

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ LIVE, LOVE, BELIEVE AND HOPE

In the second reading for today it states, "Brothers and sisters, whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have HOPE." That word 'HOPE' seems to be what we need to have in these difficult days, in the days leading up to Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. To be a person who lives HOPE in life, it is likely that one has had to live through difficult times. Also, it is likely that one sees possibilities in HOPE in the challenges faced in life, has been shaped by many challenges, setbacks or failures, yet has come through it to be a witness of HOPE to others. HOPE gives people a reason to continue fighting and believing that their current circumstances will improve, despite the unpredictable nature of human existence.

Pope Francis has said, "Hope never disappoints, hope goes not alone, but together --- together with our brothers and sisters, those of other Christian denominations, together with the believers of other religions, together with the weakest. The world goes on thanks to the vision of many people who created an opening, who built bridges, who dreamed and believed, even when they heard words of derision around them. Live, love, believe, hope and, with God's grace, never despair."

Preparing for this reflection, I found this that I'd like to share, 'HOPE' by the Christophers.

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.  
 Opens doors where despair closes them.  
 Discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot.  
 "Lights a candle" instead of cursing the darkness.  
 Regards problems, small or large, as opportunities.  
 Cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield cynicism.  
 Sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties or setbacks.  
 Accepts misunderstanding as the price for serving the greater good of others.  
 Is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of victory.

As we prepare for Christmas on this Second Sunday of Advent, let us remember that HOPE fuels our discipline, commitment, and resolve.

Let us reflect on these words by Henri Nouwen:

Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness,  
 Hope is knowing that there is love.  
 It is trust in tomorrow.  
 It is falling asleep and waking again when the sun rises.  
 In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land.  
 In the eyes of another it is to see that you are understood...  
 As long as there is still hope there will also be prayer...  
 And you will be held in God's hands.

~Cathy Kierstead, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping



# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Second Sunday of Advent 4 December 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>	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 85	Matthew 5:17-26
<b>Tue</b>	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 96	Matthew 18:12-14
<b>Wed</b>	Isaiah 40:25-31	Psalms 103	Matthew 11:28-30
<b>Thu</b>	Genesis 3:9-20	Psalms 98	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Fri</b>	Isaiah 48:17-19	Psalms 1	Matthew 11:16-19
<b>Sat</b>	Sirach 48:1-9	Psalms 80	Matthew 17:10-13
<b>Sun</b>	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10	Psalms 146	Matthew 11:2-11



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$101.35**; Envelopes: **\$750.00**;

Hall Rental: **\$80.00**; Living with Christ Missals: **\$65.00**;

**TOTAL: \$996.35**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Memorial Tree: **\$570.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$81.00**; Envelopes: **\$295.00**;

**TOTAL: \$376.00**

### St. Peter's Cemetery

Meomorial Tree: **\$80.00**

### St. Patrick's Cemetery

Donations: **\$20.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	<i>Bernadine Sanipass†</i>	Anne Peters
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	Mark Scoretz, Jr.	The Scoretz Family
Tue	6	IC	4:00 pm	<i>Faye Hudson†</i>	Dick and Family
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	<i>Arnold Milliea†</i>	Walter & Shirley
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	<i>Nathalie &amp; Frank Legoff†</i>	Son, Bill

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Gloria Corinne	Adona

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	4	IC	10:30 am	Gail	<b>1st Decade:</b> <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	11	IC	10:30 am	Vina	<b>2nd Decade:</b> <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	18	IC	10:30 am	Gail	<b>3rd Decade:</b> <i>For our youth</i>
					<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.*

## PART-TIME CARETAKER POSITION AVAILABLE (REXTON)

The position of caretaker plays a critical role in the ongoing maintenance of the church building, hall, and cemetery. It is part-time (15 hours/week) and offers both flexible hours and a competitive wage. There is also some flexibility required on behalf of the person serving in the role (i.e., burials, snow removal, emergencies, etc.) If you are interested, please contact the parish office. If you know of someone who might be suitable for the role, please pass along this information

**DONATIONS FOR KENT COUNTY FOOD BANK** can be placed in the basket at the back of the church. We have been told they are in particular need of dry cereal, canned goods and pastas, although any non-perishable food item will be accepted. Basic food costs have dramatically increased in the past year, creating extra stress during the Christmas season for families unable to meet the rising cost of living. This is one way we can support others in our community who are in need.

**2022 MEMORIAL TREE** Help support our cemeteries by purchasing your Memorial Tree bulb in memory of a loved one. Bulbs are \$10.00 each with all proceeds going to the cemeteries. For South Branch call Stella @ 955-3612 or Carol @ 523-6389 and for Rexton call Trevor at the Parish Office @ 523-6817.

**TAGS FOR TOYS** There are still a couple of gift tags at the back of the church at Immaculate Conception, each one identifying a gift needing to be purchased. Please pick up a tag (or tags), purchase the gift, and then bring the gift (unwrapped) to the Parish Office. Christmas gifts will be distributed to local families in need.

**PARISH POTLUCK** will be held on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** following the 11:00 AM mass. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share, but everyone will be welcome whether they bring food or not. For more information, contact the Parish Office.

**DECEMBER 8TH** marks the **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**. The Feast was approved in 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV. It was extended to the universal Church by Pope Clement XI in 1708. Acknowledging the belief held for centuries by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, of councils and his predecessors, Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854: "*We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin*" (Ineffabilis Deus, 1854)

*(Advent) is a time to recognize the shortcomings in our life, to smooth out the roughness of pride and to make room for Jesus who comes.*  
~Pope Francis

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HEART OF CHRISTMAS 2022 BENEFIT CONCERT** will take place December 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon to 3:00pm at St. Augustine's, 340 Dominion Street, Moncton in the Church Basement. Along with entertainment, there will be a baked goods sale, silent auction and more. All Proceeds will go to feed the needy and vulnerable of our community.