

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ WITHIN THE POOR

"Homeless often 'treated like dirt'" ran a headline in the September 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Times & Transcript*. It grabbed my attention, and I felt a pang of guilt.

The increasing number of homeless people appearing in our communities, particularly over the past few years, is disconcerting to see. Recently, returning to my car with women friends, parked a couple of blocks north of Main Street, following a performance at the Capitol Theatre, as we left the lights and busyness of Main Street, we walked quicker. Earlier, we had noted and commented on the numbers of homeless people lingering on church steps near where we were parking. Not speaking for my friends, I can only say, I am less patient with those who live on the street – they sit on so many corners, block the entrance to the office where I used to work; station themselves in strategic locations as they seek donations; hide in wooded areas on my walking paths; erect their tarps and tents, leaving their debris in inconvenient spots. They make me feel uncomfortable. And now, when Wayne reaches out to give them some loose change, I chastise him, reminding him of a sign seen in the States last winter: 'Don't give money to the street people; donate instead to the organizations that support them.'



"Hear this, you that trample on the needy" the prophet Amos says in the first reading. I am not trampling on the needy, but I am judging them. And what right, pray tell, do I have to do that??? Would I do that, if I truly believed, as Oblate theologian Fr. Ron Rolheiser says, that it is among the poor where God sits: "God doesn't just have a preferential option for the poor. God is *within the poor*." Within that dirty person, sitting listlessly against a lamp post, dressed oddly, with her hand out, begging. Oh my.

In last week's Scripture Reflection, Trevor reminded us of an analogy used by Pope Francis - the church as a field hospital. Francis says it is useless to talk of high cholesterol and blood sugars with someone who has been seriously injured. We need to "heal their wounds." In the *Times and Transcript* article, Tanya Hansen, a support worker with the John Howard Society, acknowledges that many living on the street suffer from mental illness and substance abuse which they are unwilling or unable to treat. But she says, "We need housing and basic essential needs met before you can encourage folks to change the decisions they make. We need to take care of their basic needs first" - be the field hospital, heal the wounds.

*In Search of the Good*, a grade 12 catechetical resource published by the Canadian Bishops about 20 years ago, spoke about the importance of making eye contact with those who live on the street, even if we have no intention of giving them money. Otherwise, they tell us, they feel invisible. We need to show them the respect they deserve as people made in the image and likeness of the God who loves and made us all. Hansen said, "If we treat them with love and compassion and dignity, they respond in the same way." Fair enough. But even when they don't, and sometimes they won't, we must. Not only because of who they are, although that is reason enough. But because of who we are. Because God is within us, as God is within them.

Rolheiser says, "A mature disciple doesn't calculate or make distinctions as to whether God is inside of a certain situation or not, whether a person seems worth it or not, whether a person is a Christian or not, or whether a person appears to be a good person or not, before reaching out in service. A mature disciple serves whoever is in need, independent of those considerations." Clearly, I have a bit of maturing to do yet.

~Ellen Bennett, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 18 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](mailto: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

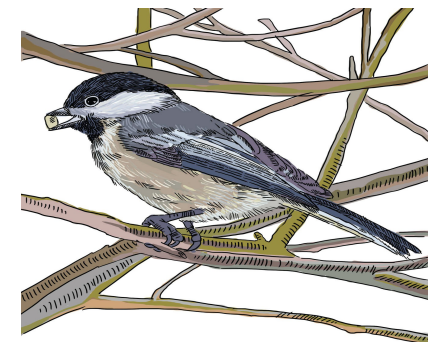
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

**St. Peter's Mass Time**

Saturday – 4:00 pm

**Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week**

<b>Mon</b>	Proverbs 3:27-34	Psalms 15	Luke 8:16-18
<b>Tue</b>	Proverbs 21:1-6	Psalms 119	Luke 8:19-21
<b>Wed</b>	Ephesians 4:1-13	Psalms 19	Matthew 9:9-13
<b>Thu</b>	Ecclesiastes 1:2-11	Psalms 90	Luke 9:7-9
<b>Fri</b>	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	Psalms 144	Luke 9:18-22
<b>Sat</b>	Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8	Psalms 90	Luke 9:43-45
<b>Sun</b>	Amos 6:1-7 Timothy 6:11-16	Psalms 146	Luke 16:19-31



Whoever is faithful  
in a very little  
is faithful also in much ...

Luke 16:10. NRSV

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$78.60**; Envelopes: **\$715.00**;  
 Faith Formation Env: **\$65.00**; Sale of Missals: **\$5.00**;  
 Hall Rental: **\$100.00**; August Mass Stipends: **\$27.00**  
**TOTAL: \$990.60**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Perpetual Care: **\$100.00**; **TOTAL: \$100.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$56.50**; Envelopes: **\$284.00**;  
 August Mass Stipends: **\$12.10**; **TOTAL: \$352.60**

### St. Patrick's Cemetery

Donation IMO James Delahunt: **\$20.00**;  
 Donations Found in Church: **\$28.55**; **TOTAL: \$48.55**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	Nadeen Wellwood†	Claire Murphy
Sun	18	IC	11:00 am	Faye Hudson†	Dick & Family
Tue	20	IC	4:00 pm	Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R	The Scoretz Family
Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	Leon Vautour†	Lillian Vautour
Sun	25	IC	11:00 am	Rose Jean Cormier†	Nancy & Joan

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	25	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Donna Bob Adona

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	18	IC	10:30 am	Maia	<b>1st Decade:</b> <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	25	IC	10:30 am	Gail	<b>2nd Decade:</b> <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	2	IC	10:30 am	Maia	<b>3rd Decade:</b> <i>For our youth</i>
Sun	9	IC	10:30 am	Gail	<b>4th Decade:</b> <i>For peace in our world</i> <b>5th Decade:</b> <i>For the intentions of parishioners</i>

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

*We defend everyone's right to religion, to hope, to beauty: to Heaven.  
 For every human being, in their absolute uniqueness, if they are in  
 contact with the divine, can radiate a special light in our world.  
 ~Pope Francis via Twitter*

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

**FAITH EXPERIMENTS EXPRESS** Children in grades 1 through 6 are invited back to Faith Experiments Express where we use science experiments to teach about God and Scripture. Sessions are conducted via Zoom and our first session will take place on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM. For more information, Contact Karen at 387-4198 or [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com)

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION COMMITTEE MEETING** The committee working on sacramental preparation will meet again on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Riverview.

**PARISH CATECHETICAL COORDINATORS** The next meeting of the Parish Catechetical Coordinators will take place on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Riverview.