

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Many years ago I read a quote that said (and I paraphrase): "Give people a reputation they will want to live up to." Since then I have tried to make this a motto for my life and to live it as best I could. To say that I was 100% successful in doing this would be to give myself a reputation I have not lived up to. In one of our R.C.I.A. sessions last year we were talking about the gifts each one of us have. The conversation got around to the gift of speaking in tongues. My understanding of the traditional explanation of this gift is: **a miraculous faculty granted by the Holy Spirit to a person, allowing the person to speak multiple languages that the person did not previously know.**

While this is a perfectly fine definition, I think there is another layer to this gift of tongues. I think we all have a pretty good understanding of the power of the spoken word. A phrase that I hear a lot in mainstream media and social media is "words matter". All words matter, not just the ones spoken by people in public office, or in ordained ministry, or in the news media. Your words and my words have the power to build up and equally the power to tear down. This gift of tongue that God has given us is only a gift if used for good. I believe it becomes a curse when it is used to lie or to defame another.

So, where does my focus have to be to stop me from using my words to put people in a negative light? I believe I have to begin from the premise that every single person I meet is a beloved child of God. But, before I can believe that about someone else, I need to believe it about myself. I think I can safely say that for most of us we are our own worst critics. We seem to always be able to find something wrong when we look in a mirror. Or when reliving a past discussion or disagreement, we can think of 10 different or better ways we would handle that if we had the chance to do it over again. We can be so hard on ourselves and so, think it gives us license to be hard on others.



But, before we get too far down that rabbit hole, let's have a look at what Jesus has to say about us in today's Gospel. Jesus begins by telling us that we are the "salt of the earth". And what does it mean to be "salt of the earth". According to a definition given in the Cambridge dictionary it means you are very good, honest, and reasonable, and not thinking you are special in any way. Those are the kind of people I like being around. They make you feel accepted and welcome, and that time spent with you is time well spent.

Jesus also tells us that we are the *light of the world*. He doesn't say that he is the light of the world. He says that we are. You, me, are light to more people than we could ever imagine. I have spent enough time at funerals and have heard enough people talk about what a tremendous impact the deceased had on their life to know that our lives impact others. How sad that most of the time we wait to say that to their remains.

So, going forward, let's challenge ourselves to never let an occasion to say something nice to, or about someone be missed. If you have a good thought come to mind, even about a stranger, tell them. It may be the only positive thing someone hears in the entire day.

We are God's children. We are salt and light. We are beloved. Now that's something worth talking about.

Mark Mahoney, Pastoral Associate
St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 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

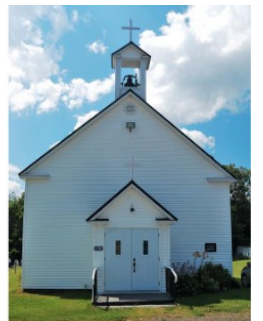
Email: icprexton@rogers.com

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

Mon	Genesis 1:1-19	Psalms 104	Mark 6:53-56
Tue	Genesis 1:20-2	Psalms 8	Mark 7:1-13
Wed	Genesis 2:4-17	Psalms 104	Mark 7:14-23
Thu	Genesis 2:18-25	Psalms 128	Mark 7:24-30
Fri	Genesis 3:1-8	Psalms 32	Mark 7:31-37
Sat	Genesis 3:9-24	Psalms 90	Mark 8:1-10
Sun	Sirach 15:15-20 1 Corinthians 2:6-10	Psalms 119	Matthew 5:17-37



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$135.00**; Envelopes: **\$790.00**;
 Christmas Env.: **\$5.00**; Heating Env.: **\$70.00**;
 Initial Offering: **\$15.00**; New Year's Day Env: **\$30.00**;
 Baptism Donation: **\$100.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,145.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$60.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$58.25**; Envelopes: **\$120.00**; **TOTAL: \$178.25**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Memorial Tree 2022: **\$300.00**

MEMORIAL TREE GRAND TOTAL: \$6,047.35

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	4	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy and Dorrence Campbell†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	5	IC	11:00 am	Ernest LeBlanc†	Jeannine, Dianne & Family
Tue	7	IC	4:00 pm	Alban Vautour†	Lillian Vautour
Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	Margaret & Dan Murphy†	Claire
Sun	12	IC	11:00 am	Alban Vautour†	Blaine & Donna Hannay

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	11	IC	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	12	SP	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Bob Donna / Marian	Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1st Decade: For our clergy
Sun	12	IC	10:30 am	Gail	2nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	19	IC	10:30 am	Vina	3rd Decade: For our youth
Sun	26	IC	10:30 am	Gail	4th Decade: For peace in our world 5th Decade: For the intentions of parishioner

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS A gentle reminder to everyone that if you are unable to be present on your scheduled day to please arrange a replacement (from the Ministry Schedule List). Thank you for your continued service to the parish through your various ministries.



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 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.

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.

