

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ THANKSGIVING – THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

Interesting bit of trivia...did you know the feast of Thanksgiving has been officially observed as an annual holiday in Canada since November 6th, 1879?!? Some years later, on January 31st, 1957, the Governor General of Canada at the time (Vincent Massey) issued a proclamation stating, "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed – to be observed on the second Monday in October." I understand that many in 2021 observe Thanksgiving as a secular celebration but for people of faith it would be difficult for us to give thanks for our blessings without calling to mind the gifts bestowed upon us by God.

I truly love this time of year when warm sweaters are hauled out of storage while our parishes are decorated with corn stalks, pumpkins, other assorted gourdes, cornucopia...all symbols of a bountiful harvest. In our part of the world at least, the trees turn various shades of red, orange, and yellow, while our sunsets and sunrises seem to take on an almost magical golden hue I associate with autumn. While I try to always remain grateful for that which God has provided, I have difficulty sustaining a state of gratitude 24/7 for 12 months of the year, so the feast of Thanksgiving serves as a happy reminder to me of all I should be grateful for. I may not have everything I want but perhaps therein lies a message related to the difference between what I want or feel entitled to and what I need.

I have wonderful memories of Thanksgivings celebrated with my parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and alternately I have experienced Thanksgivings isolated from those I loved. These Thanksgivings of scarcity were important because they helped me to understand in a deeper way the goodness laid out before me which I take for granted.

The term "Eucharist" actually means "Thanksgiving," and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic this has taken on a different meaning for me. At the Last Supper, we hear how Jesus gave thanks and praise for the meal they were about to eat, and our participation in Sunday Eucharist is an excellent way we can express our gratitude or Jesus and his sacrifice.

Thank you, Jesus for your offering. We are much obliged.

Throughout the pandemic there have been many Sundays I have not been present at mass to celebrate and receive Eucharist, and throughout this time I have learned something. While I have remained acutely aware of this separation from one another, I have developed a greater sense of gratitude for those times in my life when nothing separated me from Eucharist. Far from feeling entitled to it, I have come to understand its importance in my life in a new way and seems to me a good example of *absence making the heart grow fonder*. Maybe this is not your experience, but the pain of this separation has made me more grateful for Jesus' gift to us, in the same way that the pain of separation from that which we love should lead us to be more thankful for them.

Brother David Steindl-Rast is a Benedictine Monk who speaks publicly on interfaith issues, and he claims that while all humans seek happiness, "*It is not happiness that makes us grateful, it's gratefulness that makes us happy. Becoming aware is that every moment we live is a gift. We have not earned it, brought it about in any way, or can we ensure we have another moment.*"

There is much Good News in Brother David's reflections, and he goes on to say that even when we miss an opportunity to be grateful, another opportunity will be given to us. Despite living through the uprooting and chaos associated with a global pandemic, we continue to be presented with opportunities to recognize, grasp, appreciate, and hold up in gratitude. Happy Thanksgiving!

~Trevor Driesbeck, Archdiocese of Moncton Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10 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

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	Romans 1:1-7	Psalms 98	Luke 11:29-32
Tue	Romans 1:16-25	Psalms 19	Luke 11:37-41
Wed	Romans 2:1-11	Psalms 62	Luke 11:42-46
Thur	Romans 3:21-30	Psalms 130	Luke 11:47-54
Fri	Romans 4:1-8	Psalms 32	Luke 12:1-7
Sat	Romans 4:13,16-18	Psalms 105	Luke 12:8-12
Sun	Isaiah 43:10-11 Hebrews 4:14-16	Psalms 33	Mark 10:35-45



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$51.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$645.00**;
Funeral: **\$375.00**; **TOTAL: \$1071.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$140.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$20.00**; Envelopes: **\$265.00**; **Total: \$285.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Donation IMO Leon Vautour: **\$50.00**

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	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
Tue	12	IC	4:00 pm	Charlie & Madeline Hebert†	Mina Richard
Sat	16	SP	4:00 pm	Ed Connolly†	Stella & Yvon
Sun	17	IC	9:00 am	William & Norman Hines†	Bill LeGoff
Sun	17	IC	4:00 pm	Bernard & Serena Hudson†	The Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	16	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	17	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Vina
Sun	17	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Donna Stephen

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS There will be mass held at Immaculate Conception on Monday, November 1st, 7:00 pm. Following mass, Fr. Bernard will bless the cemetery.

PLEASE NOTE Fr. Bernard will be away from November 14th-25th, and Fr. Paul Bombardier will replace him during this time. Fr. Paul is also a member of the Redemptorist Community and has served our parishes in the past.

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 11th). Removing the flowers will prevent them from scattering around the church properties and into the yards of nearby residences over the winter.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLMS BOYS RUGBY TEAM is holding a bottle drive to help pay for uniforms and equipment! On Wednesday, October 20th from 4-7 pm in the school parking lot they will be set up to receive your donations. You can drive in and drop off, or if you are not able, you can call Cheryl at 427-6670 and someone will pick up your donation. All the boys have flyers and are hoping to have enough funds collected so when the team starts in the Spring, they will be ready!

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH To help celebrate the Year of St. Joseph, remembering that Joseph was a faithful protector of and provider for the Holy Family, last spring the Adult Faith Commission for the Archdiocese of Moncton invited parishioners to help those less fortunate by sponsoring a plot or donating gift cards or seeds to the *Peter McKee Community Garden*. All food grown at the *Peter McKee Community Garden* goes towards feeding food insecure families. Alicia Clarkson, garden coordinator has advised us that our appeal generated a great response, which included about half a dozen sponsored garden plots, at \$200 each.

Also in the spring, the Adult Faith Commission appealed for donations of canned soup in support of *Isthmus*, (formerly *Blessings in a Backpack*) an organization which provides healthy weekend snacks for food insecure families in 31 area schools during the school year. They have begun their program again this year, and last Friday, received the 1,121 cans of soup collected in our parishes. Tara Stirrat, the volunteer spearheading this initiative, says the numbers of children they support are now over 800, so the need continues. If you are interested in donating again to this worthy cause, drop the soup at your parish, and ask them to contact Mark Mahoney at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity to arrange pick up.

On behalf of the folks who work hard to provide for those most in need, the Adult Faith Commission wishes to thank you for your support of these initiatives.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

