

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – THE BEATITUDES

As I'm sure most of you know, today's gospel is often referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount". In Luke's version, Jesus begins strongly with the Beatitudes. These are composed of some blessings and curses. These teachings show Jesus as the Lord of reversals. However, let's not misunderstand them, the Beatitudes are not just about the rich or the poor, happy or sad, hungry, or satisfied, etc. It is beyond our status in life but more of our status before God. Jesus was careful to note that whatever we are experiencing, if it is because of our faith and love of the Lord, we are blessed.

Today, the rich, the famous and the powerful are often referred to as the "blessed" ones and this implies that the rest of us are not blessed. But with the Beatitudes we are reminded that anything against God's commands is never a blessing. So really the riches, the fame and the power are only a blessing if they were attained in faithfulness to God. In the same way, the poor, hungry, the op-

pressed, and the like are not automatic curses. They may be blessings if they were attained in faithfulness to God. Relationship with God, not our worldly status, determines blessedness. Blessed is being always in the grace and favor of God. Now, I always thought that I was blessed if things were going my way. If my life was comfortable, I had money in my pocket, and all the lights turned green before I hit the brakes, then I knew God loved me and I was blessed. The beatitudes totally upset my expectations and invited me to evaluate blessing in a different way. Jesus reminds us that our lives will be filled with the reality of difficulty. After all, we live in a

sin-infused world. Suffering will come to meet us and has most likely been a familiar companion on the journey. But even in that, we do not have to be afraid. We do not have to hide our weaknesses or our problems. They too are the ways we will bless the world. As we are, as God made us, as God calls us.

As I sit today and write this reflection, I'm pondering the beatitudes and it hits me that these are our steps to salvation. As Fr. Benny Tuazon stated in his homily on the beatitudes: **"They are our ways to heaven. They are steps to salvation. Thus, it is important to see them not as a judgment on status but an encouragement and inspiration to a committed and faithful relationship with God."** Let's take some time to examine our current situations. What has our relationship with God been like recently? Over the last two years? Five years? How are we glorifying him? What are we achieving in faithfulness to Him? Remember that it is not our worldly status that determines our blessedness and our ultimate destination, the Kingdom of God.

~Katy Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time
13 February 2022

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	James 1:1-88	Psalm 119	Mark 8:11-13
Tue	James 1:12-18	Psalm 94	Mark 8:14-21
Wed	James 1:19-27	Psalm 15	Mark 8:22-26
Thur	James 2:1-9	Psalm 34	Mark 8:27-33
Fri	James 2:14-26	Psalm 112	Mark 8:34-9:1
Sat	James 3:1-10	Psalm 12	Mark 9:2-13
Sun	1 Samuel 26:2-23 1 Corinthians 15:45-49	Psalm 103	Luke 6:28-38



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$27.00**; Regular Env.: **\$895.00**;
Heating Env.: **\$20.00**; Ash Wed. Env.: **\$20.00**;
Share Lent Env.: **\$20.00**; Good Friday Env.:
\$20.00; Easter Env.: **\$20.00**; Mass Stipends
(Jan): **\$27.00** **TOTAL: \$1,049.00**

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Donation: **\$100.00**

St. Peter's

Envelopes: **\$100.00**; Mass Stipends (Jan): **\$12.00**;
TOTAL: \$112.00

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	12	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Lillian Vautour
Sun	13	IC	9:00 am	Imelda McKinnon†	Stuart & Bill
Sun	13	IC	4:00 pm	John Jr., & Emery Mourant†	Dwight & Jeannette Little
Tue	15	IC	4:00 pm	Jean Robichaud†	Geralda Comeau
Sat	19	SP	4:00 pm	Wallace Best†	Lois & Richard
Sun	20	IC	9:00 am	Edward & Mary Hannay†	Blaine & Donna
Sun	20	IC	4:00 pm	Emile Cormier†	Léo Paul Richard

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	19	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	20	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Vina Corinne	Gloria
Sun	20	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 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.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Province of New Brunswick has announced we will return to the least restrictive "Level 1" of COVID recovery effective February 18th at 11:59 pm. At the

time this bulletin was printed, Archbishop Vienneau had not provided details of how faith gatherings will be affected, so please check our Facebook Page and website for updates this week. Those on the parish/bulletin email list will receive a notice of these changes as soon as we are made aware.

Current restrictions of "Level 2" are:

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES; BAPTISMS

- Churches may operate at 50% capacity
- Physical distancing of two meters
- People must remain seated and wear masks at all times except for communion
- No choir
- Singing - one soloist at least 4 meters from the congregation
- Collecting names of attendees

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

We follow the same rules as for all other celebrations except that people must show proof of complete vaccination. However, it is not necessary to maintain an attendance record since all participants must be vaccinated.

2021 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS have been placed at the back of the church, for those who requested them.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONVERSION AND TRANSFORMATION In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls each one of us to an **ecological conversion** and calls the whole Church to a **transformation toward Integral Ecology**. When we speak of conversion and transformation, this implies inner work which can be a long process and is different for everyone. Transformation only happens when the inner work (conversion) is done; when our values, our responsibilities, and relationships with our neighbor and with nature are in harmony – that is integral ecology. **Food for thought:** "Yesterday, I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today, I am wise, so I am changing myself." (from the Sufi mystic Rumi)
You are invited to our diocesan web site at <http://www.diomoncton.ca/en/news-item/diocesan-committee-laudato-si-> to view the fifth presentation from our Laudato Si Committee, prepared by Mr Eugène Aucoin.

The Beatitudes are not for supermen, but for those who confront the challenges and trials of every day.

~Pope Francis via Twitter



MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES is an opportunity to discuss faith themes in popular 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. Contact Karen at 387-4918 or Trevor for more information or to register.