

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ WITH EYES TO SEE

The task of religion is not to turn us into ‘proper’ believers; it is to deepen the personal within us, to embrace the power of life, to expand our consciousness, in order that we might see things that eyes do not normally see.

~Bishop John Shelby Spong

In my last reflection, I wrote about an angel made from a glittery ribbon that watches protectively from the living room mirror in my mother’s home. For years I looked at it and thought it was nothing more than an elaborate, glittery bow, until one day I noticed that it was in fact shaped like an angel. I showed a friend a picture of the angel and her response was, “How could you possibly not have known that was an angel? I ask the same question of myself because in hindsight it seems very obvious to me that I was looking at an angel. The important part here is that the angel had not changed, but something in *me* had changed. What could have transformed me in this way? I do not know the answer but I can tell you I began to see differently back in 2017 as we cared for my dying father. One palliative care nurse wore a pin of angel wings, another visitor arrived wearing a snow white fluffy jacket that literally made her look like an angel, another nurse whom I had never met brought our family supper one night. At this sacred time leading up to and including the death of my father, I began to see angels *everywhere* I looked...and not the kind of angels we see in movies with white robes, glowing faces and choral music. What I saw made me feel as though the scales had fallen from my eyes and I could see that there has always been angel stuff going on all around me. In a way it reminded me of those Magic Eye pictures from the 1990s that presented an optical illusion. At first the image would appear to be nothing more than a colourful design or pattern but upon closer inspection you noticed it contained a hidden shape(s), which seemed to appear out of the blue right before your eyes.



The Emmaus story we hear today from Luke’s Gospel is another reminder to me that just because a thing is invisible to us does not mean it is not there. My most consistent prayer as an adult has been for greater clarity and focus in order that I may see truth more clearly. In my mind at least, if I am able to conquer some of the personal and cultural biases that cloud my vision, I am one step closer to the transformation Jesus wants for each of us. Similar to the disciples walking to Emmaus, I am in my own way one step closer to recognizing Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

In his work *With Burning Heart* (1994), Fr. Henri Nouwen muses about what transformation could have occurred in the disciples to go from not recognizing Jesus to recognizing Jesus:

“It is so easy to narrow Jesus down to our Jesus, to our experience of His love, to our way of knowing Him. But Jesus left us so as to send His Spirit, and His Spirit blows where it wants...There are many ways in which Jesus appears and many ways in which He lets us know that He is alive.”

From this I have learned a couple of lessons I consider important. First, at all times God is at work both within me and within others whether or not I am able to recognize this. Second, there is evidence of the divine embracing me at all times, if I have the eyes to see.

~Trevor Drosbeck, Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Third Sunday of Easter 23rd 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 6:8-15	Psalm 119	John 6:22-29
Tue	1 Peter 5:5-14	Psalm 89	Mark 16:15-20
Wed	Acts 8:1-8	Psalm 66	John 6:35-40
Thu	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 66	John 6:44-51
Fri	Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 117	John 6:52-59
Sat	Acts 9:31-42	Psalm 116	John 6:60-69
Sun	Acts 2:14-41 1 Peter 2:20-25	Psalm 23	John 10:1-10



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PAST TWO WEEKS

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$196.25**; Envelopes: **\$2,100.00**;
Share Lent: **\$160.00**; Good Friday: **\$600.00**;
Easter Offering: **\$370.00**; Papal Charities: **\$20.00**;
Sale of Votives: **\$291.00**; March Masses: **\$24.00**;
TOTAL: \$3,761.25.

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **\$150.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Envelopes: **\$290.00**;
Share Lent: **\$100.00**; Good Friday: **\$20.00**;
Easter Offering: **\$140.00**;
March Masses: **\$12.00**; **TOTAL: \$577.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$55.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	22	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	Richard & Lois
Sun	23	IC	11:00 am	John Flynn †	Linda & Don
Tue	25	IC	4:00 pm	Bernard Boudreau †	Dick Hudson
Sat	29	SP	4:00 pm	Donnie Wood †	Dale & Debbie
Sun	30	IC	11:00 am	Katherine Ann Hatt †	Bill & Stuart

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEKS

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	29	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	30	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Donna Pat / Dennis	Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	23	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	30	IC	10:30 am	Vina	2 nd Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	7	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3 rd Decade: <i>For our youth</i>
					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.

SAVE THE DATES! COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS will take place on **Saturday, May 13th** and **Saturday, June 17th** 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.

The secret of the road that leads to Emmaus is simply this...despite appearances to the contrary, we continue to be loved and God will never stop loving us. God will walk with us always, always, even in the most painful moments, even in the worst moments, even in moments of defeat...

~Pope Francis

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your great generosity during last year's collection, which allowed our Archdiocese of Moncton to raise \$34,820. A big thank you to all the faithful who contributed and the people who organized fundraising activities. The Catholic Bishops of Canada have committed to raising \$30 million within five years. Last year, the collection across Canada raised \$9,594,986. The funds are managed by a national board of directors composed of leaders, half of whom are Indigenous. This Board is responsible for implementing measures to ensure the proper functioning and transparency of the administration of the collected funds. I am pleased to inform you that the funds collected in our parishes last year will be used for local projects in collaboration with our four local Mi'gmaq communities: Elsipogtog First Nation, Bouctouche MicMac, Fort Folly First Nation, and Indian Island First Nation. Special envelopes will be distributed to parishes for this year's collection, which will take place on May 6th and 7th, 2023. I invite you to continue to support this fund. Thank you. ~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

ORDINATION TO THE DEACONATE OF MR. FRANK QUINN Invitation to all the faithful: you are invited to the ordination of Mr. Frank Quinn as a transitional deacon for the priesthood at Saint Bernard's Church, 43 Botsford Street, Moncton, Saturday, April 29, at 10:00 am. **Welcome to all.** ~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau

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.