew Wilson on February 18, March 4 and March 18 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. **Contact:** ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com or 857-9952.