

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ BAPTISM

My brother-in-law prefers to celebrate his "birthday" in AA to celebrating his traditional birthday. His last one was his 35th. Most of us just celebrate one birthday. Shortly before that day our mother knew what was about to happen when her water broke. That is the "water" that is involved in the ceremony of Baptism. In my childhood catechism some 70 years ago, the element of water was for cleansing Original Sin and restoring an individual relationship with God. St. Augustine's explanation of Original Sin was that Eve stole from Adam control over his God-given and exclusive power of procreation. Happily that explanation is no longer in the catechism. When we look up the sacrament of Baptism in the new catechism, we read what else St. Augustine taught: Both the Words and the Elements give power to the sacraments.

The mystery of the birth of each one of us from the waters of our mother's womb has been symbolized from time immemorial by the waters of the sea. Immersion in the waters of the Jordan with John the Baptist symbolized re-birth to a new life from the deep waters of the universe. The second aspect of Baptism is the Word. In John the Evangelist's explanation of John the Baptist's ceremony with Jesus, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." The air we breathe in and with which we speak immediately follows birth and that air is symbolized by the birds that fly through it. Sea and Sky symbolize the whole universe.

Before the new liturgy was introduced, every Mass ended with "The Last Gospel". Because of that I imagine most Catholics my age can say it off by heart.



In the Beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God

,And the Word was God, He was in the Beginning with God, And through Him all things were made, And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us.

(Perhaps over the years I have mixed lines up.) At any rate, the second aspect of Baptism is the Word. Baptism is a ceremony and ceremony is a way for us to pay attention to the reality that surrounds us and that we are a part of. Our consciousness of our place in the universe informs our conscience. Today Science has taught us way too much about our DNA and our connection to the past history of Mother Earth and the molecular structure of everything small and huge. But it is still religion that helps us "call upon" a power "greater than myself" when we are in need of guidance.

Religions began by an awareness of that power through some particular experience (for example, Moses and the Burning Bush). However the pitfall of religion is to mistake the object of that experience for God. To "define" God is to worship an idol, because God is infinite. Religions must always renew themselves in the light of new revelations (including scientific discoveries). In his recent encyclical Pope Francis is attempting to guide Catholics away from merely using the earth and its wonders for personal gain towards a moral responsibility: to be the consciousness and the conscience of the universe.

~Agnes Beirne, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 January 2023

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:
12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

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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	Hebrews 5:1-10	Psalm 110	Mark 2:18-22
Tue	Hebrews 6:10-20	Psalm 111	Mark 2:23-28
Wed	Hebrews 7:1-17	Psalm 110	Mark 3:1-6
Thu	Hebrews 7:25-8:6	Psalm 40	Mark 3:7-12
Fri	Hebrews 8:6-13	Psalm 85	Mark 3:13-19
Sat	Hebrews 9:2-14	Psalm 47	Mark 3:20-21
Sun	Isaiah 8:23-9:3 1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Psalm 27	Matthew 4:12-23



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$106.00**; Envelopes: **\$630.00**;
 Donation for Heating: **\$1,000.00**;
 Initial Offering: **\$30.00**; New Year's Env.: **\$20.00**;
 Heating Env.: **\$430.00**; **TOTAL: \$2,216.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$80.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$33.30**; Envelopes: **\$100.00**;
 Initial Offering Env.: **\$25.00**; Heating Env.: **\$35.00**;
TOTAL: \$193.30

St. Peter's Cemetery

Memorial Tree: **\$240.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	14	SP	4:00 pm	Marguerite Little†	Dwight & Jeannette
Sun	15	IC	11:00 am	Cyril Sawyer†	Garnet & Irene
Tue	17	IC	4:00 pm	Ernest LeBlanc†	Jeannine, Dianne & Family
Sat	21	SP	4:00 pm	Marguerite Little†	Cathy & Jimmy
Sun	22	IC	11:00 am	Alban Vautour†	Yvonne Allan

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	21	IC	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	22	SP	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Corinne Vina / Harvey Adona

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	15	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	22	IC	10:30 am	Vina	2 nd Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	29	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3 rd Decade: <i>For our youth</i>
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Vina	4 th Decade: <i>For peace in our world</i> 5 th Decade: <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.

PLEASE NOTE THE WEEK OF JANUARY 16TH-20TH, FR. BERNARD WILL BE IN MISSISSAUGA ATTENDING MEETINGS FOR THE REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS to assist with cleaning the Parish Hall. We are seeking a group of volunteers to assist with cleaning the Parish Hall on a rotational basis. Many hands make light work, so the more volunteers we have the less demanding it will be for everyone. If you think this is something you feel called to, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr. Bernard prior to or after mass.

CONVERSATIONS AROUND DEATH AND DYING (REXTON) Since 2016, a diocesan committee has been offering formation and information sessions in response to the legalization of medical assistance in dying (MAiD). One theme arising from these sessions was that many of us are uncomfortable discussing the subject of death. 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 diocesan Committee looking at End of Life Pastoral Care is planning a session for **Saturday, January 28th at Immaculate Conception Church in Rexton from 10:30 am – 12:00 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.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

MASS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE LATE POPE BENEDICT XVI A mass celebrated by Archbishop Valéry Vienneau for the intentions of deceased Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. This mass will be bilingual and will take place at the cathedral on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023**, at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome.

FORMATION FOR PARISH R.C.I.A. TEAMS We are pleased to offer a series of four virtual formation sessions led by Catherine Ecker, a lead Canadian voice in Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.). Each session will take place on Zoom and run from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. The dates will be **January 30th, February 13th, March 6th, and March 20th** and upon the completion of four sessions each participant will receive a certificate from the Archdiocese. This formation is designed for Parish R.C.I.A. teams and others involved in sacramental initiation but is open to anyone interested and would like to learn more. Contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com. Register online by www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities.

MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES Our next film discussion will take place on Monday, **January 30th** at 10:30 am via Zoom. We will be talking about the 1984 film Places in the Heart with Sally Field, Danny Glover, and John Malkovich. Mondays @ The Movies is a discussion group that meets regularly via Zoom to talk about faith connections in popular movies. Contact Karen for more information or to register.

FAITH EXPERIMENTS EXPRESS Children in grades 1 through 6 are invited back to Faith Experiments Express where we use interactive science experiments to teach about God and Scripture. Sessions are conducted via Zoom and our next session will take place **February 6th** at 6:00 pm. For more information, Contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com. Register online at www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development.