

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH – JESUS BAPTISM/MY BAPTISM

Throughout my life I have had many friends and acquaintances who have been loyal members of evangelical churches. These people are faith filled and extremely committed to the teachings of their individual churches. We have had many conversations over the years on the "taboo" topic of religion, and I have been blessed and enriched to learn of the faith principles that guide their lives.

One question that would often be posed to me, and to be honest, would frequently intimidate me, was: **"are you saved?"** They would often be able to quote an exact day and time when they were **"saved"** and gave their life to Christ. For a good part of my life, the reason I was intimidated was that I didn't have an answer. The best I could come up with was: **"I hope so"**. Now, years later, I have a much better answer to offer. (Mind you, it could hardly be much worse). The answer, of course, is a resounding YES. I am saved because I am baptized.

In the earliest times of our church, baptism looked a lot different than it does now. It happened outside and was the culmination of a lengthy journey filled with much prayer, catechesis and soul searching. One thing that was very similar to the journey today is that the catechumens were told virtually nothing about how the baptism ceremony would look. (The idea was and is that they would just experience the rite as opposed to anticipating what was coming next.) On the night of their baptism, most often Holy Saturday, they would be taken out to the nearest body of water. They would be accompanied into the water by the presiding minister. After being asked one final time if this was truly their desire, they would be plunged backward into the water as the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" were said. They would be held under the water until almost kicking to come up for air. This is the dying with Christ that is often lost in our modern day sprinkling of water. When they would be brought up from the water, they would have an initial gasp for air. This is their first breath in their new life in Christ. They are indeed **"saved"**.

Every year when we celebrate this feast of the Baptism of our Lord, I find it so intriguing that Jesus felt it was necessary to be baptized. Why? I wonder. I don't think it was salvation that he was seeking. Maybe he was establishing the template for our faith journey. Being a Christian carries with it a call to evangelization and to ministry. Baptism brings the grace and gifts we will need to accomplish this daunting task. In that light, Jesus' baptism makes perfect sense, as you cannot give what you have not yet received. After all, Jesus' public ministry did not begin until after he was baptized.

~Mark Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord  
9 January 2022

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  
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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 Samuel 1:108	Psalms 116	Mark 1:14-20
Tue	1 Samuel 1:9-20		Mark 1:21-28
Wed	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Psalms 40	Mark 1:29-39
Thur	1 Samuel 4:1-11	Psalms 44	Mark 1:40-45
Fri	1 Samuel 8:4-22	Psalms 89	Mark 2:1-12
Sat	1 Samuel 9:1-19	Psalms 21	Mark 2:13-17
Sun	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Psalms 96	John 2:1-11



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose Dec. 24 & 26: **\$76.00**;  
 Regular Env: **\$70.00**; Dec. 25 Env.: **\$1135.00**;  
 Dec. 26 Env.: **\$685.00**; Loose Jan. 2: **\$47.00**;  
 Initial Offering Env.: **\$175.00**;  
 Jan. 1 Env: **\$125.00**; Jan. 2 Env: **\$215.00**  
**TOTAL: \$2,528.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose Dec. 25: **\$29.95**; Regular Envelopes: **\$160.00**;  
 Dec. 25 Env.: **\$150.00**; Dec. 26 Env.: **\$185.00**;  
 Loose Jan. 1: **\$15.00**; Intitial Offering Env. **\$70.00**;  
 Jan. 1 Env. **\$110.00**; Jan. 2 Env. **\$85.00**  
**Total: \$804.95**

### Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$70.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery Fund

Memorial Tree: **\$90.00**

## 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	8	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Evelyn Murphy
Sun	9	IC	9:00 am	Terry Regan	Trevor D. & Cory A.
Sun	9	IC	4:00 pm	Paul Robichaud†	Sharon, Melissa, & Jocelyn
Tue	11	IC	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell†	Dale & Debbie Harnett
Sat	15	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Ray & Fran Vautour
Sun	16	IC	9:00 am	Eric Johnson, Sr.†	Elva & Family
Sun	16	IC	4:00 pm	Paul Robichaud†	Dale & Debbie Harnett

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	15	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	16	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Donna Corinne Gloria
Sun	16	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 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.



...on the day of our Baptism 'There, we were immersed in the love of Christ who died and rose for us. There, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. There, God said to each one of us, as he did to Jesus: 'Thou art my beloved...'

~Pope Francis, Angelus Homily January 10, 2021

**2021 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS** will be made available in the near future. If you have not already done so, please drop your yellow income tax envelope into the collection basket if you wish to receive your tax receipt. If you would like to receive an emailed copy of your tax receipt please contact the parish office.

**OLD PHOTOS OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OR ST. PETER'S** If you happen to have in your possession any old photos of Immaculate Conception or St. Peter's parishes (particularly inside) we would love to see them so we can scan them and share some of the rich history of our parishes on our website and on social media. Please contact Trevor at the parish office if you have some photos you would like to share.

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, AND MISSION

How will the Synod work? To facilitate as much participation in the discussion process as possible, Pope Francis has asked that a special document be prepared that contains both the purpose of the Synod, the way it will be organized and the various areas of discussions under consideration. This document is available from the Vatican at the following link: <https://www.synod.va/en/documents/english-version-of-the-preparatory-document.html> or by typing, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission" in your Search Engine. By using this common tool, bishops from around the world are encouraged to involve as many people as possible in discussion groups throughout their Diocese. This process will conclude on June 1, 2022. More about this will be explained next week, so stay tuned.

**LAUDATO SI' CAMPAIGN** *Laudato Si' – Praise Be to You – Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home. This encyclical letter was published in 2015*

### Pope Francis 2015 encyclical to all humanity

Pope Francis 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* affirms our interconnectedness to one other and to all living things, and our responsibility to care for our common Earthly home. Papal encyclicals communicate to the faithful about some aspect of Catholic teaching but in this case Pope Francis is speaking to all humanity when he says that some of our earth damaging behaviors are not only morally wrong, but also practically wrong, leading to a broken world. He exhorts us to all work together to fix it. **(A video for Laudato campaign is available on the diocesan website [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca)).**

