

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's Gospel reading highlights the familiar Beatitudes we have all encountered as Catholics. As a pupil growing up in the Catholic school system ( in Ontario) I had to memorize the Beatitudes because the Beatitudes were a way to teach about who will find favor with God. I remember thinking " How can you be "blessed" if you are poor in spirit, or meek ,or persecuted then be "blessed" if you are pure in heart or be peacemakers?" My mother was very good at explaining things to me and since I wanted to know why I had to memorize the Beatitudes , she explained that "blessed" actually means happy, fortunate or favored ; that we don't hear Jesus insisting that we live in poverty in order to be blessed, only that we keep a proper prospective on what we perceive to be present blessings. Our " happiness" is found not in money, power but in the gifts we receive every day: life , creation , family , friends and so on. I learned that by studying the Beatitudes we can see the virtues we need - those good habits, dispositions or attitudes that make us good persons. A good person is a person who has integrity , truthfulness , generosity, humility, making the right choices to grow in virtue. Matthew , in this Gospel, reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

In 2016 , Pope Francis suggested 6 new Beatitudes for Catholics to consider. They are as follows:

1. Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.
2. Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness.
3. Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover Him.
4. Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.
5. Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.
6. Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.

By trying to live the Beatitudes ( the original and new ones) we learn to trust. According to Henri Nouwen " we are reminded that where we place our trust, how we decide what is important , and what we seek after in this life determines our path and determines our place in God's realm ; moving us forward to an always greater bond with God. " Nouwen reminds us too that " what makes us human is not our mind but our heart; not our ability to think, but our ability to love." And, as Matthew states : Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven.

~Cathy Keirstead, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 29 January 2023

*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

<b>Mon</b>	Hebrews 11:32-40	Psalm 31	Mark 5:1-20
<b>Tue</b>	Hebrews 12:1-4	Psalm 22	Mark 5:21-43
<b>Wed</b>	Hebrews 12:4-15	Psalm 103	Mark 6:1-6
<b>Thu</b>	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 24	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Fri</b>	Hebrews 13:1-8	Psalm 27	Mark 6:14-29
<b>Sat</b>	Hebrews 13:15-21	Psalm 23	Mark 6:30-34
<b>Sun</b>	Isaiah 58:7-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5	Psalm 112	Matthew 5:13-16



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$98.00**; Envelopes: **\$1030.00**;  
Initial Offering: **\$45.00**; Heating Env.: **\$130.00**;  
Sale of Votives; **TOTAL: \$1,303.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$50.00**; Envelopes: **\$270.00**;  
Heating Envelopes: **\$60.00**; **TOTAL: \$380.00**

### Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$70.00**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	28	SP	4:00 pm	David Harnett†	Dwight & Jeannette
Sun	29	IC	11:00 am	Stella McIntyre†	Linda Teakles
Tue	31	IC	4:00 pm	Alban Vautour†	Angus & Stella
Sat	4	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy and Dorrence Campbell†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	5	IC	11:00 am	Ernest LeBlanc†	Jeannine, Dianne & Family

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	4	IC	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	5	SP	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Gloria Siegfred / Leonardo Adona

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	29	IC	10:30 am	Gail	<b>1st Decade:</b> <i>For our clergy</i> <b>2nd Decade:</b> <i>For our parishioners</i> <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 parishioner</i>
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Vina	
Sun	12	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	19	IC	10:30 am	Vina	

## WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Alverie Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle and all residents living in special care homes.



**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 this is something you feel called to, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr. Bernard prior to or after mass.



**2022 TAX RECEIPTS** are available at the back of the church for those who requested them. If you wish to receive your tax receipt via email please contact the Parish Office.

**CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS** On Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Parish Office will be open from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm instead of 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

*Today more than ever, speaking with the heart is essential to foster a culture of peace in places where there is war; to open paths that allow for dialogue and reconciliation in places where hatred and enmity rage.*

~Pope Francis via Twitter

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

**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 30<sup>th</sup>**, **February 13<sup>th</sup>**, **March 6<sup>th</sup>**, and **March 20<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com). Register online by [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca) → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities.

**Meeting of the English Diocesan Pastoral Council** The next meeting of the English Diocesan Pastoral Council will take place on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am at Immaculate Heart of Mary (Dan Bohan Center) in Riverview. The group will meet for mass at 9:00 am and then proceed to the hall for our meeting at 9:30 am.

**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 6<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. For more information, Contact Karen at 387-4198 or [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com). Register online at [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca) → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development.

