

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ COME AND HEAR WHAT GOD HAS DONE!**

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!  
Sing the glory of his name;  
Give to him glorious praise.  
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds."*

Three years ago most of us dreamed of this past week. We didn't know when it would come, but we thought that when it did, we would all be out dancing in the streets. We expected to be living the words of today's Psalm as we shouted thanks and sang praises to God. But the silence was far louder than the gratitude. This week the World Health Organization declared that Covid 19 is no longer a global emergency, and most of us barely noticed. So many prayers have been answered and yet we are more aware of what we don't have than of what we have been given.

Somehow that seems like a fitting metaphor for my faith in the sixth week of Easter. All through Lent I gave extra attention to prayer and fasting, identifying broken places in my life and turning to God. On Holy Thursday and Good Friday, I felt like I had accepted my human vulnerability and my human limits. When Easter came, I was filled with a renewed sense of wonder and hope. I felt myself to be a small child tenderly carried in the loving hands of God. In my vulnerability I felt safe and protected. I started into the Easter season ready to live in gratitude, appreciating the gift of life in every moment in such a way that joy would spill over onto all those around me. Easter Sunday night, even as I cried with someone dear to me, I knew that God brings beauty out of suffering and life out of death and I knew that life is good even when it's not going the way I want it to go.



But as the days wore on my focus started to shift again. The farther away I was from Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the easier it was for me to forget that they are a pair. Instead of watching for Christ in the midst of suffering, I slipped back to thinking that he would be in places without suffering, which meant that I was not finding him. And when it came to this week, instead of seeing the wonder of our God who has brought us through the pandemic into a time without a health emergency, I have seen a society and a health system that have been exhausted and fragmented by a pandemic.

It is from this place that I read Jesus promise in today's gospel that even though the world will not be able to see him, we will see him if we keep his commandment to love. I cannot see Jesus if I look for him in "safe places" standing on his own in glory, all the suffering overcome. I can, however, see him if I enter the difficult places and choose to love as he did, even when it is not easy. In those moments when I accept the vulnerability of unconditional love, I see Jesus because I am in him and he in me.

And finally, I can see it: the miracle is not that the pandemic is over. The miracle is that God was with us all the way through the pandemic and if we were listening, he used the pandemic to teach us more about love. "He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever."

~Pam Driedger, St. Jude's Parish

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Sixth Sunday of Easter 14 May 2023

*Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton*

*St-Peter's Church, South Branch*



**Parish Office:**

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

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**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 149	John 15:26-16
<b>Tue</b>	Acts 16:22-34	Psalm 138	John 15:26-16:4
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 17:15-18:1	Psalm 148	John 16:12-15
<b>Thu</b>	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23	Psalm 47	Matthew 28:16-20
<b>Fri</b>	Acts 18:9-18	Psalm 47	John 16:20-23
<b>Sat</b>	Acts 18:23-28	Psalm 47	John 16:23-28
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 6:12-14 1 Peter 2:4-9	Psalm 27	John 17:1-11



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$147.00; Envelopes: \$455.00;

**TOTAL: \$602.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Plot: \$500.00; Perpetual Care: \$100.00

**TOTAL: \$600.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: \$28.25; Envelopes: \$255.00;

**TOTAL: \$283.25**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	Arlene Lane †	Debbie & Dale
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	Raymond Perry †	Nancy Perry
Tue	16	IC	4:00 pm	Vernon Reidpath †	Claude LeBlanc
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	JoAnn Murphy & Family
Sun	21	IC	11:00 am	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Legoff †	Bill & Stuart

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions:	Lois Stella
Sun	21	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions:	Pat Marian / Jocelyn Marilou

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

**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.

**NEXT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will take place on **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.

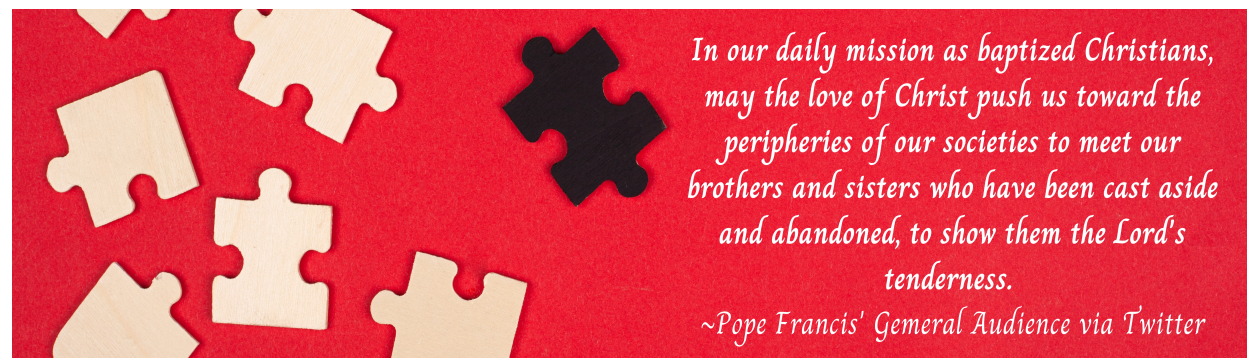


## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

**MONDAY @ THE MOVIES** Everyone is invited to join our next film discussion taking place on June 12th at 10:30 am when we will be discussing the (1995) film *Dead Man Walking* featuring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, both having won Academy Awards for their roles. Monday @ The Movies is a discussion group that meets regularly via Zoom to talk about faith connections in popular movies. Contact Karen for more information or to register.

**FAITH EXPERIMENTS EXPRESS** Children in grades 1 through 6 are invited back to Faith Experiments Express where we use interactive science experiments to teach about God and Scripture. Sessions are conducted via Zoom and our next session will take place **May 29th** at 6:00 pm. For more information, Contact Karen at 387-4198 or [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com). Register online at [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca) → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development.

**BEING PRESENT: CAREGIVERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR** The diocesan Committee Looking at End of Life Pastoral Care will offer a session designed for those who provide care to the sick / infirm, facilitated by Louise Ongo of St. Bernard's Parish. Entitled "Being Present: Caregivers and the people they care for", the session will be held on Thursday, May 18th at St. Bernard's Parish (42 Botsford Street, Moncton) and run from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. This session will be a repeat of the session given at Immaculate Conception in Rexton on May 11<sup>th</sup>.



*In our daily mission as baptized Christians, may the love of Christ push us toward the peripheries of our societies to meet our brothers and sisters who have been cast aside and abandoned, to show them the Lord's tenderness.*

*~Pope Francis' General Audience via Twitter*