

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH: BACK TO BASICS

Whenever a coach feels his/her team is not living up to their potential, he/she will always say something typical like, "We've got to get back to basics." Without demoting anyone to the minor leagues, let's look at some of the basics of liturgy that we would do well to return to. I'll call them my seven deadly liturgical "sins". The first four "sins" we have little control over due to COVID; the next three we are totally in control of. A number of years ago in a document concerning liturgy, the American bishops wrote that good liturgy builds faith while poor liturgy destroys faith. Notice there's nothing in between. We are either being built up in faith, or we are going home after mass wondering why we did not simply go to the park and feed the ducks. Let's look at our situation here at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. There are some temporary accommodations, due to the pandemic, that fly in the face of good, meaningful, uplifting liturgy. We have taken these interim measures for the safety of all, after all, people are always more important than liturgy, even good liturgy. Always remember, though, they are interim.

### WHAT WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL OVER

- 1) We have not been able to shake hands and greet each other in the normal way during the "sign of peace." What a shame that the power of good, human touch has to be reduced to a nod from a distance.
- 2) We are not able to share in the Cup, the Blood of Christ, at Communion time. This is the hardest part for me. With the very words of Jesus on my lips, I look right into your eyes at Mass and say, "Take this all of you and drink from it..." yet I have no intention of giving it to you. Again, for the safety of all, we cannot do as Jesus asked us to do.
- 3) Our ability to participate in processions has been curbed. Hopefully, as pandemic restrictions are lifted we will have gathering processions at the beginning and end of Mass as well as Communion processions where we don't have to keep physical distancing going. Without such processions, the Body of Christ seems so fragmented.
- 4) We are not able to sing freely without masks. Again, this is a temporary measure. When the assembly is not singing (COVID or not), we have a Mass; when the assembly is singing, we have a celebration. While we are not in control of these four liturgical "sins" just know they are temporary measures but far, far, far from what good liturgy calls us to.

### WHAT WE ARE TOTALLY IN CONTROL OF

- 1) You have noticed that the Communion rite during COVID has changed. We have asked you not to respond "Amen" when you receive Communion. The priest or Communion minister will not be saying "The Body of Christ" to each individual. We do it collectively, that is, we all say together, "Amen" to start the Communion rite. There are no words exchanged after that. This is to minimize the chances of air-borne particles being transmitting. However, 25% of you still say, "Amen." Please don't do that. Here is an interesting fact. Before COVID, when you were expected to say, "Amen" at Communion, only 25% of you actually did. (This is not anecdotal but based on a sample size of 2-3 million over my 24 years as a priest). When you were encouraged to say "Amen," only 25% did so; when you were discouraged from saying, "Amen," 25% of you still do so. And you wonder why priests have so little hair!
- 2) There are still some of you following the readings and Eucharistic prayers in your missals. Some of you never look up into the face of the priest, the reader, nor your fellow parishioners. Remember, those personal missals are not liturgical texts and should not be used during liturgy. They are preparatory texts; you prepare at home with them. There are only two liturgical books that are to be used during Mass: the Lectionary (readings—Word of God) and the Sacramentary (Eucharistic prayers). What you hear at Mass is a proclamation and should never be reduced to multiple, simultaneous readings. God is speaking, look up!
- 3) There are a few couples and families that show up to Mass late week after week after week after week. This is very disruptive and shows little respect for the Body of Christ, the parishioners. On top of that, it is disrespectful of the presider, the music leader, and the readers. Anyone, including myself, can be late on any given Sunday. That's normal and perfectly forgivable. However, when the same few families show up late every week, it shows a lack of respect for everyone. This is the easiest thing on the list to correct.

These three last deadly liturgical "sins" are totally within our control, COVID or not. Let's make an effort to avoid bad habits. Remember, we are a team, a family. We are the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ deserves the best (not second, third, or fourth best) from the Body of Christ. Let's get back to basics, for the price we pay for shoddy liturgy is too high. Good liturgy builds faith. Poor liturgy destroys faith. And, there's nothing in between.

~Fr. Phil Mulligan, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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

<b><u>Priest-Moderator:</u></b>	Fr. Bill Bernard, C.Ss.R.	523-9788 (house)	233-6587 (cell)
<b><u>Assistant:</u></b>	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*

<b>Mon</b>	Acts 16:11-15	Psalm 149	John 15:26-16
<b>Tue</b>	Acts 16:22-34	Psalm 138	John 16:5-11
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 17:15-18	Psalm 148	John 16:12-15
<b>Thur</b>	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Mark 16:15-20
<b>Fri</b>	Acts 1:15-26	Psalm 113	John 15:9-17
<b>Sat</b>	Acts 18:23-28	Psalm 47	John 16:23-28
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23	Psalm 47	Mark 16:15-20



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$111.25**; Regular Envelopes: **\$800.00**;  
Mass Stipends (April): **\$48.00**; Votives: **\$64.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$1023.25**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$240.00**;  
Mass Stipends (April): **\$12.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$267.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Perpetual Care x 2: **\$200.00**;  
Cemetery Envelopes: **\$10.00**; **TOTAL: \$210.00**

### St. Patrick's Cemetery

Donation IMO James Delahunt: **\$100.00**

## 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	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
Tue	11	IC	4:00 pm	Special Intention	Dick Hudson
Thur	13	IC	4:00 pm	Lionel Comeau†	Geralda Comeau
Sat	15	SP	4:00 pm	Joe Millieat†	Flora Levi
Sun	16	IC	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	16	IC	4:00 pm	Edward & Mary Hannay†	Donna & Family

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	15	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon	Stella
Sun	16	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Intentions	Joyce Judi	Gloria
Sun	16	IC	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Intentions	Bob Stephen	?

## WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

**YAWNS NB** Dr. David Gardner is a professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax conducting research on sleeping pill use among those 65 years of age and older. The rate of sleeping pill use in NB is the highest in Canada, 23%, compared to 9% for the rest of the country, and Dr. Gardner is looking for people to participate in his research. For more information, visit [www.sleepstudy.ca](http://www.sleepstudy.ca).

**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.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

### Message From Pope Francis ~ May is the Month of Mary

Pope Francis invites us to rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary. He is requesting that during May 2021, the entire Church invokes the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and invites us to pray fervently for those most affected by it. Thirty Marian shrines have been chosen to take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church. Notre-Dame-du-Cap, in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, is among the Marian shrines chosen. The Vatican website offers some models of prayers to follow and interesting articles: [http://www.vatican.va/special/rosary/index\\_rosary.htm](http://www.vatican.va/special/rosary/index_rosary.htm)  
~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

**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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Contact Trevor at 857-4879 or email [trevord.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:trevord.diocese@gmail.com) to register.

### Amoris Laetitia

To mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the beauty and joy of love in the family, in March Pope Francis launched the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family," which continues until June 26, 2022. This special year will highlight the significance of the family within the domestic Church and will promote the importance of community ties among families through various spiritual, pastoral, and cultural proposals. One initiative, a collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, is a series of 10 short videos (one each month) which include a reflection of each of the ten chapters by the Holy Father, and families from across the world responding as they speak about varying aspects of their daily lives. Accompanying each video is a downloadable pastoral guide, which includes material for personal and community reflection. Both can be found at the following link: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorse/10-video-amoris-laetitia.htm>

*Loving contemplation, typical of the most intimate prayer, does not need many words. A gaze is enough. It is enough to be convinced that our life is surrounded by an immense and faithful love that nothing can ever separate us from.*  
~Pope Francis (General Audience)

