

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ REFLECTION FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Back in 2017 I was responsible for the reflection for this same Sunday - the Lazarus story. I wrote: " I am the resurrection and the light, and whoever believes in me, though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. " These are the words that can sustain us at a time when we are vulnerable to feelings of shock, numbness, sadness, loneliness, helplessness, anger - all part of the grieving process for those who are left behind.

Since then I have also come to the realization that, yes, life does change at death but does not end. Death now becomes a passageway. It doesn't become a terrible event that has to be some kind of wonderful thing that happened. Jesus is trying to reveal to Martha that death is only a transition. It's a movement; moving from one place to another. But death is not the end. Death doesn't have the last word; death doesn't get the final say; it is not the final separation from those we love, nor is death the final separation from the God who loves us.

Jesus did not immediately rush to Martha and Mary when they let Him know that Lazarus was dying. I'm sure they were annoyed He did not get there "on time" to stop him from dying. Jesus is never "late". His timing is always perfect. Like many people, I have had issues with God's timing. I get anxious, afraid, and start questioning. When I think He is slow to answer (my timing) I need to remember that He knows what I need and when I need it. I need to remember this truth and work on my patience and trust. This will help me withstand the storms of life. I saw a quote by Vinay that encapsulates this: " God's delay is not God's denial."



Rev. David Yarborough, pastor of St. Simon's Community Church wrote: "*Take heart , dear friend. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He can breathe life in any situation you are dealing with. Entrust your situation to God. Entreat Him to bring forth the greatest glory possible in your life and situation. And then watch out to see what God does. It may seem like He is doing nothing at the moment, but He may be doing more than you could ever imagine. If you don't believe me, just ask Lazarus. "*

I read a passage in a young man's obituary that may be suitable for the theme of Lazarus. It said: "*So grieve for a while if you must, then let the grief be comforted by trust. It's only for a while that we must part so treasure the memories within your heart. Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near and if you listen with your heart , you will hear my love around you soft and clear. "*

The raising of Lazarus is a story about the fullness of life in the here and now, not just in some kind of life after this life. Lazarus is one guide to lead us on the road to life in all its fullness. If we live united with Jesus, faithful to Him; we will be able to face life and the passage of death with hope and serenity- one that is greater than our imaginations.

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

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 26 March 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](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

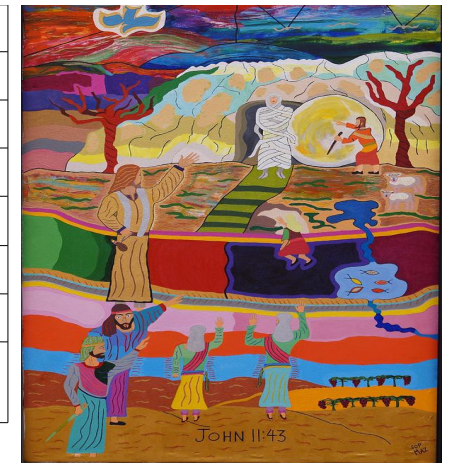
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

**St. Peter's Mass Time**

Saturday – 4:00 pm

**Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week**

|            |                                  |            |                     |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mon</b> | Deuteronomy 13:1-62              | Psalms 23  | John 8:1-11         |
| <b>Tue</b> | Numbers 21:4-9                   | Psalms 102 | John 8:21-30        |
| <b>Wed</b> | Deuteronomy 3:14-95              | Psalms 146 | John 8:31-42        |
| <b>Thu</b> | Genesis 17:3-9                   | Psalms 105 | John 8:51-59        |
| <b>Fri</b> | Jeremiah 20:10-13                | Psalms 18  | John 10:31-42       |
| <b>Sat</b> | Ezekiel 37:21-28                 | Psalms 31  | John 11:45-56       |
| <b>Sun</b> | Matthew 21:1-11<br>Isaiah 50:4-7 | Psalms 22  | Matthew 26:14-27:66 |



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$253.00**; Envelopes: **\$620.00**; **TOTAL: \$873.00**

### Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$140.00**

### St. Patrick's Cemetery Fund

Donation (found in church): **\$60.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$7.00**; Envelopes: **\$100.00**;

Donation IMO Lillian (Murphy) Vautour: **\$50.00**;

Misc. Donation: **\$15.00**

**TOTAL: \$172.00**

### St. Peter's Cemetery

Donation IMO Lillian Vautour: **\$25.00**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

| Sat | 25 | SP | 4:00 pm  | Wallace Best†                                | Lois & Richard |
|-----|----|----|----------|--|----------------|
| Sun | 26 | IC | 11:00 am | Len & Helen Carter†                          | Dick & Family  |
| Tue | 28 | IC | 4:00 pm  | Madeline Comeau†                             | Geralda Comeau |
| Sat | 1  | SP | 4:00 pm  | Lillian Vautour†                             | Dick & Family  |
| Sun | 2  | IC | 11:00 am | Emerito, Benjie, Angelico Sr., and Carlotta† | Anonymous      |

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

|     |   |    |          | Lectors   | Eucharistic Ministers                        |
|-----|---|----|----------|---|--|
| Sat | 1 | SP | 4:00 pm  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions                       | Lois<br>Stella                               |
| Sun | 2 | IC | 11:00 am | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions<br>The Lord's Passion | Corinne / Vina<br>Harvey<br>Gloria / Stephen |

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

|     |    |    |          | Leader | Intentions   |
|-----|----|----|----------|--------|--|
| Sun | 26 | IC | 10:30 am | Gail   | <b>1st Decade:</b> For our clergy                    |
| Sun | 2  | IC | 10:30 am | Vina   | <b>2nd Decade:</b> For our parishioners              |
| Sun | 9  |    |          |        | <b>3rd Decade:</b> For our youth                     |
| Sun | 16 | IC | 10:30 am | Vina   | <b>4th Decade:</b> For peace in our world            |
|     |    |    |          |        | <b>5th Decade:</b> 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.

**PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE CHANGES** Please note that during Holy Week, the Parish Office will be open only on Wednesday morning from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Parish Office will be closed the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, reopening on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** Those seeking to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Easter (or at any time) should speak with Fr. Bernard to arrange a time for private confession. There will not be a Penitential Service prior to Easter.

## SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

|                        |                                   |          |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| March 30 <sup>th</sup> | Anointing of the Sick             | 2:00 PM  | Rexton                                       |
| April 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Chrism Mass***                    | 6:30 PM  | Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral         |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Anointing of the Sick (With Mass) | 6:30 PM  | Elsipogtog (no 9:00 am mass on this day)     |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Holy Thursday                     | 7:00 PM  | Rexton (followed by a time of prayer)        |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Holy Thursday                     | 7:00 PM  | Indian Island (followed by a time of prayer) |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Good Friday (Way of the Cross)    | 10:00 AM | Elsipogtog                                   |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Good Friday (Lord's Passion)      | 3:00 PM  | Rexton                                       |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Good Friday (Lord's Passion)      | 3:00 PM  | Elsipogtog                                   |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Good Friday (Time of Prayer)      | 7:30 PM  | Rexton                                       |
| April 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Vigil                      | 8:30 PM  | Rexton                                       |
| April 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Vigil                      | 8:30 PM  | Elsipogtog                                   |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Sunday                     | 10:30 AM | South Branch                                 |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Sunday                     | 10:30 AM | Indian Island                                |

\*\*\*The 4:00 pm mass in Rexton on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> is cancelled on account of the Chrism Mass.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

**CHRISM MASS** is an important event to which all faithful and priests are invited. During this beautiful and grand celebration, priests and deacons renew their commitment to service. Holy Chrism used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and ordination is consecrated. Also, the oil of the catechumens, and that of the sick are blessed. This solemn occasion is an opportunity for the priests and faithful of the diocese to come together and reaffirm their dedication to proclaiming the Gospel and building the Kingdom of God. I am delighted to extend to all an invitation to this year's Chrism Mass, which I will preside over on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption in Moncton.** Welcome to all. ~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

