

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ Hope Will Come

It was difficult to focus on my work this week, as my attention was constantly being drawn to the horrific images of war that were once again inundating every news outlet. I was grateful that my mother had not lived to see this latest assault in Europe. Even in her final years with Alzheimer's, she retained disturbing memories of Hitler's tanks and soldiers invading her town and their use of violence and starvation to control the people of her country, the Netherlands.

Canada is now home to *many* people from around the world who have had to flee their homelands because of the violent and inhumane aggression of power-hungry leaders; leaders who seem to hold little value for human life or dignity. How do the victims of such horror and fear find the strength to look forward to a future of hope? How do we, who are removed from the physical dangers of war, ground ourselves in faith so that we can help those victims *not* lose hope?

It took much prayerful reading and re-reading of today's scriptures to find any solace or message of "good news." But a message did emerge; one that said that although life will bring periods of despair and darkness, with patience, prayer and faith the light and hope promised to us by God *will* come.

In the first reading, Abram descends into a "deep and terrifying darkness" before he awakens into a new and life-giving covenant with God.

In the second reading, St. Paul warns that for those whose lives are based on selfish gain, "their end is destruction...their glory is in their shame." Those who live by the teachings of Christ, however, will have their "humiliation" transformed into "glory." We are encouraged to "stand firm."

In the gospel, Jesus takes Peter, John and James up the mountain to pray. The disciples witness a gloriously transfigured Jesus. They are given a glimpse of the new life and glory of their own life in Christ; an experience that will embolden and sustain them through the dark days ahead that await them in Jerusalem.

All the readings reminded me of words spoken by Gandhi, who was often inspired by the teachings and words of Jesus. After encountering violent set-backs to his attempts at change through non-violence, he said: "**When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seemed invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it, always.**"

Throughout Lent, we are invited to pray, fast and to give of ourselves. As war continues to rage in the Ukraine, Syria and other parts of the world, perhaps we can focus our Lenten efforts on victims throughout the world whose lives are threatened and diminished by violence, need and fear.

~Mary Joshi, Queen of All Saints Parish Unit

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Second Sunday of Lent 13 March 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

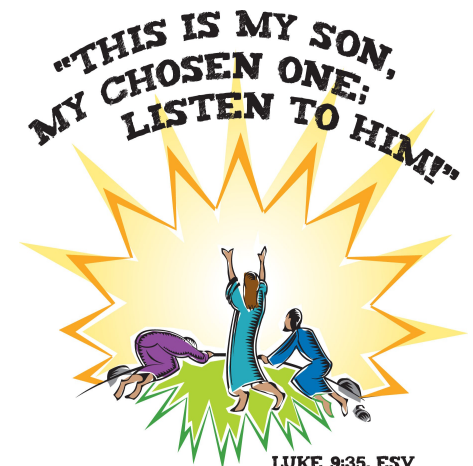
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	Deuteronomy 9:4-10	Psalms 79	Luke 6:36-38
Tue	Isaiah 1:10,16-20	Psalms 50	Matthew 23:1-12
Wed	Jeremiah 18:18-20	Psalms 31	Matthew 20:17-28
Thur	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalms 1	Luke 16:19-31
Fri	Genesis 37:3-4,12-13	Psalms 105	Matthew 21:33-46
Sat	2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-16 Romans 4:13,16-22	Psalms 89	Matthew 1:16,18-21
Sun	Exodus 3:1-15 1 Corinthians 10:1-12	Psalms 103	Luke 13:1-9



LUKE 9:35, ESV

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$65.30**; Regular Env: **\$410.00**;
 Mass Stipends Feb.: **\$36.00**;
 Ash Wednesday Env.: **\$75.00**;
 Donations for Oil Tank: **\$940.00**;
TOTAL: \$1,526.30

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$11.00**; Envelopes: **\$115.00**; Ash Wednesday
 Env.: **\$15.00**; Mass Stipends Feb.: **\$12.00**
TOTAL: \$153.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$60.00**

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

1 Prepaid Plot & 2 Perpetual Care: **\$700.00**;
 Payment on Plot: **\$300.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,000**

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†	Gertrude Connolly
Sun	13	IC	9:00 am	Lionel Comeau†	Wife & Family
Sun	13	IC	4:00 pm	Eric Johnson, Sr.†	Elva & Family
Tue	15	IC	4:00 pm	Andre Richard†	Lea Richard
Sat	19	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Dwight & Jeannette Little
Sun	20	IC	9:00 am	Agatha Godwin†	Bill LeGoff & Stuart Ward

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

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



COVID-19 UPDATE On March 14th, the Government of New Brunswick intends to remove all remaining measures related to COVID-19, which will affect how we gather.

- **FACE MASKS** - The wearing of face masks will no longer be required, but we are encouraged to continue wearing masks when entering and exiting the church, as well as when going to communion. Once seated, parishioners may wish to remove their mask or continue wearing it. We must be mindful and considerate of vulnerable children and youth as well as those members of our faith communities who are not vaccinated.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** will no longer required and parishioners will no longer have to sign-in when attending mass. Hand sanitizer will continue to be offered at the church entrance.

MASS SCHEDULE Due to the removal of COVID restrictions, 4:00 PM mass on Sundays in Rexton will be discontinued after March 13th. This mass was added in order to accommodate all parishioners while ensuring social distancing.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS XPRESS 2022 Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School (for children having finished kindergarten up to the end of 6th grade), which will again be held virtually on Zoom from June 6th-9th from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. This year's theme is *MONUMENTAL: Celebrating God's Greatness*. There are a limited number of spaces available, so register early by contacting Karen at 387-4198 or Trevor at 857-4879. A \$20 registration fee will be required, but will be refunded at the end of the program.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE Development and Peace's *People and Planet First* campaign celebrates what solidarity can achieve, even against seemingly impossible odds. In Madagascar, for instance, Development and Peace's partner, the Development Council of Andohatapenaka (CDA), empowers people to manage and transform their neighbourhoods. In the capital region, which is afflicted by flooding and poor waste management, CDA has helped the residents of one vulnerable area to turn their environs into a thriving ecological village. Today, each of the 50 households involved in the project has a vegetable garden, a stove and solar panel. This transformation reflects a true ecological conversion. Watch the video at devp.org/lent/act.

ONLINE COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE Development and Peace is taking online donations to help the thousands of people affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine. You can make a donation on our website (www.devp.org), by calling 1 888 664-3387 or by sending us a cheque by mail (425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3rd floor, Montreal, QC, H3G 1T7) made out to Development and Peace and marked "**Ukraine Emergency**". Thank you for your generosity in showing your affection for the women, men and children injured or forced to flee their homes.



Prayer, charity and fasting are not medicines meant only for ourselves but for everyone: they can change history, because they are the principal ways for God to intervene in our lives and in the world. They are weapons of the spirit.

~Pope Francis via Twitter