

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

"The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.
Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart."*(Deut 6:4-6)

Did you know that these words and their various translations, are deemed so important that they are an invocation to prayer for three major religions that claim Abraham as their father of faith: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

In Judaism, this passage is not only spoken as an invocation, but is written on the parchment inside the *tefillin*/phylacteries (small leather prayer boxes) worn by some devout Jews above the forehead and on the upper arm during solemn prayer. It is a reminder that God alone is the source of life and our well-being, and that all prayer and action should begin from this perspective.

Jesus, also, is well aware of the importance of this Scripture passage and cites it as "the first commandment" in today's gospel. As Catholics, we begin prayers with the sign of the cross over our forehead, heart and shoulders while praying, "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," invoking that all we are about to say and do be done with God as its source.

In Islam, each of the five daily calls to prayer begin with an acknowledgement that God alone is deemed "Great," and God alone is the source of life, truth and wisdom.

What I find so powerful in this Scripture prayer, is that we are not asked to obey God with our whole heart, soul and might, but to love God with our whole heart, soul and might. God is not *demanding* our absolute obedience, but is *offering* to be in control of our life. Why? Because God wants us to live joyful and fulfilling lives. "*Hear therefore, O Israel and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you...in a land flowing with milk and honey.*"

After all the pervasive anxiety we have been experiencing over the last several months, today's Scripture passages offer comfort. Much as we strive to know and control our future, these words tell us that we never had, nor never will control the future...and that's OK!...because God has the "steering wheel" well in hand. With love of God fueling our hearts, mind and strength, we are simply called to do what we *can* do, today.

Giving over the control and fears for our future into God's loving and wise hands is the beginning of finding that peace we so desperately seek. Fear and anxiety are exhausting and debilitating, and often leads us to become more critical and judgemental of others. Acknowledging and accepting that God is in control of the future gives us the energy and freedom to not only live more at peace, but frees up our energy to better "*love our neighbour*," as well. Trusting that God is at work within every crisis allows our tiny mustard-sized seeds of hope to be watered and nurtured by a God who ultimately desires the joy and well-being of us *and* our neighbours.

*"I love you, O Lord, my strength.
The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation." (Ps 18:1,46)*

~Mary Joshi, Queen of All Saints Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 31 October 2021

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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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 & 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	Revelation 7:2-14 1 John 3:1-3	Psalm 24	Matthew 5:1-12
Tue	Wisdom 3:1-9 Romans 6:3-9	Psalm 27	John 6:37-40
Wed	Romans 13:8-10	Psalm 112	Luke 14:25-33
Thur	Romans 14:7-12	Psalm 27	Luke 15:1-10
Fri	Romans 15:14-21	Psalm 98	Luke 16:1-8
Sat	Romans 16:3-9	Psalm 145	Luke 16:9-15
Sun	1 Kings 17:10-16 Hebrews 9:24-28	Psalm 146	12:38-44

LOVE
YOUR neighbor
AS YOURSELF.
Mark 12:31

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$40.00**; Regular Envelopes: **\$695.00**;
 Propagation of the Faith: **\$20.00**;
TOTAL: \$755.00

Rexton Cemetery

Cemetery Fund Env.: **\$50.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$37.00**; Envelopes: **\$135.00**;
 Donation: **\$90.00**; **Total: \$262.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$30.00**

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	30	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Joann Murphy
Sun	31	IC	9:00 am	Fermin Ramirez†	Trevor D.
Sun	31	IC	4:00 pm	Nicole Simon†	Leon & Carol Sock
Mon	1	IC	7:00 pm	Raymond Perry†	Jeanne Warren
Sat	6	SP	4:00 pm	Daniel & Margaret Murphy†	Claire Murphy
Sun	7	IC	9:00 am	George & Eva Maloney†	Mina Richard
Sun	7	IC	4:00 pm	Mary Brown†	Dick & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	6	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	7	IC	9:00 am	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Pat Vina	Gloria
Sun	7	IC	4:00 pm	1 st & 2 nd Reading Intentions	Bob	

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

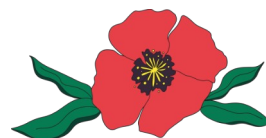
Alverie Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle and all residents in special care homes.



SOLEMNITIES 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. **THERE WILL BE**

NO 4:00 PM MASS AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

STEVENSON LEGION #30

RICHIBUCTO will be holding Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11th in Rexton (Cenotaph) at

11:00 AM, Saint-Louis-de-Kent (Cenotaph) at 9:00 AM, Richibucto (Cenotaph) at 10:15 AM, and Kouchibouguac (Cenotaph) at 11:00 AM.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - PEOPLE AND PLANET FIRST! Let's listen to the voices of our brothers and sisters fighting for their right to a healthy environment

World leaders have gathered for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). Although these powerful decision-makers are debating the future of the planet, they are probably too far removed from the realities of its most vulnerable people. It is up to us to hear and amplify the voices of those who are defending their rights and the environment against economic ravage. Medarda Hernandez, whose community in Honduras has been repeatedly harmed by large industrial projects, including supposedly "green" projects, says, "if other extractivist projects start in our community, we are not going to let them pass. I ask the international community to come to our aid, because we are really suffering from this situation." So that people like Medarda do not go unheard, let's make Canadian companies operating abroad responsible for protecting human and environmental rights. Join Development and Peace's **People and Planet First** campaign to make this happen. Visit <https://devp.org/en> to learn more.



As long as there is a brother or sister to whom we close our hearts, we will still be far from being disciples as Jesus asks us. But his divine mercy does not allow us to be discouraged, but rather calls us to begin anew each day to live the Gospel consistently.

~Pope Francis (25.10.20 Homily)

OUR LADY OF HOPE

CEMETERY BLESSINGS 2021

St. Peter's, South Branch

October 30th, 20 minutes prior to mass (3:40 pm)

St. James, Kouchibouguac

November 1st, 1:30 pm

Immaculate Conception, Rexton

November 1st, following the 7:00 pm mass

St. Bartholomew's, Bass River

November 2nd, 2:00 pm

in case of rain, November 3rd, 2:00 pm