

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: Small Things with Great Love

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”
 (St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

A few weeks ago I ran into a student I had taught in Middle School over 40 years ago. He related how he was so grateful for the conversations we had shared, and that he wanted me to know that he had “taken my advice,” and had gone into a field of study he has now come to love. I was ashamed to realize that I had only vague memories of the student, and had no recollection of any words of advice I may have given him so many years ago. I was also reminded of the responsibility I had had as a teacher, and the potential impact my words may have had for students at such a vulnerable age.

How many times in the course of a day are we confronted with situations in which we have the choice to react in either a kind and forgiving manner, or in a judgmental and belligerent manner or perhaps to turn away with indifference? However we respond in those moments, the consequences of our words and actions are not always immediately evident but they can have lasting effects on those with whom we’ve interacted. A harsh word of criticism or belittling humour can scar a person’s sense of self for a long time, while a word of compassionate understanding or the forgiveness of someone’s lapse in good judgment, can redirect the offender’s life in new and positive directions. We may never come to know the consequences of our words or actions.

I thought of my former students when I read Mark’s gospel of today that contains two parables. One parable relates how a farmer plants seeds but doesn’t really understand how the seed becomes a plant which he can then harvest for food. The second parable tells how a mustard seed, (a very tiny seed), has the potential to grow into a very large shrub that provides shade and protection for many nesting birds. A mustard seed’s potential is often used in Scripture to show how just a little bit of faith can allow someone to accomplish great things with the help of God’s grace. I was lead to understand as a child, that this kind of “faith” referred to the belief in statements the church deemed to be true. I have since come to understand that the “faith” described by Jesus is more about a basic trust in God’s desire to be a part of our life, in God’s caring love for all of humanity and a belief in the inherent goodness in all that God has created. To live our life from a perspective of this kind of faith is both powerful and transformative! How different we would live if we believed deep within us that we are known, wanted and loved by God and that everyone else around us is given this same unconditional gift? It would diminish many of our doubts and fears, and lead us to live with confident joy and hope. It allows us to transform our own worries into the courage we need to help in the concerns of others. It transforms our need to judge the faults of others into patience and forgiveness of another’s mistakes and weaknesses.

When we allow God to plant the little mustard seed of faith deep in our hearts; a faith that proclaims from within us, “I believe in your goodness, O Lord, and in the goodness of all you have created,” then our ability to react to situations with the heart and mind of God’s love has limitless possibilities. It anchors and emboldens us to become the child that God created us to be and motivates us to show others that they, too, have the same “mustard seed” potential inside them.

~Mary Joshi, Queen of All Saints Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 13th, 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

St. Peter's Mass Times

Sunday – 9:00 am & 4:00 pm

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
Mon	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Psalm 98	Matthew 5:38-42
Tue	2 Corinthians 8:1-9	Psalm 146	Matthew 5:43-48
Wed	2 Corinthians 9:6-11	Psalm 112	Matthew 6:1-18
Thur	2 Corinthians 11:1-11	Psalm 111	Matthew 6:7-15
Fri	2 Corinthians 11:18-30	Psalm 34	Matthew 6:19-23
Sat	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Psalm 34	Matthew 6:24-34
Sun	Job 38:1-11 2 Corinthians 5:14-17	Psalm 107	Mark 4:35-41



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$115.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$900.00**;
 Mass Stipends: **\$54.00**; Donation: **\$100.00**;
 Church Supper Donation: **\$100.00**;
TOTAL: \$1269.00

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$34.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$495.00**; Mass
 Stipends: **\$15.00**; Municipal Election: **\$250.00**
TOTAL: \$794.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **TOTAL: \$90.00**

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	12	SP	4:00 pm	Jim & Jane Murphy†	Stella & Yvon
Sun	13	IC	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	13	IC	4:00 pm	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Family
Tue	15	IC	4:00 pm	Cecile Chevarie†	Geralda Comeau
Thur	17	IC	4:00 pm	Raymond Perry†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sat	19	SP	4:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Redemptorists
Sun	20	IC	9:00 am	Emile Cormier†	Janet & Alban
Sun	20	IC	4:00 pm	Bernard Burgess†	A Parishioner

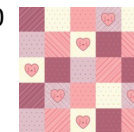
LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat	19	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon	Stella
Sun	20	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Vina	Judi
Sun	20	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Stephen	?

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

SOUTH BRANCH QUILT RAFFLE tickets are now available at a cost of \$2.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for a book of three tickets. The draw will take place on Saturday, September 11th with all proceeds going to St. Peter's parish. Please contact Karen Boisvert for information/tickets at 523-6225 or email kboisvert67@gmail.com.



STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE TAKE-OUT The *Rexton Senior Citizens Housing Inc.* is hosting a curbside pickup of "Strawberry Shortcake Delight" on Wednesday, July 7th, 2021, from 3-6 pm. Drive-Thru at 24 Cail Court, the cost is \$5.00. Proceeds will go towards the new concrete patios and privacy wall. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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.



Your census. Your community. Your future.

Complete your census today!
www.census.gc.ca

Statistis Canada / Statistique Canada

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis has declared this the year of Saint Joseph. One of the many things Saint Joseph is known for is providing for the Holy Family. With this in mind, the Adult Faith Commission is seeking to partner with organizations who are working to feed those less fortunate in our community. We recently met with Alicia Clarkson from the Peter McKee Community Garden and she gave a wonderful presentation on the work they are currently doing and their plans for the future.

When asked what their most pressing needs are she responded with "seeds and funding". Some of the seeds they would be looking for are **Carrots** (Tenderly Emperor, Scarlet Nantes), **Lettuce** (Buttercrunch, Little Gem, Romaine) and **Tomato** (Prudens Purple, San Morzano). Also, gift cards to hardware stores or garden centers are always useful.

As far as funding. They currently have 101 Garden Boxes on the go; of the 101, only 16 are currently being sponsored. You can sponsor a box for \$200 for the year. This will provide seeds, soil and maintenance, updates, a charitable tax receipt, and the good grown in your name will go to the food bank, or a family in need. Also, for the \$200 there will be a sign put up with the information of the sponsor.

If you would like more information about this, please check out their Facebook page or email Alicia at alicia.clarkson@fooddepot.ca

AFC Committee members: Mike Jefferies, Susan McCarthy, Debbie Theriault, Mark Mahoney, Fr. Phil Mulligan.

