

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH – IT WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

One of the things my mother told me repeatedly when I was growing up was: “just because I compliment your sister does not mean I am criticizing you!” It is not surprising that a seven-year-old with a really cute younger sister might need to be told this, but as a parent of three adult children, I should no longer need to hear these words. Yet, not long ago I caught myself feeling slighted when I was told that a colleague had done a great job on something that I have done many times in the past. Even as I felt the emotions welling up in me, I chastised myself for being unreasonable; my colleague did do a wonderful job and the appreciation expressed had nothing to do with me one way or the other!

But that is where I was wrong. What she accomplished did have something to do with me, it made the world I live in better; and the appreciation expressed has something to do with all of us because it opens our eyes to the wonder of the world and of the One who has gifted us with that world. This is the profound reality expressed in the second reading. “There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Life is not meant to be a competition! It is not individual accomplishments that matter but rather the sum of all of our accomplishments. We live in a society that has taught us to value ourselves and each other based on what we do, what we produce or what we own. Many people fear that if we were to say that what we make or do doesn't matter, some people would choose not to do anything while others did far more than their share in order to keep society from falling apart. We think in terms of scarcity. If there is not enough to go around then everyone must compete for what there is.

But our God is a God of generosity and extravagance and every ability, every talent, every skill, and every activity is an expression of that generosity and extravagance. God has created us to be one with each other, not to compete, but to share who we are with each other. Life has more beauty each time someone expresses their unique self. We miss the beauty if we focus on the comparison of the gift rather than on the gift. The more I celebrate what others accomplish, the more I will be able to see and enjoy what I have done and am doing. I can choose each day to express the life and the love that are in me without worrying about how what I am doing compares to what others are doing. I can choose to see the life and the love that are being expressed in the words, the actions, the silences, and the stillness of the people around me without worrying about how they compare to what I have done. And if I make these choices, I will move from a world of scarcity and fear to a world of abundance and hope without having to go anywhere.

I wish I could finish this with a word of appreciation for each of you. I can't do that, but I can begin and perhaps you can add what is missing. Your smile brightened my day. Your question allowed me to see something in a new way. Your passion motivates people. Your stillness created a space of calm. Thank you for your faith ... for your challenge ... for standing with me in my fear ... Thank you for the big and small things that you did this week that brought beauty and connection to the world.

~Pam Driedger, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit



# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 16 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  
**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			
<b>Mon</b>	1 Samuel 15:16-23	Psalms 50	Mark 2:18-22
<b>Tue</b>	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalms 89	Mark 2:23-28
<b>Wed</b>	1 Samuel 17:32-33	Psalms 144	Mark 3:1-6
<b>Thur</b>	1 Samuel 18:6-9	Psalms 56	Mark 3:7-12
<b>Fri</b>	1 Samuel 24:3-21	Psalms 57	Mark 3:13-19
<b>Sat</b>	2 Samuel 1:1-27	Psalms 80	Mark 3:20-21
<b>Sun</b>	Nehemiah 8:2-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-30	Psalms 19	Luke:1-1-4; 4:14-21



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$31.95**; Envelopes: **\$585.00**;  
 Christmas Offering: **\$60.00**;  
 Initial Offering: **\$20.00**; Heating for Church:  
**\$265.00**; New Year's Offering: **\$90.00**;  
 Missals: **\$15.00**; Votives: **\$115.05**;  
 Donation: **\$300.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,482.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery Fund

Memorial Tree: **\$70.00**; Donation: **\$100.00**;  
 Burial Prepayment: **\$300.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$470.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$16.00**; Envelopes: **\$170.00**;  
 Christmas Offering: **\$40.00**; Initial Offering: **\$20.00**;  
 New Year's Offering: **\$5.00**;  
 Heating for the Church **\$35.00**; **Total: \$286.00**

### St. Peter's Cemetery Fund

Memorial Tree: **\$240.00**

### St. Bartholomew's Cemetery Fund

Donation IMO Teresa Warman: **\$25.00**

## 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	15	SP	4:00 pm	<i>Leon Vautour†</i>	Ray & Fran Vautour
Sun	16	IC	9:00 am	<i>Eric Johnson, Sr.†</i>	Elva & Family
Sun	16	IC	4:00 pm	<i>Paul Robichaud†</i>	Dale & Debbie Harnett
Tue	18	IC	4:00 pm	<i>Byron Hannay†</i>	Gemma Dugas
Sat	22	SP	4:00 pm	<i>Leon Vautour†</i>	Trudy & Jack Jackson
Sun	23	IC	9:00 am	<i>Leon Vautour†</i>	Alban & Janet
Sun	23	IC	4:00 pm	<i>In Honour of St. Anthony for Favour Received</i>	A Parishioner

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	22	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	23	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Pat Vina	Gloria
Sun	23	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Bob Corinne	

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

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

**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

**BREAKING DOWN WALLS: YOUNG PEOPLE, FAITH, AND MENTAL HEALTH** Young people from around Atlantic Canada are invited to join special Facebook Live Event addressing issues around young people and their mental health on **Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 pm (AST)**. Special guests for this **Bell Let's Talk** event will include Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, Bishop of Antigonish; Joe Townsend, Community CARES Youth Outreach (Sydney Mines); Paige Cox, Author of "The Berlin Project: Breaking Down Walls," and John Ratchford, Faith Witness. Anyone can join the session through the website for the Diocese of Antigonish ([www.antigonishdiocese.com/](http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/)) or their Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/antigonishdiocese>). This event is a collaborative effort hosted by the Diocese of Antigonish and sponsored by the Atlantic Association of Catholic Youth Ministers. For more information, please contact Trevor at 857-4879.

**LAUDATO SI' CAMPAIGN** 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))**

**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.

