

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

I struggled with the readings from today's liturgy, so I checked out Antioch in my Atlas of the Bible. As told in Acts (11-15) and the Epistle to the Galatians, Antioch was the earliest great centre of Gentile Christianity and was, in fact, the first place where the name "Christian" was used. It was here that Paul clarified his position that non-Jews need not convert to Judaism before becoming Christian. Men do not need to follow the ritual of Abraham, nor the Mosaic laws surrounding meals. Although Jesus created the Eucharist at his last Passover seder, kosher rules do not apply to Christians. Peter was torn between two factions within the Church--that of Paul and that of James--whether to embrace what is new or to protect the traditions that brought us to the present moment.



In the reading from the Apocalypse there is this phrase, "And the sea was no more", the 'sea' being the waters that separate earth from heaven in the great Creation Hymn. That was accepted scientific theory at the time. If the waters 'are no more', then heaven collapses into earth. So, everything we know about the Father in Heaven is actually here on earth! Did this mean Antioch was the new Jerusalem?

Having a firm faith is a tricky business. When we know that what we believe is true, how do we avoid thinking that others are wrong when they do not see and do things the way we do? Tragically, Christians have been known to believe that because they were now God's people, they were superior to all others and when Paul freed Christians from Judaic law, it was interpreted to mean that the Jews had rejected God. This was not at all what Paul said. For Paul it was all about what God did, not us.

Some 1500 years later, at the time of Columbus, the Inquisition was in full force. It was based on the belief that there is only one truth, which is ours, and all who differ from us are wrong. If they do not submit to our truth, they do not deserve to live. Independent Women, dissident Christians (heretics) and Jews were targets. Books were reviewed by officers of the Inquisition and were burned if not approved. Sadly, today's reading from Revelation was used to support such thinking and to extend it to the New World. "Behold the dwelling of God IS with "Anthropon" (translated as 'men' until recently changed to 'humans') But "they WILL BE His "laoi" (translated as "peoples"). The Inquisition considered only Christian men to be fully human. All others were created unequal unless, or until, they were converted.

Paul fought for the freedom of his converts to retain their individual traditions and they incorporated many of them into Christianity. At the heart of a society that celebrates diversity is the humble acceptance of the limitations of one's own knowledge. No one person or group knows it all. Forgetting that is the definition of arrogant pride. Jesus opposed that attitude in many different sayings and parables, but we can pretend he was talking to and of others, not ourselves. It may seem a contradiction, but the unification of difference is the mystery of love. And where love is, there is God.

A bag of marbles can never become one.

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

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Fifth Sunday of Easter 15 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](mailto:icprexton@rogers.com)

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**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			
<b>Mon</b>	Acts 14:5-18	Psalms 115	John 14:21-26
<b>Tue</b>	Acts 14:19-28	Psalms 145	John 14:27-31
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 15:1-6	Psalms 122	John 15:1-8
<b>Thur</b>	Acts 15:7-21	Psalms 96	John 15:9-11
<b>Fri</b>	Acts 15:22-31	Psalms 57	John 15:12-17
<b>Sat</b>	Acts 16:1-10	Psalms 100	John 15:18-21
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 15:1-29 Revelation 21:10-23	Psalms 67	John 14:23-29



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$70.00**; Envelopes: **\$720.00**;  
 Indigenous Reconciliation Fund: **\$362.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$1,152.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Donations IMO Alban Vautour: **\$225.00**; Perpetual  
 Care: **\$200.00**; **TOTAL: \$425.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$30.00**; Envelopes: **\$170.00**;  
 Donation: **\$10.00**; **TOTAL: \$210.00**

### St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donations IMO Teresa Warman: **\$150.00**

### Regional Mass Account

**Funeral Masses: \$200.00**

## 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	14	SB	4:00 pm	Dollena Giguere†	Sharon & Gordon Ward
Sun	15	IC	9:00 am	Lionel Comeau†	Wife & Family
Tue	17	IC	4:00 pm	Margaret Sullivan†	Loretta Johnson
Sat	21	SB	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Gerry & John Damiana
Sun	22	IC	9:00 am	Nathalie Legoff†	son, Bill

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	21	SB	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	22	IC	9:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Vina Stephen	Adona

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROSARY SCHEDULE

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	15	IC	8:30 am	Maia	<b>1st Decade:</b> For our clergy <b>2nd Decade:</b> For our parishioners <b>3rd Decade:</b> For our youth <b>4th Decade:</b> For peace in our world <b>5th Decade:</b> For the intentions of parishioners
Sun	22	IC	8:30 am	Gail	
Sun	29	IC	8:30 am	Maia	
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Gail	

## WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

**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.



### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for two summer students to serve as groundskeepers for St. Peter's Parish (12 weeks)

and Immaculate Conception Parish (8 weeks). Each position involves work in the cemetery and parish halls. For more information or to submit a resume, please contact the parish office.

### CELEBRATION FOR FR. RAYMOND DESJARDINS, C.Ss.R.

The family of Fr. Raymond has extended an invitation to a Commemorative Mass and Reception to be held on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in Grand Falls, NB. The mass will be held at Assumption Church at 1:30 pm (355 Chapel Street), with the reception to be held at the Golden Age Club at 2:30 pm (125 Manse Street). Please RSVP your presence no later than June 30 by contacting Rhéal Desjardins at 514-591-2422 or [rheal52.desjardins@gmail.com](mailto:rheal52.desjardins@gmail.com). Secondary contact person is Jocelyne Desjardins, who can be contacted at 506-475-0665 or [jocedesjardins@gmail.com](mailto:jocedesjardins@gmail.com).

thank you

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ALBAN VAUTOUR would like to extend their thanks to Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R., Linda Teakles and all others who contributed to making Alban's funeral mass such a beautiful celebration.  
 ~Janet & Family

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS



**DIACONATE ORDINATION** - WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Moncton joyfully announces and cordially invites you to attend the Transitional Diaconate Ordination of Juan Carlos Jacinto through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of hands by His Grace, Mgr Valéry Vienneau, Archbishop of Moncton. It will take place on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sainte-Therese d'Avila Parish in Cap-Pelé, NB (2648 Acadie St.)

## 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