

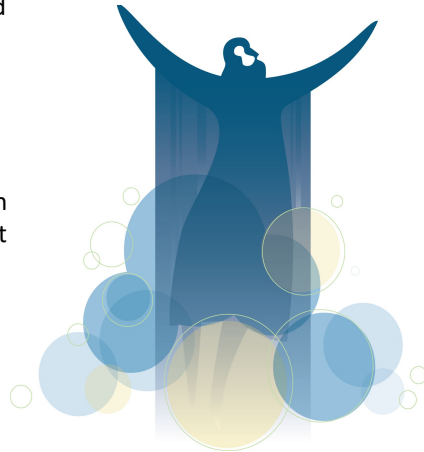
**EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ REFLECTION FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. After forty days (a number indicating preparation in the Bible) Jesus ascended into Heaven, leaving the mission of the church under the care of the Apostles and promising to send the Holy Spirit as their guide on Pentecost (which we will celebrate next Sunday). I remember as a very young girl picturing Jesus ascending into the clouds and I naively thought that if I could get above the clouds, I would see Jesus sitting on the right hand side of God the Father. The first time I flew in an airplane we were above these beautiful white fluffy clouds and , of course, I didn't see Jesus sitting beside God. However , I did feel a sense of wonder and appreciation of nature and the world God created for us.

By ascending and sending the Holy Spirit the faith could spread to the ends of the earth. Because of this Ascension, the Holy Spirit dwells within us here and now and Jesus is present to us in the Eucharist whatever part of the world we are in. The fact that we are following Jesus over 2000 years later is evidence of the success of the apostles and followers of Jesus. At the end of every Mass we are sent out to bring Jesus, be witnesses to what He came to earth to proclaim. We don't have to preach the Good News to everyone we meet- we should just be good exemplars of what it means to be Catholic / Christian. In our lives we know many people who truly are carrying out the message from 2000 years ago. We encounter people who, though faced with the ravages of cancer, do not complain but try their best to meet the challenges head on. We see people who are so very kind to others; who are raising their children to love and be loved; who help when they can to minister to others: the elderly neighbour who is alone, the single mother who needs support, the disenfranchised who need comfort, new Canadians who have lost everything and need help in picking up their lives and moving on. We should remember that being Catholic doesn't mean just attending Mass on Sunday then not doing anything once Mass is over. The true Catholic lives a life of caring and giving and holding the values and morals that Christ expects of us in our daily living. We are Christ's witnesses today in our homes; with our families and with our neighbours in our parish community. We do this through the quality of our daily lives; in how we speak to each other and treat each other.

It is now up to each of us in our way to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus. Through us today, the world will know that Jesus is alive, present and active in the world. As Pope Francis says to each of us : " Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that they have experienced the love of God in Jesus". Jesus , ascending into Heaven, has not left, deserted or abandoned us. He is with us when we gather to break bread with each other. He is with us when we reach out to help and support each other. These are the signs that Jesus is in us and with us today and forever. We also should reflect on His words ( at the end of today's Gospel reading): " And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

~Cathy Keirstead, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping



# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## The Ascension of the Lord 21 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

**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 19:1-8	Psalms 68	John 16:29-33
<b>Tue</b>	Acts 20:17-27	Psalms 68	John 17:1-11
<b>Wed</b>	Acts 20:28-38	Psalms 68	John 17:11-19
<b>Thu</b>	Acts 22:30-23:11	Psalms 16	John 17:20-26
<b>Fri</b>	Acts 25:13-21	Psalms 103	John 21:15-19
<b>Sat</b>	Acts 28:16-31	Psalms 11	John 21:20-25
<b>Sun</b>	Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-13	Psalms 104	John 20:19-23



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$98.10**; Envelopes: **\$1,800.00**;  
 Baptism Donation: **\$50.00**; Hall Rental: **\$115.00**;  
 Baptism Certificate: **\$10.00**; April Masses: **\$24.00**;  
 Hall Donation (Anonymous): **\$280.70**;  
 Breakfast Fundraiser: **\$1,741.00** **TOTAL: \$4,118.80**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$30.00**; Envelopes: **\$95.00**;  
**April Masses: \$12.00; TOTAL: \$137.00**

### St. Bartholomew Cemetery

Donation: **\$150.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Perpetual Care x 2: **\$200.00** **TOTAL: \$200.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

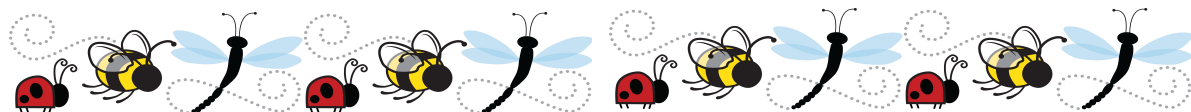
Sat	20	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	JoAnn Murphy & Family
Sun	21	IC	11:00 am	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Legoff †	Bill & Stuart
Tue	23	IC	4:00 pm	Margeurite Little †	Dick & Family
Sat	27	SP	4:00 pm	Exilda & William Vautour †	Stella & Yvon
Sun	28	IC	11:00 am	Vincent Richard †	Don & Linda Teakles

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	27	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	28	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions:	Spare Donna / Vina	Adona

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	28	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 <sup>st</sup> Decade: For our clergy 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	4	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3 <sup>rd</sup> Decade: For our youth
Sun	11	IC	10:30 am	Vina	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, Christian Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle and all residents living in special care homes.*

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY MOURNS over the death of Gerald Richard, who died on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. We hold in prayer and sympathy his wife Ginny, their children, grandchildren, and everyone whose lives Gerald touched. A funeral mass will be held at Immaculate Conception on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 pm.

**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** After expenses a grand total of **\$1,741.00** was raised through the community breakfast held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The planning committee would like to extend their gratitude to all those who donated their time, money, and food as well as to those who made in-kind donations. The next 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.



**FR. BERNARD WILL BE AWAY ON RETREAT** in Bathurst from May 21st to May 26th. Fr. Charles will say mass on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> so there will be no change to the mass schedule.

**MASS AT CHAPEL POINT** will be celebrated on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at St. Patrick's Church. Please note that the 4:00 mass in South Branch will be canceled on this day.

**COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES** Following a pause due to the pandemic, commemorative services for patients deceased at the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital are now resuming. The service for patients who died during 2021 will be held on Sunday, June 4 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 date of the next service (for those who passed in 2022) will be announced shortly.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON



Since mid-April, deadly fighting between the army and paramilitaries has been raging in Sudan, causing thousands of people to flee or be displaced. Development and Peace Canada is joining the Pope's prayers for peace in Sudan by organizing a virtual rosary prayer to which you are all invited.

**When: Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. ET (1:00 p.m. Atlantic time)** To register, [use this link](#) which you will find on the diocesan website at [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca). For more information, contact the Development and Peace Regional Office in Moncton by phone (506 801-04400) or by email ([dpatlantique@devp.org](mailto:dpatlantique@devp.org))