

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: O HAPPY FAULT!

It was daunting when I realized my turn to write came on Easter Sunday. I read and studied all seven Readings from the Easter Vigil, the Exultat, the Baptismal Ceremony, the Epistles and Gospels. The "Exultat" sings in triumph, "O happy fault!" referring to the story in the Garden of Eden and the eating of the fruit of knowledge. The great Creation hymn that comprises the first reading (p. 349) is a prayerful reflection upon the knowledge given to Adam by Eve. I like to think that the Lord God was warning them of the dire consequences that would ensue when they began to shape their lives according to the brand new discovery they had made. (Gen 3:14-24). All new discoveries include the end of the old ways and the beginning of their own end because all knowledge is partial and destined to be surpassed.

I also believe that the story is based upon actual historical events that took place between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers some 5700 years ago. A new civilization began to grow there based on inheritance from father to son. Records of possessions to be passed down were etched into clay as well as social and political rules. Government followed the family order of rule by the father over his wife and children. A well organized society developed with an economy of herding and farming, and dynasties recorded for more than two millennia. Then, for some reason, Abraham (called "a wandering Aramean" - Deut.26:5-9) spread the knowledge about inheritance throughout the Middle East, changing many of the traditions he came upon. I interpret the second reading (p. 355) as an example of the new form of religion replacing an old one. The centuries long sojourn in Egypt also led to clashes between the religion of Abraham and the ancient religion of the Egyptians, leading to the Exodus. After the transformation of the cuneiform tablets into papyrus scrolls, they were easily transported in the Ark of the Covenant. Much later, the scattered writings and traditions of the scattered tribes of Israel were compiled into the Book of the Law there in Babylon, where the leaders of Israel were forced to stay together. Without the suffering of the Babylonian Exile we would not have a Bible.

After the long walk on the road to Emmaus when the disciples finally recognized Christ they asked, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was...opening the Scriptures to us?" That question sends me to the seventh reading (p. 372): "I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you." St. Paul asks, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death?" The prayer of Holy Mother Church during the baptismal ceremony includes these phrases: children of your promise, the grace of adoption, Abraham, father of nations. These phrases recall Paul's explanation that the promise to Abraham, not his rituals, was the foundation of the New Covenant. The waters of Baptism indicate a rebirth, imitating the water of the mother which breaks just before childbirth. At birth all children inherit gender, race, language, nationality, social status and the institutions that surround us. From birth we also participate in the hidden injustices of all social systems which can harden hearts to exclude "others" from benefits enjoyed by "Our Kind"

Baptism breaks the chain of inheritance. Through baptism we "die" to our inheritance and become children of God, equal to one another before God.

~Agnes Beirne, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord April 4th, 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

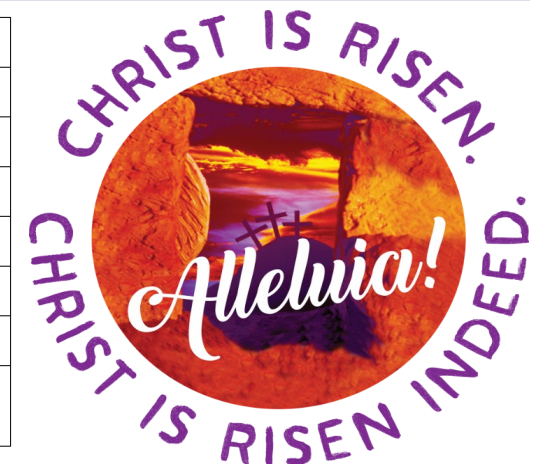
Sunday – 9:00 am & 4:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Times

Saturday – 4:00 pm

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
Mon	Acts 2:14-33	Psalm 16	Matthew 28:8-15
Tue	Acts 2:36-41	Psalm 33	John 20:11-18
Wed	Acts 3:1-10	Psalm 105	Luke 24:13-35
Thur	Acts 3:11-26	Psalm 8	Luke 24:35-48
Fri	Acts 4:1-12	Psalm 118	John 21:1-14
Sat	Acts 4:13-21	Psalm 118	Mark 16:9-15
Sun	Acts 4:32-35 John 20:19-3	Psalm 118	John 5:1-6



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$38.05**; Envelopes: **\$895.00**;
Share Lent: **\$70.00**; Hospital Chaplains: **\$20.00**;
Donation for Palms: **\$55.50**;
TOTAL: \$1078.55

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$5.00**; Envelopes: **\$195.00**;
TOTAL: \$200.00

St. Bartholomew's Cemetery

Masses: **\$225.00**

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

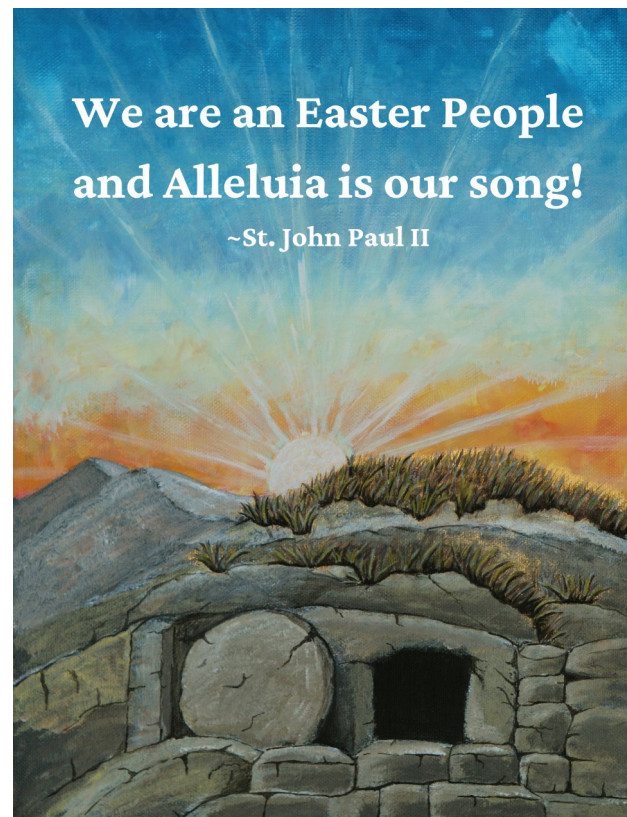
Sat	3	IC	8:30 pm	Faye Hudson†	Family
Sun	4	SP	11:00 am	Richard Murphy†	Phyllis S.
Tue	6	IC	4:00 pm	St. Anne	Sarah Hébert
Thur	8	IC	4:00 pm	Marie-Anne Chevarie	Geralda Comeau
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	11	IC	9:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Family
Sun	11	IC	4:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Terri	Stella
Sun	11	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Vina Judi	Gloria
Sun	11	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Stephen Bob	Stephanie

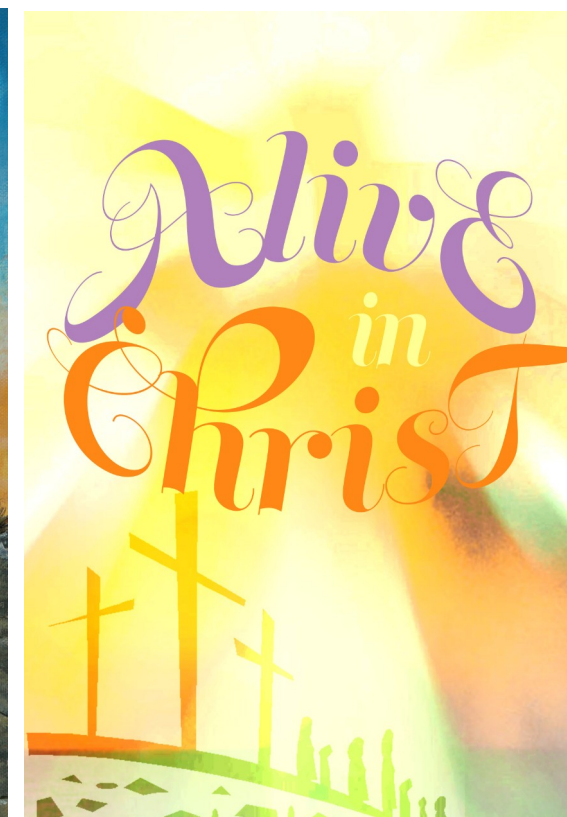
WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



We are an Easter People
and Alleluia is our song!

~St. John Paul II



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Chism Mass celebrated Wednesday, March 31, at 10:00 am. was recorded and is available on the diocesan website for viewing. www.diomoncton.ca

Who is My Neighbour: Exploring Fratelli Tutti Written as COVID-19 erupted, Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on the importance and necessity of a global social friendship, was released in October 2020. In this letter, which offers a hope of opening a "dialogue among all people of good will," for the building of a community that will sustain everyone, Francis invites us to "dream ... as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all." Dr. Andrew Wilson, associate professor of religious studies at Mount Allison University, Sackville, will explore the richness of this document, during a session on Tuesday, April 20th beginning at 7:00 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Riverview. You are welcome to gather physically (all COVID-19 protocols will be respect) or virtually for those not comfortable to join us in person. Please register with Ellen by Monday, April 19th and indicate whether you will be joining us physically or virtually.