

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ DARKNESS

My friend Byron was a White Father missionary to Africa in one of his lives. He told me of one remote tribe there who had no problem with the movement of the sun across the sky. How did the sun get back east to rise again? Why, it went back the same way across the sky, but "we can't see it because it is dark at night." Scientists today also noticed it is dark at night so they explain it with the Big Bang Theory. Between these two "theories" were millennia of brilliant intellectuals attempting to explain our place in the heavens. One attempt we know well came out of Babylon some 2500 years ago. There a Priest of the Exile wrote an introduction to the Bible (which had been collated there when the leaders of the Twelve Tribes of Israel were thrown together.) In that Hymn of Creation he credited God with creating the natural world as it was known at that time. This included the astronomy of the day, with the waters above and the waters below upon which the sun rode around the world. It also posited a biology of "genos" which was a clearly defined and separate nature for every living being. That flat world with the sun going over and under it and a Natural Law that defined every living being as unrelated and defined by its own seed lasted well into our Middle Ages. The telescope changed everything, as did the microscope.



Pope Francis' apology to Native Americans refers to a decision made in Europe at the time of Columbus. At that time the Grand Inquisitor had enormous power, supposedly to protect the Faith. In 1492 he expelled all Jews from the lands of Ferdinand and Isabella, including their possessions, based on their lack of "Faith". We know that the Inquisition also targeted women. Why? It was scientifically agreed that women were inferior to men, being mere nurturers of the seed rather than, like men, carrying the God-given seed of procreation. The "Natural Law" deemed that women should be submissive to men (fathers and husbands). Women who were not submissive, who led independent lives went against nature and the Creator of Nature. At that time, after Columbus returned, it was easy to include natives of the "New Lands" as inferior, based on their lack of Faith and a culture that actually allowed women to hold positions of authority.

St. Peter, a married man, wrote in today's Lesson: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood a holy nation, God's own people in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Today, after Pope Francis' apology, Native Catholic women along with all other Catholic women are still regarded as inferior and unworthy to share in the royal priesthood, even through marriage. How does that restriction honour my Creator?

Like a dandelion root that is not completely removed, the double standard within the Catholic clergy leads to more injustice.

~Agnes Beirn

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Fifth Sunday of Easter 7 May 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

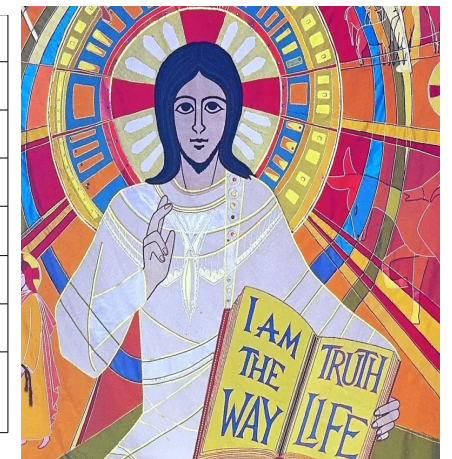
Sunday – 11:00 am  
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

### St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

### Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

<b>Mon</b>	Acts 14:5-18	Psalm 115	John 14:21-16
<b>Tue</b>	Acts 14:19-28	Psalm 145	John 14:27-31
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 15:1-6	Psalm 122	John 15:1-8
<b>Thu</b>	Acts 15:7-21	Psalm 96	John 15:9-11
<b>Fri</b>	Acts 15:22-31	Psalm 57	John 15:12-17
<b>Sat</b>	Acts 16:1-10	Psalm 100	John 15:18-21
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 6:1-7 1 Peter 2:4-9	Psalm 33	John 14:1-12



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$97.00**; Envelopes: **\$825.00**;  
 Donation: **\$500.00**; Hall Rental: **\$110.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$1,532.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Urn Burial: **\$75.00**; Perpetual Care x 2: **\$200.00**  
**TOTAL: 275.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$51.00**; Envelopes: **\$110.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$161.00**

### Regional Mass Account

Funeral Mass x 2: **\$200.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	6	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	Norma McNairn
Sun	7	IC	11:00 am	James Roach †	Alverie & Huguette
Tue	9	IC	4:00 pm	Aurella LeBlanc †	Claude LeBlanc
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	Arlene Lane †	Debbie & Dale
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	Raymond Perry †	Nancy Perry

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions:	Stephen Corinne / Rose Ann	Gloria

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	14	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 <sup>st</sup> Decade: <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	21	IC	10:30 am	Gail	2 <sup>nd</sup> Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	28	IC	10:30 am	Vina	3 <sup>rd</sup> Decade: <i>For our youth</i>
					4 <sup>th</sup> Decade: <i>For peace in our world</i>
					5 <sup>th</sup> 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.*

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help with maintenance of the Immaculate Conception cemetery this summer (mowing & trimming). Please see Fr. Bernard if you are able to assist with the care of the parish cemetery.

**COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** will take place on **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**BEING PRESENT: CAREGIVERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR** The Diocesan 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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 18<sup>th</sup>** at St. Bernard's Church (43 Botsford Street) in Moncton, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

*The Risen Christ is our future. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the starting point and the ultimate goal of the history of humanity. As much as it is marked by fragility, our life has been solidly placed in His hands.*

*~Pope Francis via Twitter*

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

**ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND MAY 6 AND 7.** A sincere thank you for your donations to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. There is still very much to be done to repair the legacy of the past, to overcome deep-seated systemic racism, and to establish an equal footing between reconciled indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. No measure can fully erase the pain of the survivors or that of the people living with intergenerational trauma. However, by listening to and cultivating trusting relationships with our indigenous peoples, we hope to learn to walk together on the path leading to truth and healing. The projects we will be able to support locally, thanks to your generosity, will be concrete signs of our commitment to accompany our indigenous brothers and sisters on the long road to reconciliation. For those who may not have had the opportunity to contribute to the Reconciliation Fund, there are envelopes still available in the churches. You can pick one up and make your donation whenever you wish. Thank you very, very much. May God bless us and sustain us in our efforts to bring people together leading to reconciliation. *~Archbishop Valéry Vienneau*