

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ FAITH IN ACTION

In today's Second Reading, James teaches that faith must be demonstrated in one's works. "What good is it, if you say you have faith, but do not have works? If a brother or sister is without clothing and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I, by my works, will show you my faith."

James puts a special emphasis on the fact that our faith cannot be empty or shallow. We must put our faith into action if it is to mean anything at all. We could substitute the term "positive actions" for good works. The more positive actions we perform, the more we remain in friendship with God. The challenge is to look for opportunities to put faith into action, and to take them when they come. There are simple, practical examples of how we can put these "good deeds" into practice:

- Smile. Be kind.
- Use your manners.
- Help a friend in need.
- Think of something you do well and use your talent to benefit others, like reading to or playing games with a senior at a retirement home or playing music at a nursing home.
- Offer to cook or clean for the family of someone who has recently given birth.
- Plant a vegetable garden and donate the vegetables to a food kitchen.
- Take food to a new neighbour.
- Take part in a literacy program to help children or adults learn to read.
- Make a double batch of something delicious and freezable and give it to an older neighbour who doesn't cook for himself or herself as much anymore.
- Praise a colleague's good work or compliment prompt service at a fast-food restaurant.
- Treat a friend to dinner.
- Find unneeded items in your house and donate them to a charitable organization.
- Add yourself to a bone marrow registry.
- Donate blood.
- Volunteer at an organization of your choice, like breakfast program at a local school, food bank.
- Ask, "What did I DO to my family today? What did I do FOR my family today? If we remembered that every person is part of our family in a metaphorical sense, perhaps we would treat people with more patience, kindness, and thoughtfulness.

The Second Reading triggered some rather personal thoughts for me. I question when someone says "Well, so-and-so isn't going to Mass anymore so isn't a practicing Catholic. I challenge that because I have a sister who "left the Church" years ago. She married a non-Catholic and didn't have someone to go to Church with, so soon lost the habit of attending Mass. Some would say she's not Catholic anymore and I disagree. If you met her, you'd soon see that SHE is the true Catholic. She babysits for the young couple across the street where she lives and doesn't ask for payment. She wants them to get out together for some time needed together. She volunteers at the Hospice in her city and is active in raising money to fund this beautiful "end of life" facility. She helps in activities at a home where dementia residents live. She is the first to bring food to someone who has been laid up; the first to offer help when needed. She accompanied a young friend to her chemo treatments and was there for her as a support system. She belongs to a group that gives money to schools for lunch programs and the school's book fairs so that all children can buy their own books to keep. My sister is kind, gentle and unerringly authentic, who gives of her time freely and asks nothing in return. She is the epitome of a true Catholic. Her faith is active in her works every day of her life. I'm sure you all know someone like my sister. Let us not be judgmental of his/her Catholicism.

In conclusion, let us pray that we respond to the person and message of Jesus, not by words as James says in the second reading, but by ATTITUDES and ACTIONS that reflect the radical vision of Catholic life, that put FAITH into ACTION.

~Cathy Keirstead

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 12th, 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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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

Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
Mon	1 Timothy 2:1-8	Psalms 28	Luke 7:1-10
Tue	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 78	John 3:13-17
Wed	1 Timothy 3:14-16	Psalms 111	John 3:13-17
Thur	1 Timothy 4:12-16	Psalms 111	Luke 7:36-50
Fri	1 Timothy 6:2-12	Psalms 49	Luke 8:1-3
Sat	1 Timothy 6:13-16	Psalms 100	Luke 8:4-15
Sun	Wisdom 2:12-20 James 3:16-4:3	Psalms 54	Mark 9:30-37



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$20.10; Regular Envelopes: \$1150.00;
Faith Formation Env.: \$205.00; Baptism
Donation: \$40.00; **TOTAL: \$1415.10**

St. Peter's

Loose: \$25.00; Envelopes: \$385.00; Mass Stipends:
\$9.00; Faith Formation Env.; \$45.00; **Total: \$464.00**

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

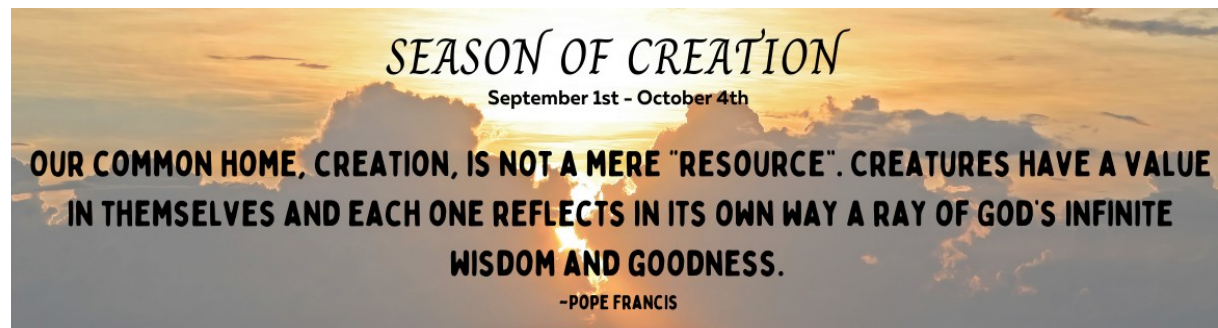
Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	Ed Connolly†	Trudy & Jack
Sun	12	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Jeanne Warren
Tue	14	IC	4:00 pm	~MASS CANCELLED~	~MASS CANCELLED~
Sat	18	SP	4:00 pm	Wallace Best†	Lois & Richard
Sun	19	IC	9:00 am	Earl Walsh†	Leopold Richard

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	18	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois / Sharon Stella
Sun	19	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Vina Bob

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



MASS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH IS CANCELLED as Fr. Bernard will be in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré.

WELCOME! The faith community of Our Lady of Hope welcomes **Julianna Salamana**, who was baptized by Fr. Bernard on Sunday, September 5th with her parents Jerome and Juda Salamana present.

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK is offering two (2) Scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 each, they will be awarded to one (1) student studying in a French educational institution and one (1) student studying in an English educational institution. Students must be entering their second year of studies or later, in a post-secondary program in the field of health care. Information and application forms are available online at . Applications must be postmarked by September 30th 2021. For further information please email catholichealth@chpci.com.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Have a New Name!

Effective September 1, the former Offices of Faith Development and Youth Faith Development will fall under the umbrella of one **Office for Evangelization and Catechesis**. This change better reflects the movement of the universal church toward acknowledging that catechesis *and* evangelization go hand in hand as we accompany adults, youth, and children on their journeys of faith. It will also put us in sync with the National Office for Evangelization and Catechesis at the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Tending the Soil, Tending the Sower, 2021

This year's catechists formation will take place on September 18th at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Riverview beginning at 8:30 a.m. and finishing by 2:00 pm. This year's presenters will be Trevor Dreesbeck (*Faithful Voices: Conversations with Canadian Young People*), Claudette Derdaele (*Listening, Attending, Preparing, and Hearing*), and Margot McAloon-Parker from the Diocese of Saint John (*Accompanying Families: Wisdom from the New Directory for Catechesis*). Pre-registration is necessary and may be done through the diocesan website: www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Children's Catechesis → Formation Opportunities. You may also contact Ellen at 857-9951 / ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com or Trevor at 857-4879 / trevord.diocese@gmail.com for more information. Registration deadline is September 15th. **Participation in this day of formation is critical for all those who will be catechist coaches or helpers with children's catechesis.**

Mondays @ The Movies

Join us for our film discussion series (on Zoom) designed to help us connect our faith to the films we watch. Our next two discussions will take place at 10:30 AM on September 27th (*To Kill A Mockingbird*), and October 18th (*The Village*). For more information or to register, contact Karen at 387-4198 or Trevor at 857-4879.

Upcoming Meetings:

Adult Faith Commission: Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament Preparation Committee: Thursday, September 16th at 2:30 p.m.