

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: CHRIST ASLEEP WITHIN MY BOAT

A verse from a song that I learned in Religious Education many years ago has been echoing in my head ever since I read this week's scripture passages:

*I saw Christ in wind and thunder.
Joy is tried by storm.
Christ asleep within my boat,
whipped by wind yet still afloat.
Joy is tried by storm.*

Whether we are talking about the personal storms that I see each day in the hospital, the current global storms such as the pandemic and climate change, or the multi-generational storms of racism and cultural genocide, the storms of life seem to be unending. There are days when I say, "where is God?" or "How can God allow these things to happen?!" Yet even as I ask these questions (or on a particularly difficult day, even as I shout these questions into the solitude of my car on my drive home), I know that the answer to the first is: God is with us, right in the middle of the most difficult things. And the answer to the second is: it's complicated.

God is with us. I remember reading today's gospel story as a child and marveling at the foolishness of the disciples who were so upset about the storm when they could see that Jesus was right there. Of course, they weren't going to drown! If Jesus was in the boat with you, the storm was more like an amusement park ride than a real storm. It would have been okay to be scared if they were kids, but adults should know better! As an adult, I have a lot more sympathy for the disciples and yet my child self was correct: if I know that Jesus is with me, what is there to worry about?



Each Sunday when we celebrate the Eucharist, we are proclaiming that Jesus is with us in the worst storms of our life. The Eucharist is the reminder that the paschal mystery is not simply an historical event that was completed nearly two thousand years ago. The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus exist both within and outside of time. Yes, they are part of our historical past; but they are also part of the eternal now. Whenever we are suffering, we are side by side with Jesus on the cross. The suffering is real, but we are not alone; and because we are not alone, suffering will never be the end of the story.

Of course, even if suffering is not the end of the story, I am still left with the question of why suffering is necessary. The answer to that question is found in God's words to Job: "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? – when I made the clouds its garment, and prescribed bounds for it ..." The universe – time and space – is incredibly complicated, and God keeps it all in balance. When I say, "how can God allow this?" I am presuming that I am capable of understanding how everything is held in balance; and I am presuming that God has forgotten! The problem is not with asking why God allows suffering – asking questions is part of growing in faith. The problem is in my unspoken assumption that I know a better way.

Today's readings are a reminder that faith means trusting God even when we do not understand.

~Pam Driedger, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 20th, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton



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

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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

	Genesis	Psalms	Matthew
Mon	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalms 33	Matthew 7:1-5
Tue	Genesis 13:2-18	Psalms 15	Matthew 7:6,12-14
Wed	Genesis 15:1-12	Psalms 105	Matthew 7:15-20
Thur	Isaiah 49:1-6 Acts 13:22-36	Psalms 139	Luke 1:57-66,80
Fri	Genesis 17:1	Psalms 128	Matthew 8:1-4
Sat	Genesis 18:1-15	Luke 1:46-55	Matthew 8:5-17
Sun	Wisdom 1:13-24 2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Psalms 30	Mark 5:21-43



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$35.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$555.00**;
Other Donations: **\$120.00**; Votives: **\$144.00**;
TOTAL: \$854.00

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$40.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$130.00**;
TOTAL: \$170.00

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	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
Tue	22	IC	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Thur	24	IC	4:00 pm	Raymond Perry†	Huguette & Alverie
Sat	26	SP	4:00 pm	Howard Murphy†	Stella & Yvon
Sun	27	IC	9:00 am	Penny Robichaud†	Alban & Janet
Sun	27	IC	4:00 pm	Emile Cormier†	Noella & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	26	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Stella
Sun	27	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Pat Gloria
Sun	27	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Bob ?

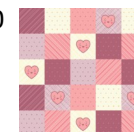
WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS will be included in this weekend's bulletin as an insert. These FAQs were prepared by Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. Additional copies will be made available in the church.

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.



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.

