

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: GOD IS L-O-V-E

Often in our lives we experience darkness in some way. Whether it be when the power goes out, if we drive through a tunnel, or simply pull a blanket over our heads. These are instances of literal darkness. What about those times where our darkness could be an internal struggle, such as a battle with addiction, mental health issues or simply grief and loss of a loved one. We have all been there. Rest assured that this darkness is balanced out by light, as is mentioned in both the second reading and in the gospel.

The gospel according to John uses the metaphor of light to describe God as light and Jesus as light. Jesus tells Nicodemus, who comes to him in the dark of night, that whoever lives in truth lives in light. We know that there cannot be life without light. We as humans have a tendency of hiding in the darkness.

Notice that when Jesus says that the Son of God is light for the world, he is not just talking about making everything bright and sunny, ***“but those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God”***. He is talking about bringing to light things that we are ashamed of and want to keep hidden. And yet his purpose is not to condemn the world, but rather to set things right because if nothing changes, all will indeed

be lost. God has intervened out of love and by responding to that love, by aligning ourselves with God and his way of doing things, we are saved.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16) This, in my opinion is one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible. It is one that, as a hopeless optimist, gives me so much hope. I mentioned before in another reflection, when writing about this verse, that John 3:16 hit the top of Google’s hottest searches in 2009, thanks to Tim Tebow. I believe it’s worth pointing out that it is still one of the most researched verses and that Mr. Tebow was a great light, shining to others what we already know, that God is love. Love is God's very nature, and it should be our nature too since we were created in His image and likeness. God's immense love for the world, which he expresses by giving us his Son (and to which the only appropriate response is for us to now love others as Jesus does), becoming ourselves channels of God's love for the world. Like Tim Tebow, let us go out and shine bright the love of God.

~Katy Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14th, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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

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	Isaiah 65:17-21	Psalms 30	John 4:43-54
Tue	Ezekiel 47:1-9	Psalms 46	John 5:1-16
Wed	Isaiah 49:8-15	Psalms 145	John 5:17-30
Thur	Exodus 32:7-14	Psalms 106	John 5:31-47
Fri	2 Samuel 7:4-16	Psalms 89	Matthew 1:16-24
Sat	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Psalms 7	John 7:40-53
Sun	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9	Psalms 51	John 12:20-33



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$18.10**; Envelopes: **\$745.00**;
 Ash Wednesday Offering: **\$5.00**;
 Mass Stipends: **\$36.00**; Missals: **\$5.00**;
 CEWS Subsidy: **\$527.32**.
TOTAL: \$1336.42

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$38.00**; Envelopes: **\$210.00**;
 Ash Wednesday Offering: **\$5.00**;
 Mass Stipends: **\$9.00**;
 CEWS Reimbursement: **\$65.70**.
TOTAL: \$327.70

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$60.00**

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	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 & Family
Tue	16	IC	4:00 pm	St. Anne	Sarah Hébert
Thu	18	IC	4:00 pm	Special Intention	Emile Cormier†
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	Réjèanne Huard (Morel)†	Diane Ferland
Sun	21	IC	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish	The Redemptorists
Sun	21	IC	4:00 pm	Stella McIntyre†	Linda & Don Teakles

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				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	Pat Gloria	Judi
Sun	21	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Readings Intentions	Stephen Donna	Stephanie

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS (Week of March 15-19) Due to an event at the Parish Hall this week the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, March 16th, but will be opened on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.**

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>

LAETARE SUNDAY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT IN OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR. TRADITIONALLY, THIS SUNDAY HAS BEEN A DAY OF CELEBRATION WITHIN THE AUSTERE PERIOD OF LENT. THIS SUNDAY GETS ITS NAME FROM THE FIRST FEW WORDS OF THE ENTRANCE ANTIPHON FOR THE MASS OF THE DAY: "LAETARE JERUSALEM" ("REJOICE, O JERUSALEM") IS LATIN FROM ISAIAH 66:10.

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. **Faith Experiments Express** is a collaborative effort between St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit and the Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith Development.

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 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. It is expected participants will have watched the film ahead of time. Contact Trevor for more information and to register at trevord.diocese@gmail.com or 857-4879.

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