

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ COME TO ME, ALL YOU THAT ARE WEARY...

Of all the Feasts, Solemnities, Memorials or Ordinary Time Sundays that come up in the liturgical calendar I do not think there is one more "Catholic" than the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ which we celebrate this weekend. I use the big "C" in catholic as opposed to the small "c" as the big "C" means belonging to the Roman Catholic Church as opposed to the small "c" which means "all embracing, or universal". What we celebrate this weekend is probably the most defining belief in our Roman Catholic faith, that the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ when we are gathered for Eucharist. This fundamental tenet of our tradition is something I embrace and believe with every fabric of my being, but according to recent surveys, that is less and less the case among Catholics worldwide.

A 2019 Pew Research Report found that **69% of United States Catholics believed that in the Eucharist the bread and wine "are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ"**, and only 31% believed that, "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus". This, to me, is a startling revelation. I mean, what could be a more core belief among Catholics. It truly is one of the things that gives us our identity.

I was in a meeting recently where this statistic was brought up and one of the participants at that meeting said, **"If you say you are Catholic, then this belief is essential to you being able to make that claim. You have to believe this."** As I listened to this person (who I admire and respect deeply) I was forced to give what was being said a lot of careful thought. This was opening doors to other beliefs in our tradition which may not be held by all who gather for mass. Does that make them less welcome at the table of our Lord?

I don't think so. Jesus, coming to us in the guise of bread and wine, is the greatest sign we have of how much we are loved by God. If we can be blessed with enough faith to know that this is true, then we would be changed forever. But my experience is that we don't truly believe it, because, if we did, we would be sharing this with anyone who would listen. We would want everyone we meet to come and experience this miracle of God's love. Instead, we have in many cases made this a sacrament of worthiness. The words of Jesus, **"Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11: 28);** we have turned into "come to me all those who are deemed worthy". In some instances, we have been guilty of turning communion into a reward for people who get it right (the vast minority) as opposed to much needed food for the journey for those of us who struggle not to get it wrong. In any case, I don't think God's presence in the Eucharist is contingent upon what we believe. As the old saying goes, *"Some things are true whether you believe them or not"*.

One thing we **are** all called to is to be a people of hope and joy. This intimate encounter with Jesus should be just what we need to help us manifest those qualities in every aspect of our life. And above all, we must be a people of love. Jesus said, they will know you belong to me by how you love. And love leaves no room for judgmentalism, exclusion, or marginalization. We are the Body and Blood of Christ and have been entrusted to deliver Jesus' message to a world that is in need of **GOOD NEWS**. To know you are loved unconditionally is the best news anyone can receive. As Catholics, let's make sure that is our catholic message.

Happy Father's Day!
~Mark Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ 19 June 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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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 – 11:00 am

Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	2 Kings 17:5-8	Psalm 60	Matthew 7:1-5
Tue	2 Kings 19:9-35	Psalm 48	Matthew 7:6-14
Wed	2 Kings 22:8-13	Psalm 119	Matthew 7:15-20
Thu	Isaiah 49:1-6 Acts 13:22-26	Psalm 139	Luke 1:57-66
Fri	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Psalm 23	Luke 15:3-7
Sat	Lamentations 2:2-14	Psalm 74	Luke 2:41-51
Sun	1 Kings 19:16-21 Galatians 5:1,13-18	Psalm 16	Luke 9:51-62



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$62.80; Envelopes: \$955.00;
Sanctuary Lamp Donation: \$150.00; **TOTAL: \$1167.80**

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Open/Close Grave: \$75.00; **TOTAL: \$75.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: \$15.00; Envelopes: \$200.00; **TOTAL: \$215.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: \$110.00;
Memorial Tree 2021: \$240.00; **TOTAL: \$350.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	18	SB	4:00 pm	David Harnett†	Joseph Allain
Sun	19	IC	11:00 am	Aurella LeBlanc†	Jeanne Warren
Tue	21	IC	4:00 pm	Paul Robichaud†	Jeanne Warren
Sat	25	SB	4:00 pm	David Harnett†	Lillian Vautour
Sun	26	IC	11:00 am	Teresa Warman†	Elizabeth Thompson

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	25	SB	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	26	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Donna Pat Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	19	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1st Decade: For our clergy
Sun	26	IC	10:30 am	Maia	2nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	3	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3rd Decade: For our youth
Sun	10	IC	10:30 am	Maia	4th Decade: For peace in our world 5th Decade: For the intentions of parishioners

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

THERE IS A PROMISE OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN JOSEPH JEAN (JOHN) LAURENT BOURQUE (MCKEES MILLS) AND MARIE ALICE RENÉE (DIANE) AMYOT (MCKEES MILLS). THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE WILL TAKE PLACE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN REXTON ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27TH.



WE WELCOME Prince-Levi Alcantara, son of Princess Lopez and Levie Alcantara, to our faith community through the sacrament of baptism. Prince-Levi was baptized on Sunday, June 12th at Immaculate Conception Parish in Rexton. Congratulations to Prince-Levi & his parents, godparents, and honorary godparents!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH POTLUCK / SOCIALS will be held throughout the summer on the third Sunday of the month following mass (12:00 pm – 1:30 pm), beginning today, Sunday, June 19th, with additional potlucks planned for July 17th and August 21st. There will be a basket for freewill offering, with all funds raised going to the parish. We are also looking for volunteers willing to assist with the clean-up afterwards, and also to help sell tickets for the Quilt Raffle. For more information, contact Maia Scoretz at family@forourlady.com, 778-804-8370 or 506-688-6061.

THANKSGIVING QUILT RAFFLE Tickets are now available for the Immaculate Conception Quilt Raffle! The cost is \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, and can be obtained by dropping into the parish office. The quilt was hand-crafted and donated by the Quilting Ladies of the parish. Anyone interested in selling tickets for the fundraiser should contact the parish office.

MASS AT CHAPEL POINT Fr. Bernard will celebrate mass at St. Patrick's Church (Chapel Point) on Saturday, July 23 at 4:00 pm. There will be no 4:00 pm mass held in South Branch on this date.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES We are looking for a summer student to serve as groundskeeper for Immaculate Conception Parish. The position involves work in the cemetery and parish halls. For more information or to submit a resume, please contact the parish office.

SUMMER STUDENT IN SOUTH BRANCH St. Peter's is pleased to have summer student Emme Warman working as groundskeeper this summer. Emme has worked for our parishes in the past and her hard work and dedication are much appreciated. Welcome back, Emme!

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.

