

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: CHASING BUTTERFLIES

In her book of essays, *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*, author and poet Maya Angelou wrote "I'm always amazed when people walk up to me and say, 'I'm a Christian.' I think, 'Already? You already got it?' I'm working at it..."

Possibly the most important religious conversion I have experienced personally involved coming to the realization that becoming Christian is a life-long process and while I may experience times of growth, I will never fully "have it." I might even backslide at times. There will be no "One Night Only" event when I suddenly see God, Jesus and the world with divine clarity. Never will there be a time when I possess all the answers for everyone, and never will there be a time when I am not in need of God's love. Full initiation into the Catholic Church is the beginning, and I have learned that striving to be Christian involves an almost continual evolution because in my experience, just when I think I've "gotten it" I am once again challenged to grow.



The butterfly is a popular Christian symbol because the transformation to butterfly from caterpillar represents resurrection, new life, and conversion. Imagine you are a caterpillar inching along munching leaves until one day a process beyond your control forces you to stop what you are doing. You work hard to spin your shelter until you are cocooned in darkness, where you will stay for a length of time you have no control over. Everything you know from your caterpillar world has vanished and there are forces at work you do not understand. It might even be painful and uncomfortable. Then one day you emerge, stunningly transformed.

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021 has been destabilizing to many of us. Our sense of normality evaporated before our eyes to be replaced by a series of regulations and restrictions most of us have not experienced in our lifetime. Elements of daily life once taken for granted have been stolen from

us indefinitely and even though a vaccination strategy provides us with desperately needed hope for emerging from this pandemic, we cannot yet fully know how we will have been changed by it. Pope Francis has frequently called for the faithful to use the COVID-19 pandemic as a chance to "re-imagine a global economy that values people and the planets over profits, and one where (fellowship) and solidarity guide human relationships rather than conflict and division." (Associated Press, 2021) So, Francis has encouraged us to take the opportunity at a global level to rebuild a better planet, but how does this apply to me personally?

I am certain that even amid the hibernation, darkness, fear, isolation, news headlines, and global death count of 2.7 million, the Holy Spirit has presented me with opportunities for transformation...to shed what I have outgrown and to see the world through a fresh lens. If I can do this, then the goodness planted by God in my heart can grow, bloom, and change me.

In today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that for new growth to occur in our hearts and minds, we must die to ourselves: our desires, our selfishness, and our old patterns. It is not good we have been forced to take up combat with a virus for which we were unprepared, but goodness can emerge from difficult challenges, even spiritual transformation. There is an opportunity to reboot and to reconsider what brings me life and what does not bring me life. In retrospect, what elements of my pre-pandemic life did not help me to flourish? What might I have been wrong about? Did I know as much as I thought? What mistakes might I have made? What have I been holding on to that drains me of energy? Who was I before the world got its hands on me?

What transformation will I permit?

~Trevor Dreesbeck, Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 21st, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton



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

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

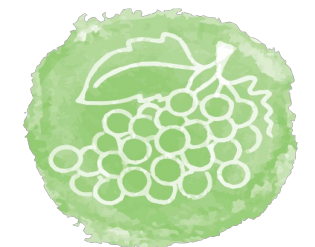
Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Times

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	Deuteronomy 13:1-9	Psalm 23	John 8:1-11
Tue	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 102	John 8:21-30
Wed	Deuteronomy 3:14-20	Psalm 145	John 8:31-42
Thur	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10	Psalm 40	Luke 1:26-38
Fri	Jeremiah 20:10-13	Psalm 18	John 10:31-42
Sat	Ezekiel 37:21-28	Jer 31:10	John 11:45-56
Sun	Mark 11:1-10 Isaiah 50:4-78	Psalm 22	Mark 14:1-15 Philippians 2:6-11



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$14.00; Envelopes: \$745.00;

Ash Wednesday Offering: \$20.00;

HST Rebate: \$950.80;

TOTAL: \$1729.80

St. Peter's

Loose: \$63.10; Envelopes: \$85.00;

TOTAL: \$148.10

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	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
Tue	23	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson†	Ed & Dawne Furey
Thu	25	IC	4:00 pm	St. Anne	Sarah Hébert
Sat	27	SP	4:00 pm	Wallace Best†	Lois & Richard
Sun	28	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Clifford & Leona Carter
Sun	28	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson†	Lillian & Leon

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	27	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terry	Stella
Sun	28	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Corinne Gloria	Judi
Sun	28	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Readings Intentions	Bob Ginny	Gerald

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

for Rexton, South Branch,
Elsipogtog & Indian Island

Holy Thursday ~ April 1st

Elsipogtog.....6:30 p.m. (Mass)

Rexton.....6:30 p.m. (Mass)

Indian Island.....TBA (Led by Vince)

Good Friday ~ April 2nd

Elsipogtog.....10:00 a.m. (Way of the Cross)

Elsipogtog.....3:00 p.m. (Good Friday Service)

Rexton.....3:00 p.m. (Good Friday Service)

Indian Island.....TBA (Way of the Cross)

Indian Island.....5:00 p.m. (Good Friday Service)

South Branch.....5:00 p.m. (Good Friday Service)

Holy Saturday ~ April 3rd

Elsipogtog.....9:00 p.m. (Easter Vigil)

Rexton.....8:30 p.m. (Easter Vigil)

Indian Island.....10:30 p.m. (Led by Vince)

Easter Sunday ~ April 4th

Elsipogtog.....11:00 a.m. (Mass)

Rexton.....11:00 a.m. (Mass)

To experience #Lent with
love means caring for
those who suffer or feel
abandoned and fearful
because of the #Covid-19
pandemic.
~Pope Francis (Twitter)



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Invitation to the Chrism Mass

With great joy, I will preside at the Chrism Mass on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral. The celebration will be less elaborate than in past years because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, but we will maintain all the essential parts. The Chrism Mass is a manifestation of unity with the diocesan bishop. The renewal of priestly promises, the consecration of the Holy Chrism, and the blessing of the oils for the sick and catechumens are essential elements of the celebration.

By following the directives of the public health (the wearing of masks and a distancing of 2 meters), we expect to accommodate about 225 people in the Cathedral. We ask those interested in participating to register on March 22, 23, and 24 from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 1:00 to 3:00 by calling 506-857-9531 ext. 1240. Volunteers will take the necessary information, including the number of people included in your family bubble, to establish the list of participants according to the NB Public Health norms.

The chrism mass is a significant celebration for all faithful, but we have to limit the number of people to ensure that we respect the standards established by NB Public Health. Thank you for your understanding. Welcome to the Chrism mass. ~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

