

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today, the 4th Sunday of Easter, is the familiar parable of the Good Shepherd. Jesus said " I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father."

Growing up in a solid Catholic family and benefiting from Catholic schooling, I always had an image of shepherds as being kind, loving, patient, strong and self-sacrificing. And I also gathered that sheep can be rather stupid and foolish creatures (which may be a good symbol for us sometimes). Nevertheless, I always felt comfort in knowing that no matter what I did or how "far away" I wandered, what "wolf" came my way I knew I had the unwavering support of the Divine Shepherd. His love can be seen in the unwavering love of a parent, sibling, a priest, doctor nurse, teacher or dear friend.

The care of a shepherd is like a mother's love. One of the prime characteristics of motherhood is the courage to lay down your life for someone you love. the love is tender and yet can be fierce. It means teaching the difference between right and wrong. it means showing up, being present, caring, not expecting somebody else to handle it. It means compassion, knowing we are all in this together. It means supporting when necessary, encouragement when one is down, just always being there. When my mother died I had been happily married for 16 years with 2 children and yet I felt a deep loss of no longer having her to "come home" to. Throughout my life she was my Good Shepherd. I knew I could go to her for anything. It was difficult at first but then I realized that I could continue this legacy of being a strong mother. I hope my sons know they can "come home" anytime they need to. I also know I will do my utmost to protect them from the "wolf". Of course , it is not just mothers who do this. It is anyone in a mothering role, a father, or a godmother, a grandmother. They are all Good Shepherds, who lay down their lives for those they love.

Pope Francis has also compared priests to good shepherds. He calls on priests who are entrusted with the care of others to look after their flock. He knows it is a difficult life especially in our modern world. As a child growing up in the 50s, early 60s I caught a glimpse of what life was like for a priest. My mother's cousin was a priest and he would sometimes visit us on his vacation. However, he had to say Mass every day at that time. My sister and I would accompany him to the convent of Holy Cross Sisters where he would say Mass in their chapel. I thought "What kind of vacation is this? You don't even get to "not work". I admired him for his resiliency and personal sacrifice in his life as a priest. It gave me a respect for priests and their never-ending "work". Bob Russell wrote: " A good shepherd sacrifices. A priest sacrifices time, money and energy for his parishioners. they see that he is there. Integrity and consistency represent essential virtues for priests. His " flock" see that he is there to weep with them when they weep and rejoice with them when they rejoice. They know he cares."

Pope Francis also stated: " Let us be good sheep in the fold of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Our local parish is our sheepfold and our pastors are our shepherds. hence, as the good sheep of the parish, parishioners are expected to hear and follow the voice of their shepherds through their homilies, counselling and advice ; receive the spiritual food our pastors provide e.g. participation in Mass, receiving Holy Communion, cooperate with our pastors by encouraging them in their duties, praying for them. There are many good shepherds in our world. May they and we look to the Good Shepherd for support and guidance especially during our difficult time

~Cathy Keirstead, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25th, 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.Ss.R. 523-9788 (house) 233-6587 (cell)

Assistant: Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.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

	Acts	Psalm	John
Mon	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 42	John 10:1-10
Tue	Acts 11:19-26	Psalm 87	John 10:22-30
Wed	Acts 12:24-13:5	Psalm 67	John 12:44-50
Thur	Acts 13:13-25	Psalm 89	John 13:16-20
Fri	Acts 13:26-33	Psalm 2	John 14:1-6
Sat	Acts 13:44-52	Psalm 98	John 14:7-14
Sun	Acts 9:26-31 I John 3:18-24	Psalm 22	John 15:1-8

THE TRUE VINE



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$19.40**; Regular Envelopes: **\$1170.00**;
Misc. Donation: **\$300.00**;
TOTAL: \$1489.40

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$19.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$105.00**;
CEWS Reimbursement: **\$123.29**;
TOTAL: \$247.29

St. Bartholomew's Cemetery

Donation IMO Herman Warman: **\$25.00**;
Donation IMO Herman Warman: **\$100.00**;
TOTAL: \$125.00

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	24	SP	4:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	25	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Bill & Stuart
Sun	25	IC	4:00 pm	Johnny LeGoff†	Bob LeGoff
Tue	27	IC	4:00 pm	Len & Helen Carter†	Dick & Family
Thur	29	IC	4:00 pm	Ken Sawyer†	Dianne, Jeannine & Family
Sat	1	SP	4:00 pm	Emma LeBlanc†	Stella Campbell
Sun	2	IC	9:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Family
Sun	2	IC	4:00 pm	Odette & Ron Sawyer†	Dianne, Jeannine & Family

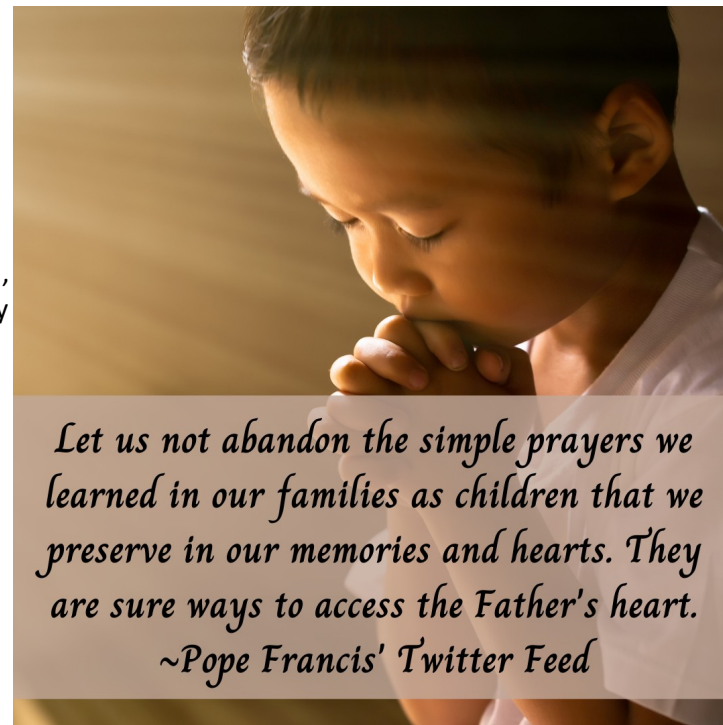
LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	1	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon	Stella
Sun	2	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Pat Vina	Judi
Sun	2	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Bob Donna	TBA

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Alverie Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle, Brenda Beers, and all residents in special care homes.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED at Immaculate Conception to fill various roles for both the 9:00 am and 4:00 pm masses. We are in particular need of ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, GREETERS and MASS COORDINATORS. You may want to commit to once a month, twice a month, or more if you wish. If you think you may be called to one of these important ministries, contact the parish office or speak to Fr. Bill or Fr. Bernard.



Let us not abandon the simple prayers we learned in our families as children that we preserve in our memories and hearts. They are sure ways to access the Father's heart.
~Pope Francis' Twitter Feed

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Faith Experiments Express 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 sessions will take place via Zoom on April 26th and May 10th at 6:30 pm. Register by contacting Karen at 387-4198 or ihmccatechism@rogers.com. **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.

Join the Conversation The Atlantic Association of Catholic Youth Ministers are seeking young people aged 12-24 to join a series of virtual conversations (via Zoom) originally initiated by the CCCB and the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network. These sessions are scheduled to take place on an ongoing basis beginning in May and will be an opportunity for young people across Atlantic Canada to gather and talk about issues important to them in 2021 and how we as a faith community can respond to them. All young people in this age range are welcome to join the conversation. For more information contact Trevor at 857-4879 or email trevord.diocese@gmail.com.

Mondays at the Movies Everyone is invited to join our film discussion series this Easter season designed to connect popular films to our faith. On May 3rd, we will meet via Zoom at 6:30 pm to discuss the film *Signs* (2002) starring Mel Gibson. For each session, participants will have watched the film ahead of time. Contact Karen for more information and to register at or ihmccatechism@rogers.com or 387-4198. **Mondays at the Movies** is a collaborative effort between St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit and the Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith Development.