

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ BAD THINGS, GOOD PEOPLE

Imagine you are one of the disciples sitting at the table during the Last Supper. As Jesus comes and takes his place at the table, things look like they do at every other Passover meal they have shared. There is nothing that would suggest that this would be the last meal they would share together as a group. Life can be, and often is, like that. Today doesn't look a whole lot different than yesterday and tomorrow will probably not look a whole lot different than today. Until it doesn't. Things can change suddenly and without warning. A car accident can claim the life tomorrow of someone sitting at your table tonight. Devastating news can come to a loved one that will change their life and the life of the family forever. I can remember when our daughter was diagnosed with cancer. On Monday evening her and I were sitting on the couch at home watching the Canadiens game and Wednesday evening we were sitting in her room at the IWK after receiving her diagnosis. To say that we didn't see it coming was an understatement. But in fairness, Jesus tells us in the Passion reading we hear this week that darkness will have its hour in all our lives.

While most times we cannot control the circumstances creating the rough time we are going through, we can control how we react to it. I can remember lying in bed the night we received our daughter's diagnosis asking God why He would do this. Where is the sense or the fairness in a little girl one week away from her 12th birthday being diagnosed with cancer? Then I came to the realization that God did not do this. In my faith journey I have come to believe that God has no vested interest in seeing anyone suffer. Having said that, I have had many people say to me over the years (as I am sure you have), "God won't send you anything you can't handle." This has always perplexed me as I am trying to think of what bad thing I would do to one of my children just to see if they could handle it. I haven't been able to think of anything yet, but I will continue to try. Our daughter survived her fight with cancer. Sadly, some children do not. Does that mean that we were better equipped to "handle" what had come our way than some other families? Or that we were better people? Or prayed better? I don't think so, but I will be the first to say that I certainly do not have all the answers. All I can do is base my faith on what my experience of God has been. Why some people and families survive crises and others do not is a mystery that I don't think any of us can solve.

Now we can debate forever the eternal question of why bad things happen to good people but if we do, I think we are missing the point. Jesus was not spared hard times in his life so it would be foolish to think that we would be. One thing Jesus did know, as evidenced by his heart wrenching prayer in the garden, was that in all of what was happening, he was not alone; and neither are we. Jesus promises us that we are never alone. It doesn't get more comforting than that. To know that someone who has been through the tough times is now walking along side us to help us in our need. Fr. Henri Nouwen once said, "It is foolish to think that someone can lead you out of the desert who has never been there themselves."

I can say that I believe with all my being the saying, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Perhaps that is the blessing of coming through hard times; that we are now a little more capable of being God's instrument of peace and healing to someone else who needs it. That is certainly what Jesus has become for us. As we journey through this Holy Week, perhaps our deepest ask of God is that He let us have the privilege of being the answer to someone's prayer.

~Mark Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

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someone can lead you out of
the desert who has never
been there themselves.*

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 10 April 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	Isaiah 42:1-7	Psalm 27	John 12:1-11
Tue	Isaiah 49:1-6	Psalm 71	John 13:21-38
Wed	Isaiah 50:4-9	Psalm 69	Matthew 26:14-25
Thur	Exodus 12:1-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Psalm 116	John 13:1-15
Fri	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Hebrews 4:14-16,5:7-9	Psalm 31	John 18:1-19:42
Sat	Easter Vigil		
Sun	Acts 10:34-37 Colossians 3:1-4 or Corinthians 5:6-8	Psalm 118	John 20:1-9 or Luke 24:1-12



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$42.00**; Envelopes: **\$1,000.00**;
 Initial Offering: **\$10.00**; Share Lent: **\$165.00**;
 Oil Tank Donations: **\$550.00**;
 Hospital Chaplains Env.: **\$5.00**;
 Sale of Missals: **\$30.00** **TOTAL: \$1,802.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$150.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Envelopes: **\$195.00**;
 Share Lent: **\$25.00**; **TOTAL: \$235.00**

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Donation IMO Rose Jean Cormier: **\$250.00**;
 Building Fund Donations: **\$55.50**;
TOTAL: \$305.50

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	9	SP	4:00 pm	Raymond Murphy†	Gertrude Connolly
Sun	10	IC	9:00 am	Hanrahan Family	Nancy
Tue	12	IC	4:00 pm	No Mass (Chrism @ 6:30 pm at Cathedral)	
Thur	14	IC	7:00 pm	People of the Parish	
Sat	16	IC	8:30 pm	Easter Vigil	
Sun	17	SP	10:30 am	Marie Guidera†	Claire Murphy

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Thur	14	IC	7:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Corinne Stephen	Gloria
Fri	15	IC	3:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions Passion	Donna Bob Gloria / Corinne	Adona
Sat	16	IC	8:30 pm	Vigil Readings & Psalms	Stephen / Corinne Donna	Gloria
Sun	17	SP	10:30 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROSARY SCHEDULE

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	10	IC	8:30 am	Gail Barlow	1st Decade: For our clergy 2nd Decade: For our parishioners 3rd Decade: For our youth 4th Decade: For peace in our world 5th Decade: For the intentions of parishioners
Sun	17	No mass in Rexton on Easter Sunday			
Sun	24	IC	8:30 am	Gail Barlow	
Sun	1	IC	8:30 am	Maia Scoretz	

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 11TH-15TH Please note that instead of Tuesday (April 12th) from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm, the parish office will be open Monday, April 11th from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. The hours will remain the same for Wednesday and Thursday (8:30 am – 12:30 pm).

MOVIE & DISCUSSION On Good Friday, April 15th from 6:30 – 8:30, we will be showing the film *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977) at the parish hall, following which Fr. Bernard will lead a discussion on the film. For more information contact Maia at 506-688-6061 or family@forourlady.com

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

April 12 ^{th***}	Chrism Mass	6:30 PM	Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral
***There will be no 4:00 PM Mass in Rexton on April 12th due to the Chrism Mass, which all are welcome to attend.			
April 13 th	Anointing of the Sick	2:30 PM	Rexton
April 13 th	Anointing of the Sick	7:00 PM	Elsipogtog
April 14 th	Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	Rexton (followed by a time of prayer)
April 14 th	Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	Indian Island (followed by a time of prayer)
April 15 th	Good Friday (Way of the Cross)	10:00 AM	Elsipogtog
April 15 th	Good Friday	3:00 PM	Rexton
April 15 th	Good Friday	3:00 PM	Elsipogtog
April 16 th	Holy Saturday	8:30 PM	Rexton
April 16 th	Holy Saturday	8:30 PM	Elsipogtog
April 17 th	Easter Sunday	10:30 AM	South Branch
April 17 th	Easter Sunday	10:30 AM	Indian Island

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISM MASS Good news! After two years celebrating with a minimal number of people due to the pandemic, I am happy to be able to invite you in great numbers this year for the Chrism Mass that I will preside on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption in Moncton. During this beautiful and grandiose celebration, priests and deacons renew their promises. Also, the Holy Chrism used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination is consecrated. And the oil of the catechumens and the oil of the sick are blessed. So, we are all invited to reaffirm together our desire to proclaim the Gospel and build God's Kingdom. I will therefore be pleased to welcome you to the Chrism Mass. ~*Archbishop Valéry Vienneau*

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND Thanks to the federal inquiry known as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which took place between 2008 and 2015, we now have a better understanding of what happened to Indigenous people in our country. The Commission in question recorded the testimonies of hundreds of residential school survivors. This same Commission issued 94 calls to action in order to right the legacy of the residential schools and to promote a road to reconciliation in Canada. Some of these calls for action were specifically addressed to the Catholic Church. It is long overdue for Canadian society and the Church to pay genuine attention to Indigenous people and their culture as well as the challenges they are facing. In recent decades, the Catholic Church has made efforts at reconciliation. It is now seeking to embark on a journey leading to reconciliation and solidarity. During this Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord to help us move forward together towards healing and reconciliation. ~*Archbishop Valéry Vienneau*

JOB OFFER - PART TIME MANAGEMENT POSITION The Archdiocese of Moncton is seeking candidates to fill the position of Manager of Our Lady of Calvary Cemetery on a part time basis. The interested candidates must be proficient in both English and French and have demonstrated management experience. Candidates may submit their resume to the Moncton Archdiocese Reception Office at 224 St George Street Moncton, Attention: Financial Administrator, by April 8, 2022. A job description is available by email: annettel.diocese@gmail.com

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 (1425 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.

MONDAY @ THE MOVIES Our next Mondays @ The Movies will take place on Monday, April 25th at 10:30 AM (via Zoom) when we will discuss faith themes in the (2002) New Zealand film Whale Rider. Contact Trevor for more information or to register.

VBS EXPRESS Vacation Bible School This year's Vacation Bible School will take place 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm on Zoom from June 6th-9th. The theme is **MONUMENTAL: Celebrating God's Greatness**. Register with Karen at 387-4198 or catechism.set@gmail.com or Trevor at 857-4879 or trevord.diocese@gmail.com. Due to limited space, the registrations must be received by May 1st, and there will be a \$20 registration/place-holding fee that will be refunded at the end of the program.

