

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ THERE'S GOOD, AND THEN THERE'S BETTER

Jesus says, **“If you know these things, then blessed are you who do them”** (Jn. 13:17). In other words, if you know better, you must do better. Once you know, you cannot pretend you don't know. When I consider the deplorable state of presiding and preaching that we find in most of our churches-- not just here in our diocese, but almost everywhere I go—I wonder if these priests actually *do* know better. They should know better, but apparently, they don't. Did they not receive proper liturgical formation at the seminary? And after ordination, did their development get arrested by neglect or, worse still, arrogance? (Being a priest for over 25 years, I think I have earned the right to hold priests' feet to the fire, including my own). We will never develop leaders if we only ordain followers. We will never develop shepherds if we only ordain sheep.

I was raised, not with a lot of brains, but with a lot of common sense. Common sense, in everyday life, should spill over into the world of liturgical prayer but, unfortunately, that's not always the case.

One day, immediately after Mass was finished, an elderly religious Sister approached me. She said (I'm paraphrasing our conversation), “Thank you.” I said, “For what?” She said, “You know the part of the Eucharistic Prayer where the priest says Jesus' words, ‘Take this all of you and eat...take this all of you and drink’, you looked right at me. For a moment, you were gone, and I felt Jesus was looking right at me offering me his body and blood.”

Isn't that what good liturgy is supposed to do--help us make connections? Isn't the role of Mass to make present the Last Supper, the saving mystery of our salvation? Good for you, Sister, you got it! And you got it all because somebody used common sense. Someone followed the Spirit of the Law instead of the Letter of the Law.

The Roman Missal (big, red book on the altar containing the prayers for Eucharist) speaks about the priest at the consecration. It says that after the consecration (the invoking of the Spirit to transform the bread into the Body of Christ), the priest takes the blessed bread, holds it slightly raised above the altar, bows, and says, “Take this all of you...” It then says the priest **shows** the consecrated **host** to the people. This is where much common sense goes out the window. This is where we close the door on people making connections like that Sister did.

The instructions says that the priest “shows” the consecrated host. It does not say that the priest is to elevate the host, which is what almost all priests and bishops do. What we end up with, completely through ignorance, are three elevations! There is only supposed to be one elevation, and that one takes place at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer at the doxology. Here the priest elevates both the bread and the wine accompanied by the words, “Through him, with him, and in him...” This is supposed to be the climax of the Eucharistic Prayer, but it's anticlimactic. Why? Because rather than **showing** the bread (This is my body) and then **showing** the wine (This is my blood), most priests have used these opportunities to do two, separate “elevations.” By the time you get to the real and only elevation (Through him, with him, in him...) the whole this is cheapened by redundancy. Whenever you multiply symbols, you cheapen them. Some churches have crosses carved onto the end of every pew. It cheapens and makes redundant the one Cross of Christ.

The Roman Missal says the priest shows (not elevates) the consecrated **host** to the people. Again, we can do better than that. Most priests take the one big host and elevate it alone. What about the other hosts? Are they not the Body of Christ also? Why is the “priest's” host singled out? To me it shouldn't be. All the bread in the plate is the Body of Christ. When the priest elevates one host only, he is giving a subtle message that the host he is about to eat is somehow more important than the hosts the congregation are about to consume? **Has Christ been divided?** (1 Cor. 1:13).

This one-host business is a throwback to the Middle Ages when the laity were no longer receiving Communion during Mass. For hundreds of years, the laity were reduced to spectators. The Cup was withheld from them and still is, to this very day, in many of our churches. The Communion plate, meant to hold real bread, was reduced to a small paten just large enough to hold one host—the priest's host! He alone consumed even though Jesus said, “Take this **all** of you.” I guess we weren't meant to take Jesus at his word. We had a better plan—the priest alone was to consume on the Body of Christ on behalf of us all. The laity's role was not to eat the Body of Christ, only to stare upon it. They called this the “gaze that saves.” How sad!

Have we evolved for the better after all these centuries? Hardly. Priest still do not look at the people. We are instructed to look up (into heaven), look down at the Bread, but nowhere are we to look at the people for whom Jesus gave his life.

A three-year old has enough common sense to know they are being ignored when you give them something while looking above them, below them, but never at them. Young children and old Sisters have much to teach us.

There's good and then there's better. If you know these things, blessed are you who do them.

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

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 23 October 2022

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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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	Ephesians 4:32-5:8	Psalm 1	Luke 13:10-17
Tue	Ephesians 5:21-33	Psalm 128	Luke 13:8-21
Wed	Ephesians 6:1-9	Psalm 145	Luke 13:22-30
Thu	Ephesians 6:10-20	Psalm 144	Luke 13:31-35
Fri	Ephesians 2:19-22	Psalm 19	Luke 6:12-16
Sat	Ephesians 1:18-26	Psalm 142	Luke 14:1,7-11
Sun	Wisdom 11:22-12:2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2	Psalm 145	Luke 19:1-10

“God, be
MERCIFUL
to me,
a sinner!”

Luke 18:13, NRSV



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$221.00**; Envelopes: **\$690.00**;
Potluck Donations: **\$85.00**; Needs of Cdn. Church:
\$10.00; Propagation of the Faith: **\$395.00**; September
Mass Stipends: **\$24.00** **TOTAL: \$1,425.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$25.00**; Envelopes: **\$165.00**; Propagation of the
Faith: **\$5.00**; September Mass Stipends: **\$12.00**;
TOTAL: \$207.00

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$100.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	22	SP	4:00 pm	Wallace Best†	Lois & Richard
Sun	23	IC	11:00 am	Julia Scoretz	The Scoretz Family
Tue	25	IC	4:00 pm	Alban Vautour†	Nancy Perry
Sat	29	SP	4:00 pm	Owen Sullivan†	Claire Murphy
Sun	30	IC	11:00 am	Norman & William Hines†	Bill Legoff

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	29	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	30	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Vina Donna Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	23	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	30	IC	10:30 am	Maia	
Sun	6	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	13	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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday, October 27th** because of the meeting of the English Diocesan Pastoral Council.

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS is observed on **November 1st** so the **4:00 PM** mass on **Tuesday (November 1st)** will be **changed to 7:00 PM**, followed by Fr. Bernard blessing the cemetery. *See full list of cemetery blessings below.*

UPCOMING FILIPINO MASS Our next Filipino Mass will be held on **Sunday, November 20th at 4:00 PM**, followed by a parish social. Please note this mass will be conducted in Tagalog, one of the two official languages of the Philippines.

SOUTH BRANCH LADIES GROUP COOKBOOK The 2003 South Branch Ladies Group Cookbook has been reprinted and are being sold for \$20.00 a copy. Please note this is a reprint of the 2003 cookbook (same recipes). To purchase a copy, contact Cathy Butler at 955-3612, 59cathybutler@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGLISH DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL The English Diocesan Pastoral Council will meet on **Thursday, October 27th, 9:30 am** at St. Bernard's.

CONVERSATIONS AROUND DEATH AND DYING (MAiD)

One theme arising from previous sessions on MAiD was that many of us are uncomfortable discussing our own death as well as the death of a loved one. However, honest conversations (about values, good palliative care, or advanced care planning) can help to improve the care we receive at the end of our lives. In response to this, the Committee Looking at Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is planning a session for **Monday, November 21st at Holy Family (Falkland Street, Moncton) from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**. The session will be led by Pam Driedger, member of the Adult Faith Commission and a Director of Spiritual Care at the Moncton Hospital with Horizon Health Network. *The aim of this session will*

be to help families start conversations about death and dying before circumstances force them to. How can families and loved ones accompany those who find themselves struggling with illness, pain and difficult medical circumstances? Register with Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198, karen.diocese@gmail.com or online at www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities.

FORMATION FOR BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAMS Formation for those involved in preparing parents for the baptism of their children will take place on **Saturday, November 26th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Riverview. Contact Trevor at 857-4879 or trevord.diocese@gmail.com for more information.

2022 CEMETERY BLESSINGS

Saturday October 29th

South Branch (20 min before the 4pm mass)

Sunday October 30th

Indian Island (after 9am mass)

Tuesday November 1st

Kouchibouguac 1:30pm (4 cemeteries)

Tuesday November 1st

Rexton (after 7pm mass)

Wednesday November 2nd

Chapel Point 10:30 am

Wednesday November 2nd

Bass River 2pm (2 cemeteries)

Wednesday November 2nd

Elsipogtog after 6:30 mass (2 cemeteries)

