

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ SMILE, IT WON'T KILL YOU**

Every weekend an elderly man sits through the entire Mass at the back of the church with his arms folded across his chest and a scowl on his face. He doesn't open his mouth to sing nor pray, not even the "Our Father." I'm sure if I did a little digging, I would find Oscar the Grouch, from Sesame Street, adorning his family coat of arms. There is also a woman, a bit younger than the Grouch, who, out of sheer obligation toughs it out for the hour. Although she doesn't know the man, she would be the Grouch's female equivalent. Likewise, she sits at the back of the church with her head bowed to the floor. She is scrupulous, morose, miserable, and like the Grouch, never smiles. Never. The Grouch and Cruella. I have to remind myself that I'm here to announce Good News. Any one of us can have an off day or a really bad week. But, it seems these two have completely missed the memo that Mass is suppose to be a celebration. With these two, there is no love affair going on with God in this world, only fire insurance for the next.

Unfortunately, there is a little bit of The Grouch and Cruella in each of us. If we were honest with ourselves, we would realize that most of our misery is self-imposed. When reality doesn't bend to our wishes, when people don't do what we want them to do, when we can't control outcomes, we end up on a crash course with misery. So, is the solution to show up at Mass smiling from ear to ear, pretending everything's perfectly fine even when it may not be? Do we fake it until we make it? Do we ascribe to the "power of positive thinking," banishing every negative thought until only positive ones remain? Do we project contentment to everyone around us and never let people know about our inner struggles and silent sufferings? Probably not, as that, too, would be disingenuous and pretentious.

In Jesus' farewell speech, on the night before he knowingly went to his death, his prayer was that, **"my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete."** The dying wish of anyone, including Jesus', must be taken seriously. He wants joy to inhabit us...completely! No plastic smiles. No faking it until we make it. Only genuine joy. Do you know what causes joy to emerge in me? Two Scripture passages, one from the Old Testament and one from the New. In the 49<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, we hear: **"Can a woman forget her baby at the breast or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these might forget, yet I will not forget for I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands."** Knowing that I am never forgotten, even for a nanosecond in the eyes of God, brings me joy. The second passage, also from Jesus' farewell speech the night before he dies, goes like this: **"I have said this to you, so that my peace may be in you. In the world you will have hardship but take courage, for I have conquered the world."** When I put the two quotes together, I realize I am inscribed in the hands of One who has overcome the entire world, including every struggle I have ever had, every struggle I'm currently experiencing, and every struggle yet to come. St. Paul perhaps says, **"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."** Ponder this for two minutes and watch misery melt into joy.

Jesus was nobody's fool, and he certainly was not naïve about evil. He never pretended, nor did he encourage us to pretend, to consider suffering, pain, hardship, and even death as trivial. They are not. Suffer and death are real but not ultimate; they are penultimate. Jesus situates pain in healing and watches pain vanish. He situates death in the center of life and watches death fade into oblivion. Can we do the same? Can we situate our little lives in the great life of God and watch misery turn into joy? It is a matter of trust in the One who has conquered the world. Like the loaves and the fish, Jesus takes our little joy and turns it into too much joy. I dare say, if we cannot handle too much misery, we will never be able to handle the joy Jesus came to give us.

Remember, the foremost symbol for heaven is not the beatific vision but a festive party.

~Fr. Phil Mulligan, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 26 June 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



**Parish Office:**

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

**Phone:** 506-523-6817

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**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 – 11:00 am  
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

**St. Peter's Mass Time**

Saturday – 4:00 pm

**Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week**

<b>Mon</b>	Amos 2:6-10	Psalms 50	Matthew 8:18-22
<b>Tue</b>	Amos 3:1-4:12	Psalms 5	Matthew 8:23-27
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 3:1-10 Galatians 1:11-20	Psalms 19	John 21:15-19
<b>Thu</b>	Amos 7:10-17	Psalms 19	Matthew 9:1-8
<b>Fri</b>	Amos 8:4-12	Psalms 119	Matthew 9:9-13
<b>Sat</b>	Amos 9:11-15	Psalms 85	Matthew 9:14-17
<b>Sun</b>	Isaiah 66:10-14 Galatians 6:14-18	Psalms 66	Luke 10:1-20



**He set his face to go to Jerusalem.**

Luke 9:51, ESV

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$93.00**; Envelopes: **\$765.00**;  
 Donations from Parish Social: **\$105.00**; Sale of Votives: **\$254.00**;  
 Quilt Raffle Tickets: **\$285.00**; Sale of Missals: **\$5.00**;  
 Mass Stipends May: **\$30.00**;  
 Miscellaneous Donations: **\$40.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,577.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Donation IMO Deceased Members of Glencross Family: **\$200.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$200.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$20.00**; Envelopes: **\$90.00**;  
 Mass Stipends May: **\$12.00**; **TOTAL: \$122.00**



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	25	SB	4:00 pm	David Harnett†	Lillian Vautour
Sun	26	IC	11:00 am	Teresa Warman†	Elizabeth Thompson
Tue	28	IC	4:00 pm	Léo Martin†	Huguette & Family
Sat	2	SB	4:00 pm	Josie McGlynn†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	3	IC	11:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Donna & Blaine

### LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	2	SB	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	3	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Vina Corinne	Adona

### ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	26	IC	10:30 am	Maia	<b>1st Decade: For our clergy</b> <b>2nd Decade: For our parishioners</b> <b>3rd Decade: For our youth</b> <b>4th Decade: For peace in our world</b> <b>5th Decade: For the intentions of parishioners</b>
Sun	3	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	10	IC	10:30 am	Maia	
Sun	17	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.

**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 27<sup>TH</sup>.**



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SOCIALS** Thank you to all those who came out for our first parish social last weekend, and to those who helped out. With your help we raised \$105.00 for the parish and \$25.00 for the Quilt Raffle. Our next social will take place on **July 17<sup>th</sup>** following mass with another to follow on **August 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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](mailto:family@forourlady.com), 778-804-8370 or 506-688-6061. **Please note it is not**

**necessary to bring food if you wish to come, everyone is welcome!**

**PARISH 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. Winner will be drawn Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**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!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES** of local high schools who are celebrating their convocation with family and friends. **Hats Off, Class of 2022!** May God bless and keep you always.

