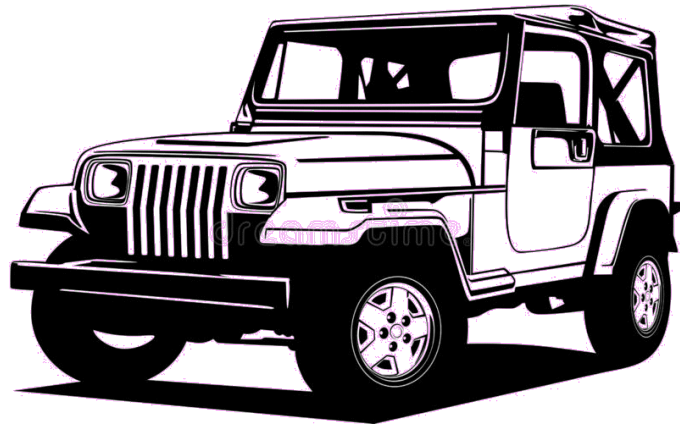


EXPLORING OUR FAITH – NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH

I am in awe of the profound thought that has gone into the development of our liturgical year and the readings from Scripture that guide it. Today's readings have been a challenge for me. The first, from Sirach about being judged by our words gives me pause. But the Psalm which follows gives me courage: "In old age they still produce fruit." At age 80 I am grateful for the opportunity to share my reflections on the rich history of our faith.

The reading from St. Paul is fitting for the Sunday before the beginning of Lent. He writes, "Death has been swallowed up in victory!" This coming week includes Mardi Gras, a celebration outside the Liturgy expressing a very human reaction to the fact of death: "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." Rather, "tomorrow", Ash Wednesday, we wear on our foreheads a reminder of death, the curse given to Adam at his expulsion from Eden.

This morning I sent a prayer to St. Christopher as I took my Jeep out onto the street to go buy a Sunday newspaper. I know the theologians have told us there is no such saint, but I know and I believe the early Christians knew that St. Christopher was originally one of the ancient pantheon. He was the one who guided people across the River Styx, that is, the great river dividing Earth from the heavens. When the early Christians "baptized" St Christopher (Greek for "Bearer of Christ") and said that he carried Christ across the River, they affirmed that Christ really died for us. Through the centuries Christians recognized that when we go on a journey, we experience a kind of death: we leave our old life behind and go on to something new.



Some moments in life are more momentous than others. We also experience a kind of death at those moments--we leave behind what went before and go on to a new part of our life. The Sacraments mark some of those moments; we all know and remember some others. Sometimes we have to make a decision (who to go with, what college to go to, what job to do...) and what we decide makes all the difference. Sometimes something happens to us (an accident, an illness, an opportunity...) and we must react. How we do so makes a difference. In either case, it helps to have help--to have a guide. Here today's Gospel applies. Can the blind guide the blind?

And this is what Lent is for: to guide and prepare us to make good decisions in our life.

~Agnes Beirne, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Unit

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time
27 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
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

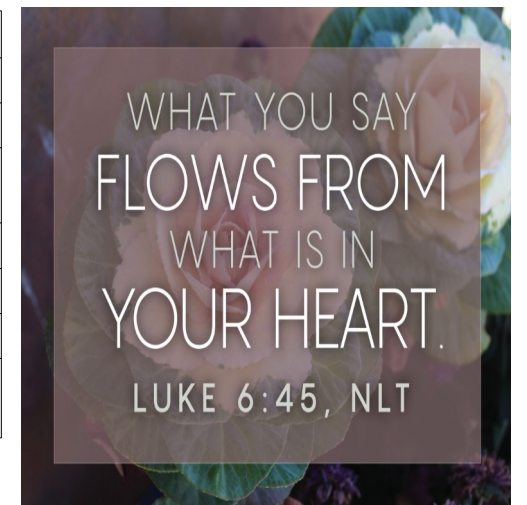
Immaculate Conception Mass Times

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 Peter 1:3-9	Psalm 111	Mark 10:17-27
Tue	1 Peter 1:10-16	Psalm 98	Mark 10:28-31
Wed	Joel 2:12-18 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2	Psalm 51	Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thur	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Luke 9:22-25
Fri	Isaiah 58:1-9	Psalm 51	Matthew 9:14-15
Sat	Isaiah 58:9-14	Psalm 86	Luke 5:27-32
Sun	Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Romans 10:8-13	Psalm 91	Luke 4:1-13



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$28.70**; Regular Env: **\$600.00**;
Initial Offering: **\$20.00**;
Votive Candles: **\$107.11**; Missals: **\$10.00**;
Donation for Oil Tank Replacement: **\$100.00**;
TOTAL: \$865.81

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Donation IMO Katharine Tramley: **\$10.00**;
Funeral Expenses: **\$600.00**; **TOTAL: \$610.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Envelopes: **\$225.00**;
Initial Offering: **\$5.00**
TOTAL: \$245.00

St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donations IMO Teresa Warman: **\$75.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$130.00**

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	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
Tue	1	IC	4:00 pm	Katharine Tramley†	Dale & Debbie Harnett
Sat	5	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Norma McNairn
Sun	6	IC	9:00 am	Cathy Roach†	Norma McNairn & Family
Sun	6	IC	4:00 pm	In Honour of St. Anthony for Favour Received	A Parishioner

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	5	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	6	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Vina Corinne
Sun	6	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Stephen

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

2021 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS All receipts have now been placed near the entrance to the church. If you would prefer to pick up your receipt at another time, please call or drop by during office hours.

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

MOURNS the loss of two members this past week: Margaret Sullivan and David Harnett. We extend our prayers and sympathy to the families of those who have died and those whose lives they touched.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

March 2nd @ 6:30 PM

St. Ann's Church in Elsipogtog



Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Genesis 3:19



DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is observed each year on the first Friday of March. It is an ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This recalls our Christian responsibility to be sensitive to the signs of the times so that we might bring a more authentically Christian dimension to the concerns of our world, our country, our community. For more information, visit <https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>.

THIS LENT, LET'S PUT PEOPLE AND PLANET FIRST This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's *People and Planet First* campaign calls you to support our sisters and brothers in the Global South in defending their rights and the planet. Do this by:

Donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on April 3, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 85 projects in 27 countries around the world!

Learning more by reading the Mini-magazine and other resources available at devp.org/lent/resources.

Signing the petition for strong laws to control Canadian corporations' behaviour abroad at devp.org/act. For more information, contact **Nicolas Kalgora**, tel. 801-0440; e-mail: nkalgora@devp.org



I invite everyone to make this coming 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace: let believers dedicate themselves intensively to prayer and fasting. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

~Pope Francis via Twitter