

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ THE V.I.P. GUEST LIST

“Here is the God I want to believe in: a Father who, from the beginning of creation, has stretched out his arms in merciful blessing, never forcing himself on anyone, but always waiting; never letting his arms drop down in despair, but always hoping his children will return so that he can speak of words of love to them and let his tired arms rest on their shoulders. His only desire is to bless.” (Fr. Henri Nouwen, 1992)

I wonder how many baptized Christians disconnect from their faith because they feel unworthy, marginalized, or at odds with either the institutional church or even their local parish community. My experience talking with people about faith and religion suggests there may be many, which saddens me because we are told there is room for all of us, in particular those who are broken, struggling, and for whatever reason have lost a sense of their original goodness. Pope Francis said it best, quoted here from an interview with the Jesuit publication [America Magazine](#):

“The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds. ... And you have to start from the ground up.” (America Magazine, 2013)

Jesus’ parable of *The Prodigal Son* (or *The Forgiving Father*, or *The Two Sons*, depending on the lens used to read it) should be relatable to most of us. Looking back over my lifelong faith journey I recognize times when I have been that Prodigal son, but also when I have been the resentful brother and there is much to learn about myself and God by entertaining these different perspectives. In fact, Fr. Henri Nouwen in his book [The Return of the Prodigal Son](#), suggests that after we’ve experienced the joy of homecoming, and worked through our resentment like the brother, our work is to “claim fatherhood,” or become like the father. I am not suggesting it is possible for us to become God, but there is a call for Christians to embody the forgiveness, benevolence, and acceptance expressed by the father in the parable. This story is brief, but filled with challenges that for me at least, require hard personal work. If I tried to see through the eyes of someone disconnected from their faith (for whatever reason), I would find this celebratory homecoming scenario an appealing one. To be embraced and celebrated upon return sounds more Christ-like than “*Who does she think she is?*” or “*Why are they even here?*”

I suspect there is a part of all of us wanting to believe we are special, remarkable, and unique but in my experience on planet earth many of us derive our self-worth (or our original goodness) based on socio-economic status, the size/location of our homes, our level of education, occupation, who we know, or our political influence; except our ways are not God’s ways. People care deeply about these matters, but as difficult as it may be to believe, everyone is equally remarkable in God’s eyes. We are all God’s favourites. You are God’s favourite and that annoying person sitting in the pew behind you is also God’s favourite. This can be a difficult pill to swallow, like it was for the older brother in Jesus’ parable. Spiritual writer Rachel Held Evans (1981-2019) wrote about God’s kingdom in a way that makes me want to take part: “*This is what God’s kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there’s always room for more.*”

This is the God I want to believe in, and the kingdom I want to help build.

-Trevor Droesbeck, Archdiocese of Moncton Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 11 September 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 – 11:00 am

Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	1 Corinthians 11:17-26	Psalms 40	Luke 7:1-10
Tue	1 Corinthians 12:12-14	Psalms 100	Luke 7:11-17
Wed	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 78	John 3:13-17
Thu	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Psalms 118	John 19:25-27
Fri	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Psalms 17	Luke 8:1-3
Sat	1 Corinthians 15:35-37	Psalms 56	Luke 8:4-15
Sun	Exodus 32:7-14 Timothy 1:12-17	Psalms 51	Luke 15:1-32



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$174.00**; Envelopes: **\$740.00**;
 Faith Formation Env: **\$215.00**; Needs of Cdn Church
 Env: **\$60.00**; Hall Rentals: **\$295.00** **TOTAL: \$1,484.00**

Immaculate Conception

Perpetual Care: **\$120.00**; Urn Burials: **\$400.00**;
 Urn Open/Close: **\$150.00** **TOTAL: \$670.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$40.00**; Envelopes: **\$170.00**;
 Donation: **\$8.00**; Faith Formation Env.: **\$26.10**;
TOTAL: \$244.10

Regional Mass Account

Mass Intentions: **\$165.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	Roy Murphy†	Stella & Yvon
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud†	Blaine & Donna
Tue	13	IC	4:00 pm	Len & Helen Carter†	Dick & Family
Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	Nadeen Wellwood†	Claire Murphy
Sun	18	IC	11:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Dick & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	18	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Stephen Corinne Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	11	IC	10:30 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	18	IC	10:30 am	Maia	
Sun	25	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	2	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.

FILIPINO MASS will be celebrated on Sunday, September 18th at 4:00 pm at Immaculate Conception, with Fr. Antonio Reyes from the Diocese of Saint John presiding. The Rosary will be prayed at 3:30 pm, and although parts of Fr. Reyes homily will be in Tagalog, the mass will be in English, followed by a Potluck in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration. For now these masses will be held every second month so watch the bulletin and parish social media for future dates.

PARISH SOCIALS Thank you to everyone who has been coming out to support the parish socials following the 11:00 am mass in Rexton on the third Sunday of the month. The next one will be held on October 16th following mass. Everyone is invited to attend and you may bring food to share if you like, but is not necessary. For more information contact Maia Scoretz at family@forourlady.com, 778-804-8370 or 506-688-6061.

MASS INTENTIONS A reminder that mass intentions are \$10.00 and can be obtained by contacting the parish office or by dropping an envelope containing the intention and \$10.00 into the collection basket. For those seeking special intentions to mark an anniversary or occasion please note that mass intentions at Immaculate Conception are booked until mid-March 2023.

CATECHISM FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 6+ will be offered at Immaculate Conception beginning at the end of September. Initially gatherings will take place once a month with the time/day as yet undecided. The format will be a Parent Coaching model where one parent/guardian will remain with their child for each session. Online registration will be available through the parish website and Facebook page, and forms are available at the back of the church. Please return completed forms to the parish office. More detailed information will be made available in the coming weeks.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

TENDING THE SOIL, TENDING THE SOWER 2022 This year's catechist formation will take place on Saturday, September 17th from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Riverview. Our facilitator will be Dr. Anne Walsh, Coordinator of Partnership in Mission, Redemptorists and the Redemptorist Adult Faith Formation Team and she will give a presentation entitled "*WHERE HAS GOD WALKED WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY? Exploring how we do mystagogy in everyday life*". Register by emailing Trevor Droesbeck at trevord.diocese@gmail.com, by calling 857-4879.

MASS AT PAPAL SITE The Archdiocese of Moncton and the Knights of Columbus invite everyone to the Annual Papal Site Mass. There will be a bilingual recital of the Rosary at the Prayer Garden at 10:00 am, at 11:00 am there will be a Pipe Ceremony, please wear the orange t-shirts Every Child Matters, if you have one, followed by a procession to the Papal Site for the 11:30 am celebration of the Mass. Following the Mass, there will be a family BBQ at the Prayer Garden. This celebration will be on Saturday, **September 17th, 2022**. If it rains, the celebration will be at the Notre Dame de Grace Church (Mountain Rd). If you want to order an orange t-shirt, contact Charlene 333-6759 charlene.pelletier@gmail.com. Money collected will go to the Indigenous Solidarity Fund.

MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES is a group that meets regularly to discuss faith connections in popular movies. Our next movie discussion will take place on Zoom on Monday, September 26th at 10:30 am when we will talk about the (2004) independent comedy, *Napoleon Dynamite*. For more information or to register, contact Trevor.

ANNUAL LIFE CHAIN takes place Sunday, October 2nd, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Champlain st. (beginning at Paul St. Dieppe). Arrive for 2:15 pm for the prayer and departure will be from Burger King, Paul St. We pray while distancing and in silence for the protection of the unborn and their families. Info Sr. Cécile F. at 857 9414.