

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH – COMMON SPACE

There is a poster on the wall in my office that has followed me from place to place for several years. Through graphics it shows how the sacred texts of 13 faiths from around the world each contain “The Golden Rule.” From Islam and Christianity to Traditional Native Spirituality and Confucianism, we all hold sacred some version of “Do unto others what you would have them do unto you,” which was the version I learned as a child. The poster on my office wall is part of an interfaith education initiative of Scarborough Missions (a Society of Canadian Catholics, priests and laity), and they have developed an impressive curriculum for engaging in interfaith dialogue, espousing such principles as “*Dialogue can take place only between equals... Both must come to learn from each other,*” and “*The primary purpose of dialogue is to learn; that is, to change and grow in the perception and understanding of reality, and then to act accordingly.*” In other words, if I greet others on a platform of respect and openness, I might learn something about other traditions and grow as a person in the process. I think this one part of today’s gospel resonated with me because I need a unifying dialogue, something we can all agree on and work towards, and not just interfaith dialogue. I need this in my life, and I think it is needed within our church, our country, and our world.

Some might relate to my mother’s stories of growing up in Minudie, Nova Scotia (essentially one road). On one side of the road there was St. Denis Catholic Church, then the Glebe House, then a one-room school house, and next to that a Universalist Church. My mother was strictly warned to never set foot in the Universalist Church, as this would be a sin and could possibly result in a black mark the size of hell on her soul that Jesus would find after she died and it was time to count “the black marks”. Years later of course I was not allowed to go to Vacation Bible School at the Salisbury Baptist Church because of the sin and the black marks and so forth, but I have gotten over it.

If not in the 1950s, the Church today has something valuable to teach all of us about dialogue. One of the documents arising from the Second Vatican Council was *Nostra Aetate: Declaration on the Relation of the Church to non-Christian religions*, which “*reveres the work of God in all the major faith traditions,*” and was considered a major step forward in the Church’s relationship with other faiths. The first words of *Nostra Aetate*, written in 1965, struck me as ironic in 2022, and I wanted to finish with them:

*In our time, when day by day mankind is being drawn closer together, and the ties between different peoples are becoming stronger, the Church examines more closely her relationship to non-Christian religions. In her task of promoting unity and love among humans, indeed among nations, she considers above all in this declaration what humans have in common and what draws them to fellowship. (1)*

And I am not bitter about the Vacation Bible School

~Trevor Driesbeck, Office for Evangelization and Catechesis



# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
20 February 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

Day	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Mon	James 3:13-18	Psalms 19	Mark 9:14-29
Tue	1 Peter 5:1-4	Psalms 123	Matthew 16:13-19
Wed	James 4:13-17	Psalms 49	Mark 9:38-40
Thur	James 5:1-7	Psalms 49	Mark 9:41-50
Fri	James 5:9-12	Psalms 103	Mark 10:1-12
Sat	1 James 5:13-20	Psalms 141	Mark 10:13-16
Sun	Sirach 27:4-7 1 Corinthians 15:54-58	Psalms 92	Luke 6:39-45



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$49.30**; Regular Env: **\$1,280.00**;  
 Heating Env.: **\$5.00**; Christmas Env.: **\$50.00**;  
 Papal Charities: **\$20.00**; Cdn. Emergency  
 Rent Subsidy: **\$1,625.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$3,029.30**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **\$100.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$20.25**; Envelopes: **\$355.00**;  
 Cdn. Emergency Rent Subsidy: **\$600.00**  
**TOTAL: \$975.25**

### St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donations *IMO Teresa Warman*: **\$170.00**;  
 Donation *IMO Fred Brennan*: **\$10.00**; **TOTAL: \$180.00**

### St. Patrick's Cemetery

Cdn. Emergency Rent Subsidy: **\$345.00**

## 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	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
Tue	22	IC	4:00 pm	Roseline Martin†	Huguette & Family
Sat	26	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Lois & Richard
Sun	27	IC	9:00 am	Earl & Beatrice Hebert†	Mina Richard
Sun	27	IC	4:00 pm	Noella Cormier†	Léo Paul Richard

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	26	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	27	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Donna Pat Gloria
Sun	27	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 Department of Health and the Premier of NB have announced a transition from Level 2 to Level 1 of the New Brunswick winter plan to manage COVID-19 as of **Friday, February 18, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.** This means little change from the current restrictions for most of our celebrations.

### For weekday and weekend Masses, baptisms:

- Operating at 50% capacity.
- Physical distancing.
- Masks mandatory.
- Singing is permitted with the wearing of the mask.
- Choirs are permitted, provided they are at least four (4) meters from the assembly.
- Keep a register of the names of the faithful.

### For weddings and funerals:

- People must present proof of full vaccination (2 doses).
- Physical distancing and mask wearing.
- 100% capacity is possible.
- No requirement to keep an attendance record.

### Gatherings in our premises: (basement, parish hall ...) for different activities

- People must remain seated and always wear their masks.
- 100% capacity is possible.
- People must present proof of full vaccination (2 doses).
- No obligation to keep an attendance register.

**OUR FAITH COMMUNITY MOURNS** the loss of Katharine Tramley, who died on February 17<sup>th</sup>.  
 Funeral details will be available in the coming days.

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

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE MONCTON CHAPTER OF NB RIGHT TO LIFE** is holding a raffle...all proceeds will be donated to NBRL. There are 2 prizes: A bedspread (size double) with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (protectress of the unborn) on it, donated by a local supporter and second, a bundle of gift cards (value 200\$). 1/5\$ or 3/10\$. **Please make cheque payable to Moncton Chapter of NB Right to Life** and mail to 87 Grand Trunk St, Moncton NB E1E 0E1 (add your phone number also) or you may use e-transfer [monctonchapter@arcadie.com](mailto:monctonchapter@arcadie.com) (Info: 381 4315) Draw date, March 31, 2022.

**The elderly should be cared for like a treasure of humanity: they are our wisdom, our memory. It is crucial that grandchildren remain close to their grandparents, who are like roots from which they draw the sap of human and spiritual values.**

~Pope Francis via Twitter

