

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: Stumblers & Sinners

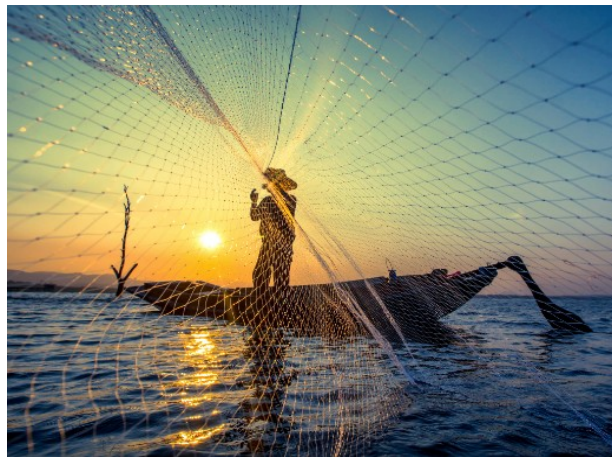
In the Pentecost narrative, we hear of Jesus' post-resurrection visit to his 12 BFFs, how they were infused with the Holy Spirit, and the instructions Jesus left them (and us) for sharing the Good News with the world. Jesus would have known his Apostles well enough to gauge their strengths and weaknesses and he would have understood how differently each of them would confront the task set out before them. I suspect the same was true then as now: We as people are blessed with quite different gifts and the Holy Spirit moves most vibrantly when those gifts are used not in competition with one another, but in a collaborative effort where we come together to form a completely different entity...the Body of Christ. The symbolic use of "body" is meant to suggest that our faith community is not static, each of us comes together to form a living, breathing, growing being where all the parts must collaborate with one another in sync to survive.

The personal challenge for me is to accept that while God has bestowed upon me many gifts, I also suffer from infirmities. In both cases the gifts and the infirmities exist whether they are visible to me or not. In a fun, ironic twist of human nature, sometimes I like to ignore my own infirmities and spend my time pointing out those I see in others.

In the 15 years I have served the Archdiocese of Moncton I have overheard the phrases "he's not Catholic enough," or "she's not Christian enough," and, "her Facebook page doesn't look very Catholic," or "they practice a watered-down Catholicism." For those who believe or who have been told they are not Catholic enough or not Christian enough, take comfort: The Apostles were a motley crew, inexperienced in being purveyors of Good News. They were recruited by Jesus from among the lowest classes, fishermen and day labourers and with a couple of exceptions, mostly illiterate. Lutheran pastor Nadia-Bolz-Weber wrote "...never once did Jesus scan the room for the best example of holy living and send that person out to tell others about him. He always sent stumblers and sinners." (*Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People, 2015*)

Well, that's good news.
Regular people with routine lives who were on a mission and were stronger together than separate. It would be interesting to see who Jesus would pick in 2021 as his BFFs and perhaps more importantly, would we listen to them?

~Trevor Drosbeck, Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith Development



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Solemnity of Pentecost May 23rd, 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.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			
Mon	Genesis 3:9-20	Psalms 87	John 19:25-34
Tue	Sirach 35:1-12	Psalms 50	Mark 10:28-31
Wed	Sirach 36:1-17	Psalms 79	Mark 10:32-45
Thur	Sirach 42:15-25	Psalms 3	Mark 10:46-52
Fri	Sirach 44:1-13	Psalms 149	Mark 11:11-26
Sat	Sirach 51:12-20	Psalms 8	Mark 11:27-33
Sun	Deuteronomy 4:32-40 Romans 8:14-17	Psalms 33	Matthew 28:16-20



The Holy Spirit Descends on Pentecost

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$40.35** Regular Envelopes: **\$890.00**; Papal Charities Envelopes: **\$25.00**; Faith Formation Env.: **\$5.00**; Propagation of the Faith Env.: **\$5.00**; Needs of Cdn. Church Env.: **\$5.00**
TOTAL: \$970.35

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **\$45.00**; Perpetual Care x 2: **\$200.00**; Funeral: **\$225.00**; Plots, Perpetual Care, Open/Close Grave x 2: **\$2,062.50**; Donation IMO Laurie McNairn: **\$50.00**; Donation: **\$50.00**.
Total: \$2,632.50



St. Peter's

Loose: **\$37.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$150.00**;
TOTAL: \$187.00

St. Peter's Cemetery

Cemetery Fund Env.: **\$20.00**

St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donation: **\$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	22	SP	4:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	23	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Dick & Family
Sun	23	IC	4:00 pm	Stewart Scarling†	Geralda Comeau
Tue	25	IC	4:00 pm	Emile Cormier†	Noella & Family
Thur	27	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson†	Paul & Anne Alice Leger
Sat	29	SP	4:00 pm	Exilda & William Vautour†	Stella & Yvon
Sun	30	IC	9:00 am	Eric Johnson, Sr.†	Elva & Family
Sun	30	IC	4:00 pm	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	29	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Stella
Sun	30	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Corinne Pat Judi
Sun	30	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Donna Bob ?

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



WE HOLD IN PRAYER the families and loved ones of those members of our local faith community who have recently died, including Helen Hudson, Raymond Perry, Tim O'Brien, and Diana Savoy. *May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console all those whose lives they touched.*

FINANCIAL REPORTS The Finance Committee for Our Lady of Hope has prepared the 2020 financial reports for St. Peter's, Immaculate Conception, St. Bartholomew's, St. Patrick's, and St. James. Copies of reports for Immaculate Conception, St. Peter's and St. Patrick's will be available at the back of the church. Copies of all reports can be obtained by contacting the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS STILL 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



Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

O glorious Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and Patron of our Country, Canada, we implore your prayers and guidance as we seek to live as children of our heavenly Father in these trying times. Pray for our Country so we may live in obedience to God's laws and inspire all of us to live Christ's great command of love by caring for one another as you did in raising your family in the ways of God yet through all difficulties and tribulations.

V. O Saint Joseph, righteous and loving in the sight of God,

R. **Lead us on the path of holiness.**

(From the Consecration to St. Joseph (CCCB))

More resources to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph can be found at the CCCB website at the following link: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/celebrating-the-year-of-saint-joseph/>

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 or email trevord.diocese@gmail.com to register.

