

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

How quickly life can change. That is never more apparent than in the two readings we hear this morning from Matthew's Gospel. In the first, Jesus is the toast of the town as he enters Jerusalem. Crowds are gathering to offer praise, going so far as to spread their cloaks on the road. By the time we get to the second Gospel, crowds have again gathered (probably a lot of the same people), but for an entirely different purpose. The shouts of "Hosanna" have turned into "Crucify Him". If you will allow me, I would like to draw comparison from the crowds in our Gospel stories to our own journeys in faith.

Recently I have had the chance to take part in a few different formation events. Each event was filled with people from different churches who I do not work with on a regular basis or even know. For me, it is always interesting to hear other people share their experience of God in their lives and how they share that experience through their ministry in faith formation. What has come to the forefront more than anything else is how much we (I am generalizing here) have moved into our head and out of our heart when we talk about God. We quote verses in Scripture that support our own image of God or we refer to laws and rules that clearly define where people belong and what they are entitled to.

In a conversation about vows, a close friend said to me recently: "My marriage vows, when you break them down mean one thing, 'I'm with you, no matter what.' My vows as a Christian are just as simple. 'Love God, love yourself, love your neighbour.'" Instantly it reminded me of an old song by The Essex entitled "*Easier Said Than Done*". In hearing her say this, I came to the realization that love comes from my heart and not my head. All the other stuff, all the ologies, which are valuable to a degree (no pun intended) come from my head. Jesus lives in my heart. I need to spend more time with him there.

I think that for all our good intentions, we have removed love from the equation, and leaned perhaps more than we should on judgment. Most Christians I know (and I include myself), if asked, would be proud to proclaim their belief in Jesus and in God. However, talk is cheap. How does my life reflect what I claim to be my beliefs? Do I believe that this Jesus, who welcomes me to his table every Sunday welcomes the divorced person sitting behind me, or the single mom in the next section, or the gay or trans person sitting at the back, afraid to move to the front?

If you had asked me that question in my younger years, my answer would have immediate and clear with little or no thought. I would have passed judgment in an instant. Now, in my older years I look at things a little differently. My beliefs can only inform how I live my life and the decisions I make. They cannot, and will not guide the decisions of others. Even my own children make choices that probably wouldn't be my choice. Even when they do, they are still welcome at the table for Sunday dinner. Passing judgment on anyone is not my job, and I don't want it. My job is to love and accompany. I will leave the judgment to God. As a Christian, I claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The one who ate with sinners and hung around with people who got it wrong far more than with people who got it right. He is my model. So, I cannot be a **CINO** (Christian in Name Only). I can't say one thing, "Hosanna to the Son of David (I believe in Jesus Christ) and do another, Crucify Him (you aren't welcome at the same table as me).

On this journey of life, I believe we are making judgments every day. My challenge before I make any decision is to ask myself, "What is my most loving response to this situation?" and do it. After all, isn't that what Jesus did when he decided to leave the garden.

~Mark Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 2 April 2023

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

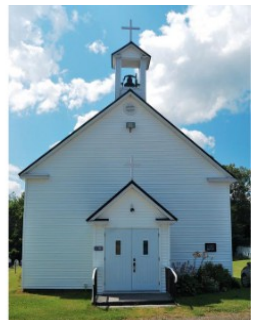
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Office Hours:

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

	Scripture Readings	Psalm	Gospel
Mon	Isaiah 42:1-7	Psalm 27	John 12:1-11
Tue	Isaiah 49:1-6	Psalm 71	John 13:21-38
Wed	Isaiah 50:4-9	Psalm 69	Matthew 26:14-25
Thu	Exodus 12:1-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Psalm 116	John 13:1-15
Fri	Isaiah 52:13-52:12 Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9	Psalm 31	John 18:1-19:42
Sat	Genesis 1:1-2:2	Psalm 104	Matthew 28:1-10
Sun	Acts 10:34-43 1 Corinthians 5:6-8	Psalm 118	John 20:1-18



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$88.00; Envelopes: \$535.00; **TOTAL: \$623.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: \$20.00; Envelopes: \$80.00; **TOTAL: \$100.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	1	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour†	Dick & Family
Sun	2	IC	11:00 am	Emerito, Benjie, Angelico Sr., and Carlotta	Anonymous
Thu	6	IC	7:00 pm	People of the Parish	
Sat	8	IC	8:30 pm	EASTER VIGIL	
Sun	9	SP	10:30 am	EASTER SUNDAY	

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Thu	6	IC	7:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Gloria Donna / Dennis	Leonardo
Fri	7	IC	3:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions: The Lord's Passion:	Bob Vina Gloria / Stephen	Adona
Sat	8	IC	8:30 pm	Vigil Readings & Psalms:	Donna Corinne / Carla May	Marilou
Sun	9	SP	10:30 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Thu	6	IC	6:30 pm	Gail	1st Decade: For our clergy
Fri	7	IC	2:30 pm	Vina	2nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sat	8	IC	8:00 pm	Gail	3rd Decade: For our youth
					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.

CHANGES TO PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE Please note that during Holy Week, the Parish Office will be open only on Wednesday morning (April 5th) from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Parish Office will be closed the entire week of April 10th - 14th, with a return to regular office hours on Tuesday, April 18th.

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.

SAVE THE DATES! COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS will take place on **Saturday, May 13th** (Big Breakfast) and **Saturday, June 17th** (Big Brunch) at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall from 8:30 am – 10:00 am. The cost will be \$10.00 /person and \$5.00/child, with all proceeds going to the ongoing maintenance of the church and hall.



SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

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

***The 4:00 pm mass in Rexton on Tuesday, April 4th 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