

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ WELCOMING GOD

Two stories about hospitality this week.

But as it turns out, it is hospitality *to* God!

The [First Reading](#) says that Abraham was sitting outside his tent on a hot day. He looked up to find three men standing nearby on the path, apparently satisfying their curiosity about the tent and its occupants. It is not clear that Abraham knew who they were, but we suspect that they were God appearing to Abraham in human form!

How does Abraham react to this Godly presence?

He flies into action. He bows deeply. He begs the men to relax from their journey and receive comfort, nourishment, and rest. Beautiful hospitality from the Eastern part of the world.

He then rushes into the great tent, issuing pell-mell commands to his wife Sarah. "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls." He picks the best steer and orders the servant to prepare it. He dashes outside to get curds and milk. At long last he sets the whole meal before the men.

Quite a scene. Quite a welcome.

All at once the men make a sudden, astonishing statement. Next year Sarah will bear a son by Abraham. As the dinner had progressed, Sarah had stood behind the tent flap listening, and now she actually laughs out loud as she hears this absurdity about her dried-up body, nearly 89 years old, which is to issue forth a tender baby. (Our scripture selection for Sunday leaves out the laughing part. If you want to read it, press [here](#)).

As you may know, after a time this amazing prophecy did indeed come to be. We can thank God that Abraham listened to the men, the presence of God.

Second story. In the [Gospel](#), Jesus enters the house of his friends Mary and Martha. He too is warmly welcomed. As he sits, Mary arranges herself at his feet and focuses her clear wide eyes upon him, while Martha bustles about preparing dinner.

Unfair! Martha gets tired and exasperated, and finally asks Jesus to make Mary stop lounging and help out a little. Surprisingly, Jesus says, no. "Mary has chosen the better part," he explains.

Isn't this response unjust to Martha? After all, someone has to make the meal or there would be none. Or maybe Martha could have said, "we are not having any food tonight, we are just going to sit and stare at you."

In truth, Martha's trouble was not that she was scrabbling about, but that as she did so *she forgot about Jesus*. She was not making him welcome, she was constructing a meal. He even tells her that she was anxious and worried about many things, not the one thing necessary. What is the one thing necessary? Relation to Christ.

Real hospitality means a two-way relationship in which host and guest open to each other, become present to one another in various ways. Hosts do work out the details of preparation, and they work hard. But they always remember the visitor while they prepare. Excellent hosts manage somehow to get everything ready but also to truly listen and converse with the one who has come.

That is how we are supposed to act every day. We are to find God in all things, in all the people we know and/or help, no matter how busy we might be. We are to relate to them because God is within them, deep in their souls. Touch them. Hear them. Prepare meals for them without forgetting them. We will be giving hospitality to God himself. Abraham gave it. Mary gave it. Martha forgot like you and I do, but she learned.

Let's try to learn it too.

~Fr. John Foley, Society of Jesus

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 17 July 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

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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	Malachi 6:1-8	Psalms 50	Matthew 12:38-42
Tue	Isaiah 7:14-20	Psalms 85	Matthew 12:46-50
Wed	Jeremiah 1:1-10	Psalms 71	Matthew 13:1-9
Thu	Jeremiah 2:1-13	Psalms 36	Matthew 13:10-17
Fri	Song 3:1-4	Isaiah 63	John 20:1-18
Sat	Jeremiah 7:1-11	Psalms 84	Matthew 13:24-30
Sun	Genesis 18:20-32 Colossians 2:12-14	Psalms 138	Luke 11:1-13



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$150.00**; Envelopes: **\$555.00**;
 Marriage Fee: **\$100.00**; Missals: **\$5.00**;
 June Mass Stipends: **\$24.00**; **TOTAL: \$834.00**

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Donations IMO Alban Vautour: **TOTAL: \$175.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$40.00**; Envelopes: **\$115.00**;
TOTAL: \$155.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$130.00**

Thank you

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	16	SB	4:00 pm	<i>Teresa Warmant†</i>	Elizabeth Thompson, Marilyn Hannay & Marie Walsh
Sun	17	IC	11:00 am	<i>Margaret Sullivan†</i>	Huguette & Alverie Robichaud
Tue	19	IC	4:00 pm	<i>David Harnett†</i>	Alverie & Huguette Robichaud
Sat	23	CP	4:00 pm	<i>The Deceased Resting in St. Patrick's Cemetery†</i>	Former Parishioners of St. Patrick's Church
Sun	24	IC	11:00 am	<i>Oliva & Joachim Robichaud†</i>	Jean Warren

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	23	CP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	n/a
Sun	24	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Pat Donna

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	17	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1st Decade: <i>For our clergy</i> 2nd Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i> 3rd Decade: <i>For our youth</i> 4th Decade: <i>For peace in our world</i> 5th Decade: <i>For the intentions of parishioners</i>
Sun	24	IC	10:30 am	Maia	
Sun	31	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	7	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.



THERE IS A PROMISE OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN MATTHEW CHARLES RICHARD (HALIFAX), SON OF NORMAN AND MARILYN RICHARD (REXTON) AND HAZEL GABULE (HALIFAX), DAUGHTER OF RICHARD AND PEREGRINA GABULE (CEBU, PHILIPPINES). THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE WILL BE CELEBRATED AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN REXTON ON AUGUST 6TH, 2022.

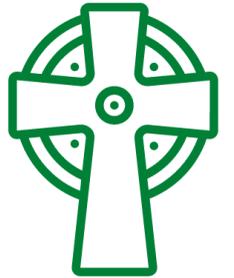
Mass at Chapel Point

Saturday, July 23rd, 2022

4:00 PM

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

312 Chapel Point Road
 Kent County, NB



The 4:00 pm mass at St. Peter's in South Branch will be cancelled on July 23rd to allow for the mass at Chapel Point



GEORGE AND VIVIAN HUDSON would like to extend thanks to Fr. Bernard Gauthier, the Finance Committee as well as Immaculate Conception and St. Peter's parishes for the card and gift cards delivered in person by the Finance Committee last week.

As you may be aware George has retired from his caretaker role after many years of devoted service and it would be difficult to overstate his many contributions to the parish grouping. Not only has he served the parish community locally but for years he also represented Immaculate Conception Parish on the English Diocesan Pastoral Council for the Archdiocese of Moncton.

THANK YOU GEORGE FOR YOUR YEARS OF HUMBLE SERVICE TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!