

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: WE ARE ALL BRANCHES ON THE SAME VINE

“Whoever abides in me and I in them bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15: 5); we hear these words from Jesus in our Gospel reading this week. This is a lesson that is taking me a lifetime to learn, and in fact, is still a work in progress. More the second part of the statement than the first, as I don’t think there is much to debate in the first part. Having said that, there is not much to debate in the second part either, but please don’t tell my ego that. I have a long list of times I have ventured out on my own with less than desirable results.

Hindsight being 20/20, I can tell looking back that most of the occasions that brought me grief (of my own doing) was when I would react to something someone said or did in the moment, with my mouth going much faster than my brain. As I get older, I am seeing the value in silence until I can re-confirm my connection to the vine through prayer, and then respond as opposed to reacting. The wisdom in the old saying, “*keep your words soft and sweet, because one day you may have to eat them*” is becoming more apparent to me with each passing year.

When Kim and I were brand new parishioners at St. Augustine’s many years ago, there was a wonderful priest there named Fr. Ledwig Doyle. He was an assistant to Fr. Peter McKee and he exuded kindness and love. While ministering there he suffered a stroke which greatly affected his speech. I can remember Fr. Peter being asked by the Archbishop one day how Fr. Doyle was doing. Fr. Peter said, “Good, but he really has to think for a bit before he can speak”. The Bishop replied, “Pretty good advice for all of us, don’t you think?”

Turn on the news any given night and you will witness so much rhetoric. Whether it be from the United States, Canada, China, the U.K, etc., no one seems to be immune. In a time, globally and domestically, when we should be coming together to meet the many challenges that face us, our leaders seem more concerned with political posturing and playing to their base to insure re-election. And not just our leaders, we need to evaluate the roll we play in reducing suffering and conflict in our own lives. How do I respond to people who may not share my beliefs? or my thoughts on the church? or my views on polarizing social issues such as abortion or medical assistance in dying? Am I willing to acknowledge that the people who disagree with me are just as connected to the same vine that I am? To answer this for myself, I have to go back to an event in my family that happened years ago that has come to shape a lot of what I believe about church. I was raised in a traditional Roman Catholic home where God and Church came first and everything else second. When I was in my early teens, my older brother decided to leave the Catholic Church to become a Baptist minister. There are no words to adequately describe the upheaval in our family and the hurt, on both sides, that this caused. It was then that I learned that fighting over religion is the complete antithesis to what Jesus came to teach us.

Since then, I have worked hard to understand that the world does not have to agree with me, nor do I have to agree with whatever is currently popular thinking in the world. We can peacefully co-exist respecting each other and honouring the dignity we all have as children of God. That is the glue that binds us all together, and, also keeps us all connected to that vine. Remember, whenever you use the phrase, “us and them”, there is no them.

~Mark Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2ND, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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



Priest-Moderator:	Fr. Bill Bernard, C.Ss.R.	523-9788 (house)	233-6587 (cell)
Assistant:	Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R.	523-9788 (house)	

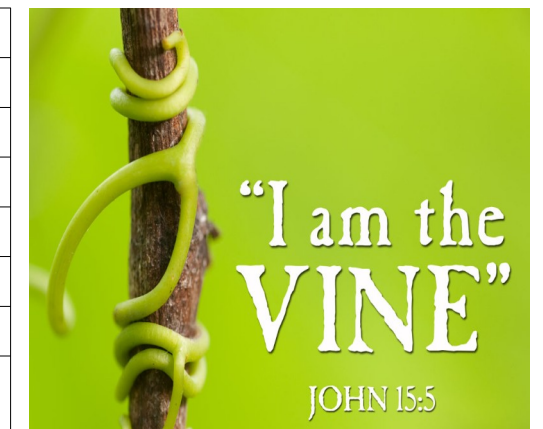
Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday – 9:00 am & 4:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Times

Saturday – 4:00 pm

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
Mon	1 Corinthians 15:1-8	Psalm 19	John 14:6-14
Tue	Acts 14:19-28	Psalm 145	John 14:27-31
Wed	Acts 15:1-6	Psalm 122	John 15:1-8
Thur	Acts 15:7-21	Psalm 96	John 15:9-11
Fri	Acts 15:22-31	Psalm 57	John 15:12-17
Sat	Acts 16:1-10	Psalm 100	John 15:18-21
Sun	Acts 10:25-48 I John 4:7-10	Psalm 98	John 15:9-17



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$114.75**; Regular Envelopes: **\$870.00**;

TOTAL: \$984.75

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$24.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$215.00**;

TOTAL: \$239.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$45.00**

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	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
Tue	4	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson†	Dick & Family
Thur	6	IC	4:00 pm	Albert Chevarie†	Geralda Comeau
Sat	8	SP	4:00 pm	Herman Warman†	Elizabeth & BeLinda Thompson
Sun	9	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Family
Sun	9	IC	4:00 pm	Eric Johnson, Sr.†	Elva & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	8	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon	Stella
Sun	9	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Corinne Gloria	Judi
Sun	9	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Stephen Donna	Stephanie

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021



Saint Joseph, Illustrious Descendant of David, Husband of the Mother of God, Foster-father of the Son of God, in dream you received from the Almighty the task of taking Mary as your wife and Jesus as your Son, conceived from the Holy Spirit, and of caring for them in the difficult beginnings of the New Covenant.

Intercede for us so that your example may remind us to care for the presence of Jesus and Mary in our lives, in the trials of today's world.

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.

In daily life, we can find the Risen One in the faces of our brothers and sisters above all in the poor and those on the fringes. We will be amazed how the greatness of God is revealed in littleness, how his beauty shines forth in the poor and simple.
~Pope Francis

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

VBS Express Virtual Vacation Bible School will take place on Zoom, June 7th-11th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm each evening. The theme of this year's program is *Wilderness Escape: Where God Guides and Provides*. The program is open to children throughout the diocese finishing kindergarten this year up to those finishing 6th Grade. Contact Trevor at 857-4879 / trevord.diocese@gmail.com to register.

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.