

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ EASTER: A SEASON OF SAVOURING

Christmas and Easter are the high points of the liturgical year for Christians. No doubt about it. Yet, they are not stand-alone holidays. Christmas and Easter are part of a pattern which looks like this: prepare-celebrate-savor.

In Advent we **prepare** for the birth of Christ. At Christmas we **celebrate** Jesus' coming. And since the coming of Christ into our world is so important, we need to **savor** it until the last day of the Christmas Season, that is, until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Easter offer us that same pattern of preparing, celebrating, and savoring. During Lent, we **prepare** our minds and hearts to enter into the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension into glory of Christ. Easter is the **celebrating** of Christ's victory over sin and death. And again, since Easter is such a central and significant feast, we need to **savor** it for 50 days. This year we close out the Easter Season, our savoring comes to an end, on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th. Liturgically, one of the ways we mark the end of the Easter Season is by returning the paschal candle to its place next to the baptism font. From the lighting of the paschal candle during the Easter Vigil until Pentecost, those 50 days of Easter, the paschal candle has been displayed in the sanctuary with honour.

During those 50 days in the sanctuary, the paschal candle reminds us of the resurrected Christ, the Light of the world.

Returning it to its "normal" place next to the font for the rest of the year is not a demotion. We are not relegating it to a less significant place within the church building nor are we downgrading its purpose or power. By placing the paschal candle next to the font, we are reminding ourselves that each time we gather for Sunday Eucharist, we gather around the resurrected Christ. His power, his victory over suffer, sin, and death are just as real and vigorous on the 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time as it is on Easter Sunday itself.

The placement of the paschal candle, both in the sanctuary and later adjacent to the baptismal font, remind me of the words of St. Paul. When he wrote the following words to the people of Corinth, I'm sure they came from his own personal reflection on the resurrection of Christ. Paul writes: "**Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?**" (1 Cor. 15:55). The answer to both of these questions is a resounding NOWHERE! To paraphrase Paul, he is taunting death by implying, "Death, is that all you have got? If that's all you got, you're not much!"

The next time you participate in a baptism in your parish, notice the paschal candle. From it, a baptismal candle is lit and handed to the newly baptized with the word, "You have been enlightened by Christ, walk always as a child of the light." Behind those words, I hear St. Paul speak, "Death, is that all you've got? You have no lasting power in the life of this newly baptize one."

Similarly, the next time you participate at a funeral in your parish, notice the paschal candle next to the font. It will be lit. If the paschal candle could speak to the casket or urn of the deceased person, it would speak Paul's words again: "Hey, Death. Where is your victory? Where is your sting? Is that all you've got? You have no lasting power over our deceased brother/sister."

No matter where the paschal candle is—in the sanctuary or next to the font—let's savor its meaning. Christ is Risen! Darkness have been defeated. Easter is forever.

~Fr. Phil Mulligan, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Grouping



Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 9th April 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	Acts 2:14-33	Psalms 16	Matthew 8:28-15
Tue	Acts 2:36-41	Psalms 33	John 20:11-18
Wed	Acts 3:1-10	Psalms 105	Luke 24:13-35
Thu	Acts 3:11-26	Psalms 8	Luke 24:35-48
Fri	Acts 4:1-12	Psalms 118	John 21:1-14
Sat	Acts 4:13-21	Psalms 118	Mark 16:9-15
Sun	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 1:3-9	Psalms 118	John 20:19-31



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$220.70**; Envelopes: **\$921.00**;
Share Lent: **\$265.00**; Good Friday: **\$10.00**;
Easter Offering: **\$10.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,426.70**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$5.00**; Envelopes: **\$225.00**; Share Lent: **\$80.00**
TOTAL: \$310.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEKS

Sat	8	IC	8:30 pm	EASTER VIGIL	
Sun	9	SP	10:30 am	EASTER SUNDAY	
Tue	11	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson †	Ed and Dawne Furey
Sat	15	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	Phyllis Shortall
Sun	16	IC	11:00 am	Bernard & Serena Hudson †	Family
Tue	18	IC	4:00 pm	Roseline Martin †	Huguette
Sat	22	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	Richard & Lois
Sun	23	IC	11:00 am	John Flynn †	Linda & Don

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEKS

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	15	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	16	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Gloria Marian / Leonardo	Adona
Sat	22	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	23	SP	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Bob Vina / Marian	Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	16	IC	6:30 pm	Vina	1 st Decade: <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	23	IC	2:30 pm	Gail	2 nd Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i> 3 rd Decade: <i>For our youth</i>
Sun	30	IC	8:00 pm	Vina	4 th Decade: <i>For peace in our world</i> 5 th Decade: <i>For the intentions of parishioner</i>

WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

CHANGE TO PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE Please note the Parish Office will be closed the entire week of April 10th - 14th, with a return to regular office hours on Tuesday, April 18th.

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.



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

EARTH DAY CHALLENGE 2023 All young people are invited (along with literally everyone) to join us in our Earth Day Challenge, which will take place on Saturday, April 22nd. There are many ways you can participate either in a group or by yourself and you can start by contacting your parish catechism coordinator or by visiting the diocesan website www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development and then follow the link for [Earth Day Challenge 2023](#). Here you will find helpful ideas and information. We invite you to hashtag us at #youthfaithmoncton on Instagram showing us your activity and how you have chosen to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day Challenge 2023 is an initiative of the Diocesan Youth Faith Commission.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE (KENT COUNTY) Following a pause due to the pandemic, commemorative services for patients deceased at the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital are now resuming. There will be a first service for patients who died during 2020 on Sunday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sainte-Anne Church (7611 Route 134, Sainte-Anne-de-Kent). Family members and friends are welcome. To remember the deceased is to pray for them and with them, to hope and believe that they have entered the life of God. The dates of the next services (for deaths in 2021 and 2022) will be announced shortly.

BEING PRESENT: CAREGIVERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR Save the Dates! The End of Life Pastoral Care Committee will offer a session designed for those who provide care to the sick / infirm, facilitated by Louise Ongo of St. Bernard's Parish. The first session will take place on Thursday, May 11th at Immaculate Conception Church (8 School Street) in Rexton and go from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Louise will offer the same session a second time on May 18th at St. Bernard's Church (43 Botsford Street) in Moncton, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.