

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – TO BE A PRIEST

For this week's reflection I am going to digress a little from reflecting on the reading/gospel theme though there is mention of "priests" as has been a current theme these past few weeks, I would like to reflect on what it means to be a PRIEST. Priests are there from Baptism, first Penance, first Communion, Confirmation; for some, commitment in marriage ; when the elderly of infirm are anointed with the oil of the sick ; presiding at funeral rites consoling the bereaved. In between, a priest offers Holy Mass ; catechizes the faithful in faith and morals; advises the young; comforts the suffering; advises the confused ; encourages the struggling ; visits the ailing ; heartens the immigrant; promotes justice and peace and intercedes for all in prayer. All a priest does is done in conformity with Jesus Christ, who with a brother's love called each to form a heart after His own.

A priest is expected to love others more than he loves himself for he has been chosen to represent Christ's love in a world that has become skeptical of his worth and all too often heedless of his admonitions. There can be great discouragement and frustration especially when priests are not as trusted as they used to be. Coping with the early days of the pandemic must have been particularly difficult for priests who usually live "alone" in a rectory making life even lonelier than usual. The pandemic has prevented priests from doing all they could for their people but , as true representatives of Christ, they are weathering the storm.

A priest has a BIG HEART: a Father's Heart... a spiritual father who listens to his children's problems and advises and helps them overcome the difficult moments of life

..... a Brother's Heart.... a priest is a brother to all. Like a brother, everyone is important to him- no matter who they are or what they do they can be assured that, in the priest, they have a brother they can trust.

..... a Friend's Heart.... a priest is one of the best friends one could have. we know we can rely on him no matter what; he will always be there when we need him and will care because he wants the best for all of us.

..... Ultimately, a priest's heart is full of generosity and kindness. He is willing to give away his time , his energy , his possessions, even his heart for god and His people.

Now to get to the HEART of the matter ; I want to reflect on one priest in particular as he celebrates his 56th birthday on November 14th.... our own Father Phil Mulligan. All the previous words describing priests can be applied to Father Phil. Phil was born in Aylmer Quebec, just across the border from Ottawa Ontario. I grew up in Renfrew Ontario, about an hour's drive from Ottawa and very close to the Quebec border. It means a lot to me that he knows where I'm from. He is from a Catholic family of 8 (6 boys and 2 girls). I wonder if they all have that red tinge to their hair too. His father is still alive and Phil was finally able to enjoy a " wonderful visit" this past August after a long time of separation due to Covid restrictions. He was ordained on Aug. 23 , 1997 and has been an ideal example of a priest you could ever want. Father Phil keeps it all simple and real for the people. He takes the Scriptures and brings them to life with stories from real life experiences. He has built a true faith community - his constant reminder of community in all we do. He would never ask more of anyone than he asks from himself. Pope Francis has stated that " a sense of humour is one of the characteristics of holiness' and Fr. Phil certainly has that sense of humour. His helpful and understanding manner highlights his special character and is inspiring for everyone. He has unmeasurable faith and dedication to his churches (4 churches in his parish grouping) and to his parishioners. We are so grateful to have him not only as our parish priest but as our friend. " So here we all gather and are all proud to know, you are our Father just so you know."

In the sport of Golf there is a Mulligan. A mulligan is a do-over - usually for tee shots that go awry. Well, Fr. Phil is a "Mulligan" but he doesn't need a do-over. If God was golfing he wouldn't need a mulligan in directing our Father Phil... everything is just right! ~Cathy Kierstead, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

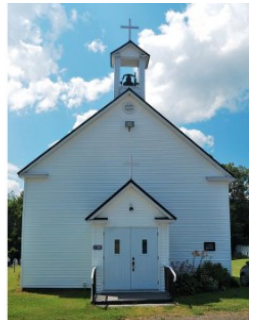
~Cathy Kierstead, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 November 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5
Phone: 506-523-6817 ~ Fax: 506-717-0245

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. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R. 523-9788 Cell Phone: 889-0344

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday – 9:00 am & 4:00 pm (until further notice)
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week			
Mon	1 Micah 1:10-63	Psalms 119	Luke 18:35-43
Tue	2 Micah 6:18-31	Psalms 3	Luke 19:1-10
Wed	2 Micah 7:1,20-31	Psalms 171	Luke 19:11-28
Thur	1 Micah 2:15-29	Psalms 50	Luke 19:41-44
Fri	1 Micah 4:36-49	1 Chr 29	Luke 19:45-48
Sat	1 Micah 6:1-13	Psalms 9	Luke 20:27-40
Sun	Deuteronomy 7:13-14 Revelation 1:5-8	Psalms 93	John 18:33-37

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$115.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$625.00**;

Mass Stipends Oct. **\$42.00**

TOTAL: \$782.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$90.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$45.00**; Envelopes: **\$240.00**;

Total: \$285.00

St. James Cemetery

Donations IMO Bob Daigle: **\$60.00**

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	13	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Judy Cormier
Sun	14	IC	9:00 am	Katherine Hatt†	Bill LeGoff
Sun	14	IC	4:00 pm	George R. Simon†	Alfred Clement
Tue	16	IC	4:00 pm	Adlard & Jackie Hebert†	Mina Richard
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	Brenda Warham†	Claire Murphy
Sun	21	IC	9:00 am	Nathalie LeGoff†	Bill & Stuart
Sun	21	IC	4:00 pm	Carl & Marie Welsh†	Dick & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	21	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Pat Vina	Gloria
Sun	21	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Bob Corinne	

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



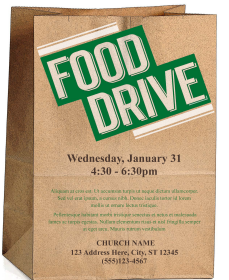
2021 MEMORIAL TREE Help support our cemeteries by purchasing your Memorial Tree bulb in memory of a loved one. Bulbs are \$10.00 each with all proceeds going to the cemeteries. For South Branch call Stella @ 955-3612 or Carol @ 523-6389 and for Rexton call Trevor at the Parish Office @ 523-6817. **Please submit your requests for Memorial Tree bulbs by the end of November.**

CATECHISM/SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION Fr. Bernard would like to hear from all parents whose children are due to receive sacraments. **Please contact the parish office by the end of November** to let us know if you are seeking sacraments for your children.

2022 SUNDAY MISSALS are on back-order, and are expected to arrive within two weeks. 2022 Parish Envelopes for South Branch & Rexton should also arrive shortly.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to Mark Scoretz and his family, whose father recently passed away in British Columbia.

MATHIEU RICHARD FOOD DRIVE will take place on Saturday, November 20th from 10:00 am until noon. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at Saint-Ignace de Loyola Church (Saint-Ignace), Saint-Louis des Francais (Saint-Louis) and St. James (Kouchibouguac). Cash donations will also be accepted, with all food and money going to the Richibucto Food Bank. When you arrive, youth and adult volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves to collect your donation so you will not have to leave your vehicle.



DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES Connecting faith to popular films, will meet again on November 29th at 10:30 am via Zoom when we will be discussing the 1947 version of *Miracle on 34th Street*. All participants will have watched the film prior to the session, register with Trevor or Karen at catechism.set@gmail.com or 387-4198. Register online by going to www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development and click on the poster for Mondays @ The Movies.

FAITH EXPERIMENTS EXPRESS Learn about faith and scripture using science experiments (for grades 1-6). We will be holding another Faith Experiments Express (via Zoom) on Monday, November 29th at 6:00 pm. Register with Trevor or with Karen at 387-4198, catechism.set@gmail.com. Register online by going to www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development and click on the poster for Faith Experiments Express.



Memory. To remember means "to return with the heart". It is good for us to nurture our memory with those who have loved us, taken care of us, lifted us up. The Heart of Jesus reminds us that whatever happens to us in life, we are loved.

~Pope Francis via Twitter