

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ LISTEN! DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET?

For the weeks leading up to Lent, those of us at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity have been listening to Fr. Phil remind us what Jesus was trying to tell us through his Sermon on the Mount: that we are to be light, salt and blessing to the world; in fact, that we are light, salt and blessing. Then as we entered Lent we heard that our temptation is not to believe or live that. This Sunday, the story of the Transfiguration, always proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Lent, speaks about the importance of listening to Jesus. "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" All three synoptic Gospels share the story of the Transfiguration, and all tell us to listen!

Listen to him! In the first reading from Genesis, Abram obeys when the Lord tells him to "go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." Wayne and I recently watched the movie *'Peace by Chocolate'* which tells the story of the Hadhad family and their emigration from Syria to Canada in 2016. It came to mind as I read about Abram. It was a difficult move for Isaam Hadhad, who was reluctant to leave his home, despite having had his chocolate business destroyed with bombs. Even his son Tareq, the driving force behind the move, was challenged to adapt to life in small town Antigonish with a population of about 4500 in 2016, having lived his entire life in Damascus, a huge city with over two million people. I expect it was as difficult for Abram to listen, and trust, as it was for the Hadhad family, leaving their family, their culture, their language, their way of life, the land of their birth to travel to a place they did not know or understand. Yet Abram is promised that he will be blessed, that his name will be made great. The Hadhad's were promised a place of welcome, a land of peace, an opportunity to begin again.



On any level, I cannot imagine experiencing such a move. For me, moving from Newfoundland to New Brunswick was difficult; it took time for me to adapt, to have this place become my home. And this despite making a move within my country, to a place with similar culture not very many miles from my homeland. What faith Abram had; and if you follow the story of the Hadhad's, what faith they had. They trusted; they listened; and they were rewarded.

In Matthew's version of the Transfiguration, the 'voice' which speaks to Peter, James and John as they are on the mountaintop, makes essentially the same statement which the 'voice' said at Jesus' baptism: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" is said as Jesus arises from the waters of the Jordan. Beyond adding the statement "Listen to him" there is one other notable difference. Jesus did not begin his public ministry until following his baptism. He has done nothing, and yet, this voice still is 'well pleased' with him. It is not as exceptional to hear those words added at the Transfiguration. Jesus has already been about the tasks which he was born to do – he has proved his worth, so to speak. At his baptism, before he has done one thing, his Father is pleased with him.

We need do nothing, and still God is pleased with us. By virtue of our very being, God is pleased with us. We are asked simply to listen. It does not appear to be very complicated, and yet we know, because we repeatedly fail to do so, that obeying that request is challenging. If we really believed that we are beloved would it be easier, I wonder? Because maybe that is what God is also trying to get us to listen to.

~Ellen Bennett, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

2nd Sunday of Lent 5 March 2023

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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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	Deuteronomy 9:4-10	Psalm 79	Luke 6:36-38
Tue	Isaiah 1:10-20	Psalm 50	Matthew 23:1-12
Wed	Jeremiah 18:18-20	Psalm 31	Matthew 20:17-28
Thu	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	Luke 16:19-31
Fri	Genesis 37:3-28	Psalm 105	Matthew 21:33-46
Sat	Micah 7:14-20	Psalm 103	Luke 15:1-32
Sun	Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-8	Psalm 95	John 4:5-42



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$165.00**; Envelopes: **\$690.00**; Ash Wednesday Env.: **\$195.00**; Sale of Votives: **\$50.00**;
TOTAL: \$1,100.00

St. James Cemetery

Donations IMO Janet Sullivan: **\$40.00**

Regional Mass Account

Funeral Mass: **\$100.00**; Mass Intentions: **\$80.00**;
TOTAL: \$180.00

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$20.00**; Envelopes: **\$205.00**;
Ash Wednesday Env.: **\$35.00**; **TOTAL: \$260.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Donation IMO Lillian Vautour: **\$100.00**;
Perpetual Care: **\$100.00**; Memorial Tree 2022: **\$180.00**;
TOTAL: \$380.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	4	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	5	IC	11:00 am	Eric Johnson Sr.†	Elva & Family
Tue	7	IC	4:00 pm	Ernest LeBlanc†	Jeannine, Dianne & Family
Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour†	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	12	IC	11:00 am	5 th Anniversary of the death of Lionel Comeau†	Geralda Comeau

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	12	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Stephen / Corinne Jocelyn	Leonardo

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

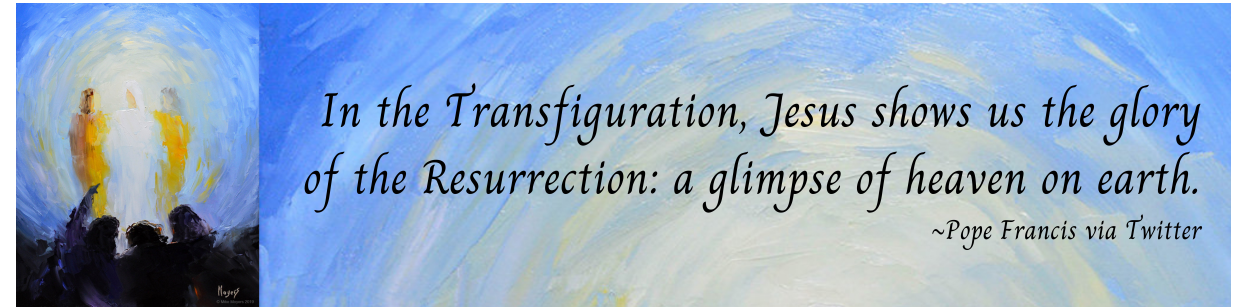
				Leader	Intentions
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1st Decade: For our clergy 2nd Decade: For our parishioners 3rd Decade: For our youth 4th Decade: For peace in our world 5th Decade: For the intentions of parishioner
Sun	12	IC	10:30 am	Gail	
Sun	19	IC	10:30 am	Vina	
Sun	26	IC	10:30 am	Gail	

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULES for March-April (including Easter) have been placed at the back of the church.

PARISH HALL As you may have heard, due to ongoing water problems the Parish Hall will be closed for public use (including parish potlucks, etc.) until further notice. The Parish Office will still be open during regular office hours.



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

THE COURAGE TO CREATE HOPE - To delegates at the 4th World Meeting of Popular Movements, Pope Francis said, "...you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion." These are the words that inspired the choice of "Create Hope" as a five-year guiding theme at Development and Peace — Caritas Canada. What will you do this Lent to Create Hope? Join our campaign at devp.org/lent.

'THE HOUR HAS COME' 3-DAY LENTEN RETREAT The Laudato Si' Committee invites you to enter this Lenten season with this scripture-based, evening retreat at St. Bernard's Church Hall. March 28th, 29th and 30th, we will start each evening at 7:00 p.m. and together, explore this beautiful world and its sacred community of life. Join us as we learn to pay more attention to God, to become more thankful and reverent, and through this, more deeply in love with our Creator and all that he made. For more information, please contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITY FOR CATECHISTS AND THOSE INVOLVED IN SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION Msgr. Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau will offer a virtual conversation for catechists and those involved in sacramental preparation entitled "Baptism and Confirmation: The Big Picture". This interactive session will be held on Zoom on Saturday, March 25th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Archbishop Durocher's session is sponsored by the Atlantic Catechetical Association and is offered at no charge. For more information or to register, contact Karen LeBlanc or visit www.acatholic.ca

MONDAY @ THE MOVIES – LENT GOES TO THE MOVIES Everyone is invited to join our film discussion series taking place during Lent. Our remaining discussions will take place on March 13th (*Water*, 2005); March 27th (*Loving*, 2016); and April 3rd (*The Mission*, 1986). Each discussion will take place at 10:30 am via Zoom. Monday @ 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.