

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ BE NOT AFRAID

My relationship with the Church has been on a bit of a rollercoaster ride these past few years. My sense of hope has been at war with the disappointment and anger I have felt over some of the institutional church's response to modern issues. While it has called its own members to a renewed sense of sinfulness and mercy, it seemed to have shown little mercy on issues of divorce, gender identity and equality, while avoiding responsibility in dealing with its own sins of abuse and discrimination. I felt that at times the leaders were spending more energy on maintaining an *image* of moral authority, than on *living out* the foundational teachings of Christ. I felt conflicted dealing with these heart-wrenching spiritual dilemmas: Would continuing my contributions and participation only enable these issues to continue unchanged? Do I work from within my faith community to make my religion more accountable to the teachings of Christ? Would any voice or effort "from the pew" even *make a difference* in such a huge institution steeped in long-established hierarchy and traditions? Can people still find relevant guidance from a church that often seems to be out of touch with their own lived experiences? I suspect I am not alone in my questions, if empty churches and dwindling numbers of congregants are any indication.

In following the readings from the Acts of the Apostles over the Easter season, I was struck by a sense of "deja-vu!" From its earliest beginnings, apparently, the Church has been struggling to define and re-define its identity, direction and priorities. The question presented in today's First Reading as to whether or not all male followers of Christ must be circumcised, may seem ridiculous to our modern sensibilities, but at this point in our Church's history it struck at the very heart of Christian identity: Must a person be a practicing Jew in order to follow Christ and thereby be eligible for salvation? It was an issue so divisive, that it threatened the future existence of the burgeoning faith. The Apostles and elders gathered to pray, debate and discern the will of the Holy Spirit on this issue. In a similar way, Pope Francis has called a Synod of "church elders" to discern the future direction and priorities of our modern Church in crises. He too, has called for input and prayer from around the world to guide the process of discernment. And just as Jewish "traditionalists" debated at the same table with Gentile "modernists" in the early gatherings of Jerusalem, so too will today's "Synod on Synodality" be faced with equally divisive theological arguments. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the participants at all levels, and will lead them into a spirit of mercy, diplomacy and enlightenment. The Church has lived through many such periods of dialogue and debate throughout its history, and when it was open to the grace of the Holy Spirit it was usually able to evolve into a healthier and more relevant voice for the teachings of Christ within its time. I hope and pray this Synod will prove to be regenerative and healing for our Church struggling to once again finds its place in our modern day.

In the meantime, I hold on to the words of Jesus in today's gospel as he sends his disciples out into the world, "*the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*"

~Mary Joshi, Queen of All Saints Parish Unit



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Sixth Sunday of Easter 22 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 16:11-15	Psalms 149	John 15:26-16:4
Tue	Acts 16:22-34	Psalms 138	John 16:5-11
Wed	Acts 17:15-18:1	Psalms 148	John 16:12-15
Thur	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23	Psalms 47	Luke 24:46-53
Fri	Acts 15:22-31	Psalms 57	John 15:12-17
Sat	Acts 16:1-10	Psalms 100	John 15:18-21
Sun	Acts 15:1-29 Revelation 21:10-23	Psalms 67	John 14:23-29



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$75.00**; Envelopes: **\$560.00**;
 Indigenous Reconciliation Fund: **\$230.00**;
 Good Friday Env.: **\$5.00**; Marriage Fee: **\$100.00**;
 Hall Rental: **\$95.00**; Hall Donation: **\$284.55**
TOTAL: \$1,349.55

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Donation IMO Alban Vautour: **\$25.00**;
 Cemetery Fund Envelopes: **\$20.00**; **TOTAL: \$45.00**

St. Peter's

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

thank you

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	21	SB	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Gerry & John Damiana
Sun	22	IC	9:00 am	Nathalie Legoff†	son, Bill
Tue	24	IC	4:00 pm	Raymond Perry†	Mina Richard
Sat	28	SB	4:00 pm	Jean Dunn†	Debbie & Dale
Sun	29	IC	9:00 am	Paul Robichaud†	Jeanne Warren

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	28	SB	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	29	IC	9:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Corinne Bob Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	22	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	29	IC	8:30 am	Maia	
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	12	IC	10:30 am	Maia	

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 29th, 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. Secondary contact person is Jocelyne Desjardins, who can be contacted at 506-475-0665 or jocedesjardins@gmail.com.

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 11th 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