

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: MY PEACE I LEAVE YOU

At each Mass, just before we share in Communion, the priest says aloud: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you..." It is one of those rare occasions where the Eucharistic Prayer addresses the Son and not the Father. These are Jesus' words taken directly from John's Gospel (14:27). They are part of what scripture scholars call the "Farewell Discourse" (chapters 14-17 inclusive). It is Jesus' good-bye speech, and it goes on for four chapters in what is probably the longest I-gotta-go-but-I-wanna-stay speech in history. This is fitting as they are the words of one who knows, though not in every detail, that he will die the very next day. If you have ever accompanied a dying person, you know their last words are to be weighed heavily. At such a point there is no more time for idle talk or gossip; there is only time for words that come from the heart.

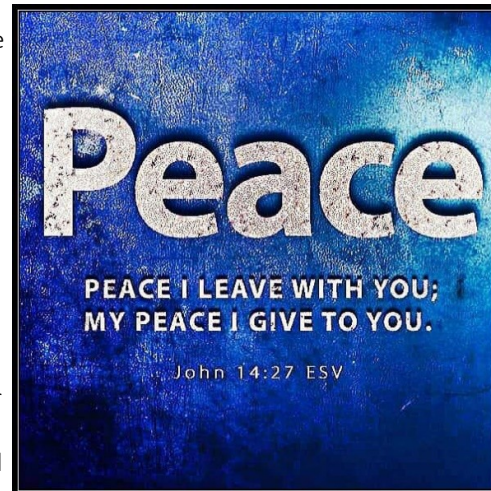
The Rite of Peace, when we exchange a sign of peace with each other after praying the Our Father, was lost to the liturgy for the longest time but, fortunately, was restored at Vatican II (1962-1965). When the priest says, "The peace of the Lord be with you always" and invites us to share that peace, we ought to say to one another, "The peace of the Lord be with you always" or "The peace of Christ" and not simply "Peace be with you." Remember we are offering the *Lord's peace*, a peace the world cannot give. I am not offering you *my peace* which is tawdry, cheap, much too limited, inadequate, full of veiled agendas, and vanishes at the first perceived disagreement. Christ's peace, by contrast, comes without conditions, is overflowing, holds no grudges, and—like the rain that comes down from heavens—is given to the good and the bad alike.

The Rite of Peace cannot be undertaken lightly. Here I think of Jesus' words: "If you are on your way to presenting your offering at the altar but remember that your brother (sister) has something against you, leave your offering there at the altar and go first to reconcile yourself with your brother (sister)" (Mt. 5:23-24). Jesus is telling us something about the mind of God where peace among us takes priority over any offering to the Divine. It is put another way when Jesus commands, "**Go and learn the meaning of the words: Mercy is what pleases me, not sacrifice!**" (Mt. 9:13).

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you... Jesus does not *leave* a trail of bread crumbs in the hopes that you might stumble upon what he has left us. He does not simply *leave* his peace on your doorstep like a parcel delivered by Amazon. No. He *gives* us his peace. He enters your house and places his gift of peace square on your lap. He does not passively *leave* you anything; he actively *gives* you everything.

The Pharisees were shocked at the fact that Jesus would eat with sinners. Well, he does much more than that. He deliberately seeks sinners out! He seeks out the lepers, the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the children, the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son (daughter), the alcoholic, the addict, the lonely, the depressed, the divorced, the bullied, the criminal, the demoniac, you, me, and the neglected of every stripe. He takes the initiative to seek us out. This Divine Reality, whom we would have to label "obsessive-compulsive" does not tiptoe away from the center *leaving* us anything but is driven to the edges in order to *give* us everything. My peace I give you. All I want to know is: Are you as enthusiastic about receiving as I am nuts about giving?

~Fr. Phil Mulligan, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Third Sunday of Lent
March 7th, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

Phone: 523-6817 ~ Fax: 523-6868

Email: icprexton@rogers.com

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

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

Mon	2 Kings 5:1-15	Psalms 42	Luke 4:24-30
Tue	Daniel 3:25,34-43	Psalms 25	Matthew 18:21-35
Wed	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	Psalms 147	Matthew 5:17-19
Thur	Jeremiah 7:25-28	Psalms 95	Luke 11:14-23
Fri	Hosea 14:2-10	Psalms 81	Mark 12:28-34
Sat	Hosea 6:1-6	Psalms 51	Luke 18:9-14
Sun	2 Chronicles 36:14-16 Ephesians 2:4-10	Psalms 137	John 3:14-21



THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$30.00**; Envelopes: **\$1425.00**; Initial Offering: **\$5.00**; New Year's Offering: **\$5.00**; Heating for the Church: **\$5.00**; Good Friday Offering: **\$5.00**; Ash Wednesday Offering: **\$5.00**; Easter Offering: **\$5.00**
TOTAL: \$1485.00

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$36.55**; Envelopes: **\$230.00**;
TOTAL: \$266.55

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$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	6	SP	4:00 pm	Richard Murphy†	Gerry & John
Sun	7	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	George, Vivian & Family
Sun	7	IC	4:00 pm	Edward & Mary Hannay†	Donna & Family
Tue	9	IC	4:00 pm	Special Intention	Emile Cormier†
Thu	11	IC	4:00 pm	Lionel Comeau†	Geralda Comeau
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	Emma LeBlanc†	Claire Murphy
Sun	14	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Alban & Janet
Sun	14	IC	4:00 pm	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Famil

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terry	Stella
Sun	14	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Gloria Corinne	Judi
Sun	14	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Readings Intentions	Stephen Ginny	Gerald

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



SHARE LENT WITH DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

In the past, we highlighted the Share Lent program with several bulletin inserts. This year, join Development and Peace for a journey through the season of Lent with their [interactive solidarity calendar](#). Each week, you can explore a different side of Development and Peace through activities that include moments of prayer, action and fundraising. There will also be several virtual events. There you'll get to meet some of the Share Lent partners, members and staff. To receive weekly updates about upcoming events and campaign activities, subscribe to their newsletter.

Go to <https://www.devp.org/en/lentcalendar-2021>

MASS INTENTIONS For those who requested mass intentions scheduled during the recent Red Phase of COVID-19 recovery, your masses have been reassigned to later dates. If you would like to know the dates of your requested mass intentions, please contact the parish office. Mass intentions at St. Peter's are booked until mid-April and intentions at Immaculate Conception are booked until mid-May.

SERVERS NEEDED With two masses each Sunday our dedicated group of liturgical ministers are stretched thin and we are currently in dire need of people who would be willing to assist as altar servers. If you feel called to this ministry once or twice a month, please contact the parish office. Training provided!

SNOW REMOVAL A huge THANK YOU is extended to those who have been attending to the snow removal at our church and hall this winter. Just a friendly reminder that the entrances to the church and hall need to be cleared even when mass is not held, such as during the Red Phase of COVID-19 recovery.

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. The next session will take place at 6:30 pm on March 22. Contact Karen at 387-4198 or ihmccatechism@rogers.com to register.

Lenten Reflections from the Canadian Bishops

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have produced a series of reflections for Ash Wednesday and the Sundays during Lent, in both English and French, which will be made available on their website each Monday during Lent. This link will take you to the (English) reflection for Ash Wednesday:

<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/>