

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE**

Today's gospel had me pause often as I find the subject to be touchy, divorce! I had almost a full page written out then I stopped, read, and erased everything. This happened to me twice. I'm not going to lie, I'm happy I'm not the having to preach today's gospel. We live in a time where divorce is a common and acceptable practice. We've all heard the statistics; fifty percent of marriages end in divorce and over sixty five percent of second marriages end in divorce. I researched these statistics. I couldn't find anything to confirm about second marriages, but I was able to find that in Canada the rate of divorce is forty percent, but only because the "practice" of marriage is on the decline. Did you know that the average marriage in Canada today only lasts fourteen years? I've been married for five and according to this statistic, I can expect to possibly be divorced in nine years. What a distressing thought! Instead of focusing on the gospel, I want to particularly focus on the beauty of what God did for man when he created the woman (and I don't mean in the girl power kind of way).

The creation story from the book of Genesis speaks of the woman being created from the man's rib and from "the bones of my bones and the flesh of my flesh". It states that "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner". How wonderful that woman was created as a companion and a partner for man. Her being created directly from his rib and his flesh speaks to the unity of the relationship. Woman was created as a compliment to man, as an integral part of his being. This creation story also speaks of the spiritual ideal where both man and woman come together and become one flesh. This does not imply in any way diminishment, as though the woman disappears into the man or vice-versa but rather that something new is created in which there is increased greatness for the two that become one. To quote Pope Francis: "This is what marriage is all about – Man and woman walking together, wherein the husband helps his wife to become ever more a woman, and wherein the wife has the task of helping her husband to become ever more a man".

Marriage is a celebration of creation and of God's love, it is clearly a gift. People believe that marriage is just any two people making a commitment to one another when in fact the spousal bond between two baptized people is elevated to a sacrament and this sacrament builds up our church community and our society.

~Katy Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
3 October 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

<i>Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week</i>			
<b>Mon</b>	Jonah 1:1-2:2,11	Jonah 2	Luke 10:25-37
<b>Tue</b>	Jonah 3:1-10	Psalms 130	Luke 10:38-42
<b>Wed</b>	Jonah 4:1-11	Psalms 86	Luke 11:1-4
<b>Thur</b>	Malachi 3:13-20	Psalms 1	Luke 11:5-13
<b>Fri</b>	Joel 1:13-15	Psalms 9	Luke 11:15-26
<b>Sat</b>	Joel 4:12-21	Psalms 97	Luke 11:27-28
<b>Sun</b>	Wisdom 7:7-11 Hebrews 4:12-13	Psalms 90	Mark 10:17-30



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$63.80**; Regular Envelopes: **\$775.00**;  
Needs of Cdn. Church Env.: **\$300.00**;

**Total: \$1138.80**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Perpetual Care: **\$200.00**

### St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donations: **\$150.00**

### Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$60.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$37.29** Envelopes: **\$110.00**;  
Needs of Cdn. Church Env.: **\$25.00**;

Funeral Mass & Music: **\$200.00**; **Total: \$372.29**

### St. Peter's Cemetery

Donation IMO Leon Vautour: **\$20.00**

### South Branch Quilt Raffle

Donation: **\$50.00**; **Running Total: \$1371.00**

## 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	2	SP	4:00 pm	Noella Cormier†	Claire Murphy
Sun	3	IC	9:00 am	Roger Poirier†	Bill LeGoff & Stuart Ward
Sun	3	IC	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	A Parishioner
Tue	5	IC	4:00 pm	Ernest Richard†	Mina Richard
Sat	9	SP	4:00 pm	Raymond Murphy†	Claire
Sun	10	IC	9:00 am	Frank LeGoff†	Bill LeGoff
Sun	10	IC	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Nancy & Bill Parker

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	9	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	10	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Intentions	Vina Gloria
Sun	10	IC	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Intentions	Stephen ?

## WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

**THE COMMUNITY MOURNS THE LOSS** of *Leon Vautour* who passed away on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep in your prayers his family and those whose lives he touched.

**WE WELCOME TO THE FAITH COMMUNITY** Sapphire Blythe Gaña Mendez, who was baptized on September 19<sup>th</sup> at Immaculate Conception, with her parents Shiela Mae and Phryme present.

**COVID-19 UPDATE** We have returned to the COVID-19 protocols in place before we entered into the Green Level of Recovery. This means that while proof of vaccination will not be required to attend mass or baptisms, we must operate at 50% capacity with social distancing between household bubbles, everyone must be masked at all times, there will be no congregational singing, and disinfection must take place following each mass. Contact tracing will resume, and anyone experiencing COVID-like symptoms should refrain from attending mass. For those attending funerals or weddings, ID and proof of vaccination must be provided. **Please note that in addition to the 9:00 am Sunday Mass, Fr. Bernard will resume the 4:00 pm Sunday Mass** and will continue until further notice. If possible, we ask that those who regularly attended the 4:00 pm mass resume attending that mass, and those who regularly attended the 9:00 am mass resume attending that mass. For updates and a detailed list of protocols, check the website or Facebook page for Our Lady of Hope, or the diocesan website at [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca).

**CHANGE IN FAX NUMBER FOR PARISH OFFICE** Please note that the parish office has switched to internet-based fax, which required a new fax number. **The new fax number for the parish office is 506-717-0245.**

**ST. PETER'S & IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CEMETERIES** We ask those who have put flowers on the graves of loved ones (in both South Branch and Rexton) to please remove them by Thanksgiving (October 11<sup>th</sup>). Removing the flowers will prevent them from scattering around the church properties and into the yards of nearby residences over the winter.

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DEVELOPMENT & PEACE** In Canada, most people are able to speak out when injustice occurs. In many countries in the South, however, communities seeking to protect their rights, including their right to a healthy environment, are threatened. This climate of insecurity is often fueled by the presence and influence of mining, agrifood, textile and other companies on their territory. Some of these companies are Canadian. With courage, many vulnerable communities choose to defend their territory and environment against the preponderance of economic interests. This year, take the opportunity to express your solidarity with them and celebrate their work by joining Development and Peace's People and Planet First campaign! To learn more, attend the October 30 virtual workshop (in English). For more information, contact: Adah Ogbe, English Animator at 902 429-9489, email: [aogbe@devp.org](mailto:aogbe@devp.org) or visit our campaign website at [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org) (see Events section, all the details on workshops are there).

**MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES** Join us for our film discussion series (on Zoom) designed to help us connect our faith to popular films. Our next discussion will take place at 10:30 AM on October 18<sup>th</sup> when we will be talking about *The Village* (2004) directed by M. Night Shyamalan. For more information or to register, contact Karen at 387-4198 or Trevor at 857-4879.