

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH

*“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful...it hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”*

Today’s gospel from Luke follows Jesus as he begins his public ministry. His reputation as a teacher of great insight is spreading and he is *“praised by everyone.”* At first, when Jesus returns to Nazareth and teaches in the synagogue in which he grew up, *“all spoke well of him and were amazed at [his] gracious words.”* Soon after, however, these same people are so angry at his words that they attempt to throw him off a cliff. What did Jesus say to change their opinion of him so quickly and so drastically?

The Hebrew people had experienced a long history of persecution and hardship. They endured their struggles, in part, because they believed they had a special relationship with God; they were *“God’s chosen people.”* For many, this meant that they alone had been given an insight into God’s mind and they alone had God’s favour. They believed the promised Messiah was coming for their exclusive salvation. No wonder they were shocked and angry when Jesus, merely a local carpenter’s son, alluded to himself as that promised Messiah and then tells them that they would not be, and never had been, the only ones entrusted with God’s truth or favour. How dare *he*, of all people, make such blasphemous claims in their place of worship?

I think similar scenarios have happened for many generations in our homes, communities and churches, usually at times when we are forced to reevaluate our sense of truth and to discern what the mind and will of God might be in those situations.

How many of us as parents, have been absolutely certain of the truth of our viewpoints, only to have them stretched and expanded (sometimes to a point of painful discomfort), by our growing children who present us with a different perspective of humanity and the world in which we live? Our initial reaction may often be visceral as we wonder, *“How can a child, that I’ve raised be so wrong in their viewpoint??”*

How many times over the past few difficult years, have we found ourselves filled with anger and exasperation when confronted with opinions other than our own concerning health care and political policies? We may even have voiced our anger to other like-minded people saying, *“What irresponsible and gullible idiots!!”*

How often have we seen indignation as a response to people within our own church, who propose that church leadership should also include others who are not just male and single, or propose that our criteria as to who can share at our Eucharistic table should be expanded? We may hear comments like: *“It’s against tradition! It’s heresy!”*

Whatever side we may lean within these differences, we may feel certain in thinking we know the truth. We are confident that we know God’s mind and *“it happens to be the same as ours!”* But if today’s readings tell me anything, it is that *“God’s mind”* is filled with more love, tolerance and forgiveness than any of us can ever envision. To even *begin* to know the mind of God, we many need to begin with viewing our fellow humanity through the lens of the love described by St. Paul in the second reading. It isn’t a love that is warm and fuzzy, or based on being like-minded. It is a love that is sometimes difficult; stretching us to the point of discomfort. Many of us have only heard St. Paul’s reading at weddings, but it is God’s challenge on how to see *all* of our relationships. Our attempts to live in this love must *“never end.”*

~Mary Joshi, Queen of All Saints Pastoral Unit

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
30 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](mailto: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	2 Samuel 15:13-14 – 16:5:13	Psalms 3	Mark 5:1-20
Tue	2 Samuel 18:9-10-19:3	Psalms 86	Mark 5:21-43
Wed	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalms 24	Luke 2:22-40
Thur	1 Kings 2:1-12	1 CHR 29:10	Mark 6:7-13
Fri	Sirach 47:2-11	Psalms 18	Mark 6:14-29
Sat	1 Kings 3:4-13	Psalms 119	Mark 6:30-34
Sun	Isaiah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Psalms 138	Luke 5:1-11



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Envelopes: **\$250.00**; Initial Offering: **\$10.00**;  
Heating for Church: **\$40.00**; **TOTAL: \$300.00**

### Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$20.00**

### St. Peter's

Envelopes: **\$10.00**; **Total: \$10.00**

### St. Bartholomew's Cemetery Fund

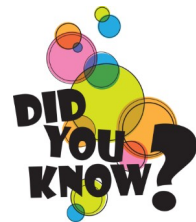
Donation IMO Teresa Warman: **\$50.00**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

**Please note your envelope donations can also be left in the locked box outside the parish hall.**

### MASS INTENTIONS:

At the time this bulletin was printed, there was uncertainty about whether masses would resume next weekend (February 6<sup>th</sup>). If masses do resume next weekend, the intentions will be announced at mass and placed on social media once we are certain.



**What is so ordinary about Ordinary Time?** Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word "order". So when we say "4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time" it is like saying "Numbered Time," or "Ordered Time".

### Online Resources to Nourish Your Faith

#### For Daily Prayer:

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

#### Sacred Space:

<https://sacredspace.ie/>

#### Scripture & Scripture Reference:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

#### For Joyful Faith:

<https://bustedhalo.com/>

#### Sunday Mass (Redemptorists UK)

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>

#### Prayer, Retreats, Stations of the Cross:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

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

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

**LEVEL 3 COVID RESTRICTIONS** In response to Level 3 COVID Restrictions, Archbishop Vienneau has announced all weekday and weekend masses and Liturgies of the Word will be canceled January 15th-30th inclusively. Any additional updates will be placed on the parish voicemail, Facebook Page and website. Please note the parish office will be closed to the public during this time. Please call or email with questions, concerns or to arrange a pick-up or drop-off.

**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

**CHARISMATIC RENEWAL:** I have appointed Mrs. Roberta Brine to be in charge of the English-speaking sector of the diocesan Charismatic Renewal. She will work with Fr. Gaston Ouellet, diocesan chaplain of the Renewal. ~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

**INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES** In Laudato Si' paragraphs 145 and 146; Pope Francis tells us that the disappearance of a culture can be just as serious as, or even more serious than the disappearance of a species of plants. The Indigenous peoples of Canada and the US (Turtle Island) have been living in harmony with nature for thousands of years. **"For them land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space, with which they need to interact if they are to maintain identity and values."** May we be open to learn from their wisdom and their teachings. You are invited to our diocesan web site at <http://www.diomoncton.ca/en/news-item/diocesan-committee-laudato-si-> to view the third presentation from our Laudato Si Committee, prepared by Sr Denise Lirette, FJ.

**FAITH EXPERIMENTS EXPRESS** Our next Faith Experiments Express for young people in grades 1-6 will be on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Faith Experiments Express uses science experiments to help children learn about faith and scripture, and it's on Zoom so you can participate from the comfort of your own home. Contact Karen for more information at 387-4198 or Trevor.

**MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES** Our next Mondays @ The Movies conversation will take place on Monday, February 14th at 10:30 am, when we will be discussing the 2000 film *Chocolat*, starring Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche. Everyone is welcome. Contact Karen at 387-4918 or Trevor at 857-4879 for more information or to register.

All human suffering is sacred to God. Before God we are not strangers, or numbers. We are faces and hearts, known one by one, by name.

~Pope Francis via Twitter

