

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ *Eventually, Words Need to Become Actions*

It has been mentioned to me by my wife on more than one occasion that she may need to point out a task that needs to be done more than once to get any results. Guilty as charged in some instances. If I am being honest, the tasks I don't tackle right away are the ones I either don't want to do, or don't feel I can do well. It is interesting that no matter which year we are in our three-year cycle of readings, this Gospel is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter and on Pentecost. On the Second Sunday of Easter, we get a longer version as we hear about Thomas and his realization of who Jesus truly is. In each version though, we hear the command of Jesus to the disciples, and to us, to go. Yet, eight days later when he comes back, they are still locked in that room. They have gotten the "come together" part down, but not so much the "go" part.

I believe that is us as modern-day Christians. In our baptism we are invited to come. To gather with this community of believers, to become a member, to be nourished at both tables, and to be accepted for who we are, children of God. We are good at the "come". Now comes the hard part. This can't be our little secret that only gets shared with the "in crowd". At some point we need to realize that while the word Christian is a noun, it has to be a verb as well. We heard last week on Ascension Sunday Jesus tell his followers to go and make disciples of all nations. We were told on the Second Sunday of Easter and reminded again today that we have been sent. Back to my original statement; sometimes I have to be told something more than once to get the wheels turning.

Now that we have reached Pentecost, all our candidates have been confirmed or are being confirmed this weekend. They will hear the words, "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit." These gifts are for one purpose only and that is to build the kingdom of God. Our baptism has been sealed and we are being equipped for this mission and sent. When I was confirmed 49 years ago, I had no idea that this was the mission that I had just signed up for. I don't think that many of our current 12-year-olds do either. It has taken me a lifetime to identify and develop the unique gifts that God has given me. And building God's kingdom is not for the faint of heart. While it sounds easy enough: "go and make disciples of all nations." The fact is, this is a counter cultural message that we are bringing and not everyone is overjoyed to hear it. Thus, I may drag my feet before answering God's call because, as I said before, I am not 100% confident I will be able to do this well. This is where the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate at Confirmation and are reminded of today come into play. We just need to continue to tap into those gifts. I start every day with a prayer that I may be open to wherever or whatever God is calling me to today and that in all circumstances my words be God's words and that my actions be to serve God well and to serve God's people. To say I do it perfectly every time would be incorrect. Yet, I do not give up. I continue to try, and I believe that answers the call of Pentecost.

Recently I had an opportunity to take part in formation on Baptism and Confirmation being provided by Archbishop Paul Durocher from Gatineau and he described these two sacraments in this way. When we as parents teach our children to walk, we hold their hands for a while, but eventually we move in front of them with arms extended and say, "come, come". This is baptism. Later, when we are teaching them to ride a bike, we run along side them holding on to the bike until they can get their balance. Eventually, we take our hands off the bike and say, "go, go." This is Confirmation. This is transforming words into actions.



~Mark Mahoney, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Solemnity of Pentecost 28 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			
Mon	Genesis 3:9-15	Psalms 87	John 19:25-34
Tue	Sirach 35:1-12	Psalms 50	Mark 10:28-31
Wed	Zephaniah 3:14-18	Psalms 12	Luke 1:39-56
Thu	Sirach 42:15-25	Psalms 3	Mark 10:46-52
Fri	Sirach 44:1,9-13	Psalms 149	Mark 11:11-26
Sat	Sirach 51:12-20	Psalms 19	Mark 11:27-33
Sun	Exodus 34:4-9 1 Corinthians 12:3-13	DN 3	John 3:16-18



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$83.30**; Envelopes: **\$490.00**;

Breakfast Donation: **\$20.00**; Papal Charities: **\$340.00**;

Indigenous Reconciliation: **\$215.00**;

TOTAL: \$1,148.30

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$40.95**; Envelopes: **\$180.00**;

Indigenous Reconciliation: **\$20.00**; **TOTAL: \$240.95**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **\$85.00**

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Prepayment: **\$150.00**; Donation: **\$600.00**;

Cemetery Envelopes: **\$730.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,480.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	27	SP	4:00 pm	Exilda & William Vautour †	Stella & Yvon
Sun	28	IC	11:00 am	Vincent Richard †	Don & Linda Teakles
Tue	30	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson †	Ed & Dawne Furey
Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian and Leon Vautour †	Dwight & Jeannette
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	Nathalie Legoff †	Bill Legoff

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Corinne Stephen / Harvey	Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	4	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: <i>For our clergy</i>
Sun	11	IC	10:30 am	Vina	2 nd Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	18	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:

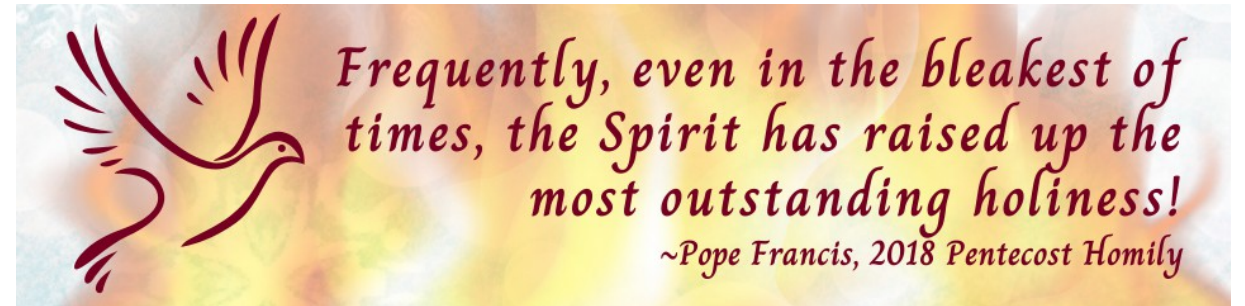
Alverie Robichaud, Christian Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle and all residents living in special care homes.

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.

BIG BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER will take place on **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.

MASS AT CHAPEL POINT will be celebrated on Saturday, June 17th 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

THE RECEPTION OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN CENTRE will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. starting May 30th. Regular hours will resume September 5th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023 The theme of this year's in-person Vacation Bible School will be *Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light* and will run from June 26th-29th in the mornings at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Riverview. Registration is open to anyone aged 3 up to the end of grade 6, and there will be a \$20 deposit required which will be returned at the end of the program. Register online by visiting www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Youth Faith Development → Vacation Bible School and then click on the poster. Contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com for more information.

