

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ WHO TAUGHT YOU TO PRAY?

On Mother's Day, 2003, I attended mass at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer, a church, but not a parish, strategically located amid casinos and hotels on The Strip in Las Vegas. 19 years later, I can still remember the homily from the presiding priest, who shared the story of the very first Liturgy he had ever presided on Mother's Day in his home parish, parents and siblings proudly sitting in the front pew. "Now," he said, "I knew it was Mother's Day. And I knew my mother expected to have that acknowledged with mention made of what a devoted, Christian, faith-filled mom she was. But Mother's Day is not in the liturgical year. It is not a Feast Day of the Church. It is not a sacred event in the life of Christ. So, I made no mention of mothers, Mother's Day, or my own mother during my homily."

In fact, our priest is right. The Ordo for this present liturgical year clearly notes: "Because Sunday is first of all the Lord's Day, undue emphasis must not be given to this secular celebration." Obedient to that order, this new priest did as was expected. However, when one brother went to receive Communion, he whispered, "You are in big, big trouble."

At a celebration with family and friends in his parents' home following the liturgy, gathered to honour this significant moment in the young priest's life, he explained to his mom why he COULD NOT speak about mothers during his homily. His mom looked him in the eye, leaned in for a huge hug, and whispered in his ear, "Who taught you your prayers?"

With some concern that this may be perceived as a stereotypical statement, I believe mothers are the backbone of our faith. The mother of Jesus remained at the foot of the cross throughout the crucifixion, after most of the men who had followed and accompanied him had disappeared in fear. In our *Rite of Baptism*, when speaking of the child's parents carrying out the "parts truly proper to them in the celebration of Baptism," the Rite states, "they (the mother in particular) carry the infant to the font." (5.3) Clearly, the Church accepts the important role mothers can play in passing on the faith. Throughout the world, particularly in the Global South, it is mothers / grandmothers who balance jobs, family life and other commitments to ensure their children live in their faith and help sustain belief in this God; it is mothers / grandmothers who attempt to teach their children to meet God during everyday life.

My father was a person of faith, who lived that faith daily, but it was my mother who made sure we got to church; it was with her I had conversations of faith. My husband is a person of faith, who lives that faith daily, but he would concede that our children were raised in the Christian faith because of my commitment to it. Increasingly we do see fathers take on roles that were conventionally held by mothers. I acknowledge there are also mothers who fail and neglect their children, even horrifically abuse them. Yet, my lived experience as a catechist shows that 80% or more of catechists are mothers, 70% or more of parental involvement in catechism is by mothers.

So, the Ordo is correct: Sunday is the Lord's Day; Mother's Day is a secular celebration. Far be it from me to argue with Church teaching. But on this Mother's Day, which is also the Sunday traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday, such a beautiful image of mothering, and as a mother filled with gratitude for her children, the most important of any legacy I may leave; and having had a mother who taught me how to love both God and my family, how can the Church not expect me to speak of mothers? Those women who gave birth to us; many women who may have mothered us; women who are agonizingly longing to be a mother; or women who have failed to mother as they should and carry the guilt of that with them always, are to be remembered today. Our priest in Las Vegas ended his homily with: "I have never failed to speak about mothers on Mother's Day since," acknowledging the one who began his journey by teaching him to pray. Happy Mother's Day.

~Ellen Bennett, Office for Evangelization & Catechesis



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fourth Sunday of Easter 8 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

	Acts	Psalms	John
Mon	Acts 11:1-18	Psalms 42	John 10:1-10
Tue	Acts 11:19-26	Psalms 87	John 10:22-30
Wed	Acts 12:24-13:5	Psalms 67	John 12:44-50
Thur	Acts 13:13-25	Psalms 89	John 13:16-20
Fri	Acts 13:26-33	Psalms 2	John 14:1-6
Sat	Acts 1:15-26	Psalms 113	John 15:9-17
Sun	Acts 14:21-27 Revelation f21:1-5	Psalms 145	John 13:31-35



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$55.00**; Envelopes: **\$725.00**;
Mass Stipends April: **\$15.00**; **TOTAL: \$795.00**

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Sale of Plots: **\$750.00**; Perpetual Care: **\$300.00**;
HST Reimbursement: **\$13.88**; **TOTAL: \$1,063.88**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$100.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Envelopes: **\$210.00**;
Donation: **\$10.00**; Mass Stipends April: **\$15.00**;
Reimbursement: **\$119.10**;
HST Reimbursement: **\$101.23**; **TOTAL: \$470.33**

St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donation IMO Teresa Warman: **\$50.00**

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	7	SB	4:00 pm	Marie Guidera†	Sharon & Gordon Ward
Sun	8	IC	9:00 am	Ralphie Ward†	Stuart Ward
Tue	10	IC	4:00 pm	MASS CANCELLED DUE TO FUNERAL	
Sat	14	SB	4:00 pm	Dollena Giguere†	Sharon & Gordon Ward
Sun	15	IC	9:00 am	Lionel Comeau†	Wife & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	14	SB	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	15	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Donna Pat Gloria

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROSARY SCHEDULE

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	8	IC	8:30 am	Gail	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	15	IC	8:30 am	Maia	
Sun	22	IC	8:30 am	Gail	
Sun	29	IC	8:30 am	Maia	

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

TUESDAY MASS CANCELLED Fr. Bernard will not celebrate the 4:00 pm mass on Tuesday (May 10) due to a funeral.

CHANGE TO MASS SCHEDULE Effective the first week of June, our mass schedule will change. Fr. Bernard will continue to celebrate mass in South Branch at 4:00 pm on Saturdays. In Rexton, mass will be celebrated on Sundays at 11:00 am, while the 4:00 pm mass on Tuesdays will remain unchanged. Please refer to the **Local Mass Schedule** →→→→→ for changes to mass times in Indian Island and Elsipogtog.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended to the families of Alban Vautour (1930-2022), Ernest LeBlanc (1933-1922), and Richard Wood (1950-2022). Please hold in prayer their families and everyone whose lives they have touched.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary came about in the 13th century. Various reasons are given for this decision, but the actual reason is that May is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to Jesus.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND – MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP VIENNEAU

Over the past weeks, it was only possible for me to touch on some of the realities encountered by the Indigenous peoples in Canada. I have mainly touched on the issue of residential schools as this is where some dioceses and religious communities have been directly involved. I am well aware that there is still very much to be done to repair the legacy of the past, to overcome deep-seated systemic racism and to establish an equal footing between reconciled indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. I am also aware that no measure can fully erase the pain of the survivors or that of the people living with intergenerational trauma. However, by listening to and cultivating trusting relationships with our indigenous peoples while working collaboratively with them, we hope to learn to walk together on the path leading to truth and healing. The projects we will be able to support locally, thanks to your generosity, will be concrete signs of our commitment to accompany our indigenous brothers and sisters on the long road to reconciliation. For those who may not have had the opportunity to contribute to the Reconciliation Fund, there are envelopes still available in the churches. You can pick one up and make your donation whenever you wish. Thank you very very much. May God bless us and sustain us in our efforts to bring people together leading to reconciliation.

~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau, Archbishop of Moncton

Local Mass Schedule

Effective June 1st

Saturdays

4:00 pm ~ South Branch
6:30 pm ~ Elsipogtog

Sundays

9:00 am ~ Indian Island
11:00 am ~ Rexton

Tuesdays

4:00 pm ~ Rexton
6:30 pm ~ Elsipogtog (Adoration)

Wednesdays

6:30 pm ~ Elsipogtog

Thursdays

4:00 pm ~ Indian Island