

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SET THE EXAMPLE

Today we begin the holiest week in the Church's calendar, aptly entitled Holy Week. Despite being seen by many Christians as such, it is not Christmas but Easter which is the high point of the Church's liturgical year. In a few days we will celebrate Triduum – Three Days that commemorate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ and move us from Lent to this great season of Easter. Triduum is a three-part continuous liturgy - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil - each of which highlight a different aspect of the Paschal Mystery. The first part of this liturgy, Holy Thursday, focuses on the Last Supper, celebrating "much of what Catholics hold sacred."

During that Last Supper, a couple of important actions took place. In sharing this meal with his apostles and asking them to do this in "remembrance of me," Jesus left us the Institution of the Eucharist; the action of washing feet, instituted the Sacrament of Holy Orders. John's account of the Last Supper, heard on Holy Thursday, is the only one which speaks of Jesus washing the feet of his apostles. Interesting that we should hear John's version on Holy Thursday. One would think, as the day commemorates the

Institution of the Eucharist, we would hear an account from either of the other three Gospels, each of which includes some version of the narrative from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, proclaimed during the second reading: "This is my Body ... do this in remembrance of me ... my Blood ... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Clearly, we are meant to pay attention to the foot washing.

What is the significance of foot washing? During Jesus' time, it was a sign of hospitality, extended to guests by the servants of the house upon entry.

These were dusty roads people travelled, and feet, generally covered only by sandals, got dirty. I walk a lot – and after a day on my feet, especially during warm weather, my feet get dirty too. It is refreshing to wash them when I arrive home and is often the first thing I do. So, I get it – the need for foot washing.

Yet here, a task generally given to servants, is one that Jesus takes on himself. It is unusual enough that Peter feels the need to initially reject the action – "you will never wash my feet." In other words, you are my teacher, my master, the Christ. Leave the foot washing for others.

I am the eldest of 7 children. From a young age, I was reminded repeatedly that setting the example fell to me. This Gospel ends with Jesus saying, "So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." It's my mother's voice ringing in my ears. If you behave badly, so will they; if you challenge and defy the rules, so will they; if you love them, they will love one another; if you reach out to them, you will all stay connected.

The task of remembering does not *only* involve eating Bread and drinking Wine. The task of remembering means paying attention to what I have lived, how I have included, how I have healed, how I have forgiven, how I have shown mercy, how I have loved. The task of remembering involves service, and this humbling gesture of washing feet is the best example I can give of what this service means. Although, because of COVID, we cannot celebrate this profoundly moving ritual this year, the fact that it is service above all to which we are called as Christians does not change. Today we must ask: how can I best model foot washing?

~Ellen Bennett, Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Faith Development



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Palm Sunday
March 28th, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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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)

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 42:1-7	Psalms 27	John 12:1-11
Tue	Isaiah 49:1-6	Psalms 71	John 13:21-38
Wed	Isaiah 50:4-9	Psalms 69	Matthew 26:14-25
Thur	Isaiah 61:1-3	Psalms 89	Luke 4:16-21
Fri	Isaiah 52:13-53	Psalms 31	John 18:1-19:42
Sat	Easter Vigil Readings		
Sun	Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4	Psalms 118	John 20:1-9



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$10.00**; Envelopes: **\$735.00**;
Share Lent: **\$270.00**;
TOTAL: \$1015.80

Rexton Cemetery

Funeral: **\$250.00**;
Donation IMO Faye Hudson: **\$10.00**;
TOTAL: \$260.00

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$14.00**; Envelopes: **\$140.00**;
Share Lent: **\$15.00**;
TOTAL: \$169.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$70.00**

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	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
Tue	30	IC	4:00 pm	St. Anne	Sarah Hébert
Thu	1	IC	4:00 pm	St. Anne	Sarah Hébert
Sat	3	IC	8:30 pm	Faye Hudson†	Family
Sun	4	SP	11:00 am	Richard Murphy†	Phyllis S.

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	3	IC	8:30 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Corinne Donna
Sun	4	SP	11:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terri

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

CORRECTION Please note there was an error in the Holy Week Mass Schedule printed in last Sunday's bulletin. Mass on Easter Sunday (April 4th) will be held at 11:00 am at St. Peter's. There will be no mass on Easter Sunday at Immaculate Conception. Please see the correct schedule below.



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)
South Branch.....11:00 a.m. (Mass)

PLEASE NOTE: Those attending the Good Friday Services at (Immaculate Conception or St. Peter's), Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday mass must make a reservation to ensure we are in compliance with public health guidelines. Sign-up sheets will be available this weekend, or you may contact the parish office to make your reservation.

RECONCILIATION DAY at Immaculate Conception will be Wednesday, March 31st. A priest will be available in the church from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. **If you'd like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before Easter, you'll need to make an appointment.** A sheet with free times will be available after mass. You may also reserve an appointment by contacting the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES for April and May are now available at the back of the church. If you would like your schedule emailed to you, please contact the parish office. We are still in need of people to fill several ministry roles so if you have felt called to be an Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, greeter, mass coordinator, etc., we would be happy to have you join our ministry team. Please contact the parish office if you have questions about what these roles entail.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

SHARE LENT: A sincere thank you for your donations during the weekend of solidarity, the 5th Sunday of Lent. For those who did not have the opportunity to do so, donations will be welcomed at any time. If you would like to become a monthly donor, you can contact the Moncton regional office for Development & Peace at 506 388-4444.

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

On December 8, 2020 Pope Francis announced a *Year of St. Joseph* to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation by Pope Pius IX of *St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church*. St. Joseph is also the patron saint of Canada. On Friday, March 19th, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) launched a webpage dedicated to this special memorial year entitled [Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph](#). A joint initiative of the CCCB's Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, Office for Family and Life, National Liturgy Office and *Office nationale de liturgie*, the page makes available several resources for use in parishes, religious communities, families and schools; catechetical resources for children, youth and adults; and a series of [seven short video reflections](#), based on the recent Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart) highlighting the seven attributes of St. Joseph.