

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ CHASING BUTTERFLIES

In her book of essays, *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*, author and poet Maya Angelou wrote "I'm always amazed when people walk up to me and say, 'I'm a Christian.' I think, 'Already? You already got it?' I'm working at it..."

Possibly the most important conversion experience I have encountered personally involved coming to the realization that becoming Christian is a life-long process and while I may experience times of growth, I will never fully "have it." I might backslide at times. There will be no "One Night Only" event when I suddenly see God, Jesus and the world with divine clarity. Never will there be a time when I possess all the answers for every-one, and never will there be a time when I am not in need of God's love. Being fully initiated into the Catholic Church is only the beginning and striving to be Christian involves an almost continual evolution because in my experience, just when I think I've "gotten it" I am once again challenged to grow.

The butterfly is a popular Christian symbol because the transformation to butterfly from caterpillar represents resurrection, new life, and conversion. Imagine you are a caterpillar inching along munching leaves until one day a process beyond your control forces you to stop what you're doing. You work hard to spin your shelter until you are co-cooned in darkness, where you will stay for a length of time you have no control over. Everything you know from your caterpillar world has vanished and there are forces at work you do not understand, and then one day you emerge stunningly transformed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been destabilizing to many of us. Our sense of normality evaporated before our eyes to be replaced by a series of regulations and restrictions most of us have not experienced in our lifetime. Elements of daily life once taken for granted have been stolen from us indefinitely and even though a vaccination strategy provides us with desperately needed hope for emerging from this pandemic, we cannot yet fully know how we will have been changed by it. Pope Francis has frequently called for the faithful to use the COVID-19 pandemic as a chance to "re-imagine a global economy that values people and the planets over profits, and one where (fellowship) and solidarity guide human relationships rather than conflict and division." (Associated Press, 2021) So, Francis has encouraged us to take the opportunity at a global level to rebuild a better planet, but how does this apply to me personally?

I am certain that even amid the hibernation, darkness, fear, isolation, news headlines, and global death count of 2.7 million, the Holy Spirit has presented me with opportunities for transformation...to shed what I have outgrown and to see the world through a fresh lens. If I can do this, then the goodness planted by God in my heart can grow, bloom, and change me. It is not good we have been forced to take up combat with a virus for which we were unprepared, but goodness can emerge from difficult challenges, even spiritual transformation. Easter provides us with a reminder of this and presents an opportunity to reboot and to reconsider what brings me life and what does not bring me life. In retrospect, what elements of my pre-pandemic existence did not contribute to my flourishing? What might I have been wrong about? Did I really know everything? What mistakes might I have made? What have I been holding on to that drains me of energy? Who was I before the world got its hands on me? This Easter Season, what transformation will I permit?

~Trevor Driesbeck, Archdiocese of Moncton Office for Evangelization & Catechesis



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Third Sunday of Easter 1 May 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton



St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

Phone: 506-523-6817

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

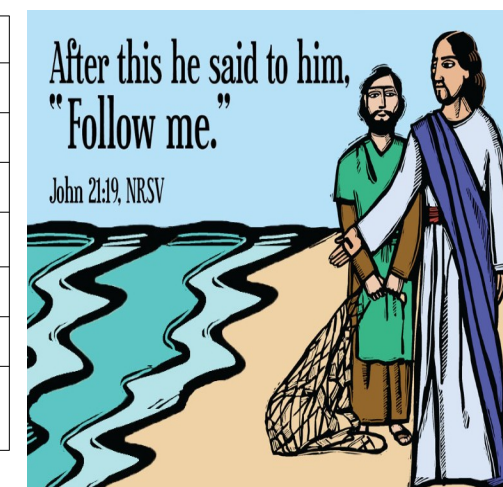
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 119	John 6:22-29
Tue	1 Corinthians 15:1-8	Psalms 19	John 14:6-14
Wed	Acts 8:1-8	Psalms 66	John 6:35-40
Thur	Acts 8:26-40	Psalms 66	John 6:44-51
Fri	Acts 9:1-20	Psalms 117	John 6:52-59
Sat	Acts 9:31-42	Psalms 116	John 6:60-69
Sun	Acts 13:14,43-52 Revelation 7:9,14-17	Psalms 100	John 10:27-30



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$40.00; Envelopes: \$420.00;

Easter Offering: \$35.00;

Donations for Oil Tank: \$250.00;

Sale of Missals: \$25.00; **TOTAL: \$770.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: \$37.80; Envelopes: \$245.00;

Easter Offering: \$20.00; **TOTAL: \$302.80**

St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donation: \$100.00

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	30	SB	4:00 pm	Rose Jean Cormier†	JoAnn Murphy & Family
Sun	1	IC	9:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Bill & Stuart
Tue	3	IC	4:00 pm	Our Lady of Good Counsel	Rexton C.W.L.
Sat	7	SB	4:00 pm	Marie Guidera†	Sharon & Gordon Ward
Sun	8	IC	9:00 am	Ralphie Ward†	Stuart Ward

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

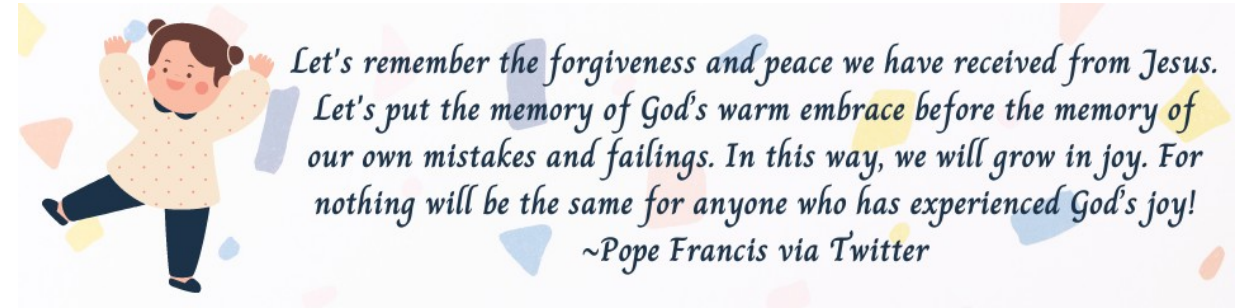
				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	7	SB	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	8	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Corinne Vina Adona

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROSARY SCHEDULE

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	1	IC	8:30 am	Maia	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	8	IC	8:30 am	Gail	
Sun	15	IC	8:30 am	Maia	
Sun	22	IC	8:30 am	Gail	

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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



DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND – MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP VIENNEAU

An incident which took place last year truly amplified the calls for a greater commitment from the Catholic Church. On May 27th, 2021, the Media began reporting nationwide that 215 bodies of children had been discovered in unmarked graves near the former Indian residential school in Kamloops. This and other such discoveries have led to significant progress in our Church, namely: a public apology coming from the Bishops, a delegation of indigenous people travelling to Rome, the Holy Father's acceptance to come to Canada, and a commitment from the Canadian bishops to contribute the sum of 30 million dollars to healing and reconciliation initiatives. The aforementioned efforts will contribute to a stronger foundation on which to build our relationship with the indigenous peoples. Our May 7th and 8th donations will allow the diocese to support local projects put forth by our Mi'gmaq communities, namely: Elsipogtog First Nation, Bouctouche MicMac, Fort Folly First Nation and Indian Island First Nation. Along with chiefs and representatives from our indigenous communities, we will make every effort to identify projects based on their priorities. We hope to be able to foster initiatives in the following areas: 1) healing and reconciliation; 2) cultural and language revitalization; 3) education and early childhood development; and 4) promotion of indigenous culture and spirituality.

United in prayer and solidarity,

~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

