

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ *May They All Be One*

If you have ever accompanied a person approaching their own death, you know the words they share with you are among the most important words you will ever hear from them. When someone is withing hours or days of death, what preoccupies their hearts and minds tends not to be about last night's Blue Jays game or the price of broccoli. They want to make things right. It's their last chance to say what they always wanted to say. They speak about forgiveness, or gratitude, or their fears or regrets, or of "going to meet their Maker"---heart stuff.

Jesus was no different. He also had a farewell speech, and it spans five chapters in the Gospel of John (Jn. 13:31-17:26). One of the last things he said to his Apostles before his imminent death was, "Father, just as you are in me and I am in you, so they also be one in us," (Jn. 17:21). Speaking from his heart of hearts, Jesus' great desire was that we would all be one.

Let's face it, we are not all one. Just look at the evening news, if you can tough it out for an entire hour, and you will see how divided we are. Just ponder riffs in your own family, and you will notice how not everyone nor everything is one.

We may not have much control over many of the divisions in the outside world, but we can make an effort to be one when we gather for Sunday Eucharist. If we cannot be one in our singing, praying, greeting, and body language during Mass, there's little hope it will spread outside of the halls of worship into the larger world.

Good liturgy calls for a unified posture. In the parish grouping of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, the unifying posture for the entire Eucharistic Prayer is that we stand (It may be different in your parish grouping). "We are the Body of Christ," and that's not just a saying or a theological concept that has no ramifications for our lives or for our Sunday worship. If St. Paul were to drop in on our Eucharistic celebrations, he would probably ask the same question he posed to the people in Corinth, "Has Christ been divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13). When some people are standing and others are kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer, I have to conclude that perhaps Christ is divided—that there is no credence in the belief of one Lord, one Spirit, one Church, and one baptism. Everyone is just doing their own thing. The Church's liturgy is never an expression of an individual's personal piety, and it is certainly not an expression of self-righteousness ("I'll show these people what real worship should be about!"). Everything is symbolic in the Mass; nothing is just done for expediency. If that's true, then even our body language communicates something.

In the last five years in particular, all the churches that make up our archdiocese have seen a wonderful influx of people from various parts of the world. Look around and you will notice people from the Philippines, South Korea, Indonesia, South America, Africa, and elsewhere. You are a blessing to the Church, an expression of the Church's richness. However, I challenge you, and everyone else, to be one with the community you worship with. If your desire is to be one with the community you worship with, and that community stands during the Eucharistic Prayer, you stand as well. If your desire is to be one with the worshipping community, and that community kneels at certain points during the Eucharistic Prayer, you kneel as well. If your desire is to be one with the worshipping community, and that community stands on its heads and coughs nickels, you stand on your head and cough nickels. Always strive to be one with the community you are worshipping with. Unity must trump all other concerns, even if we think everyone around us is doing it wrong.

I've visited St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. I've also visited St. John Lateran Church in Rome (the mother church of all churches in the world), and numerous churches and basilicas all over Europe. One of the things I've noticed is that none of them have fixed pews or kneelers. Pews and kneelers came very late in the Church's history of worship. Maybe they had a better grasp of "uniformity of posture," of "togetherness" than we have. My point is, "when in Rome, do as the Romans do." It not only provides for good liturgy, but it also fulfills Jesus' dying desire, "that they all be one, Father, as I am in you and you are in me."

~Fr. Phil Mulligan, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity 4 June 2023

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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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	Tobit 1:3-2:8	Psalm 112	Mark 12:1-12
Tue	Tobit 2:9-14	Psalm 112	Mark 12:13-17
Wed	Tobit 3:1-17	Psalm 125	Mark 12:18-27
Thu	Tobit 6:10-17	Psalm 128	Mark 12:28-34
Fri	Tobit 11:5-17	Psalm 146	Mark 12:35-37
Sat	Tobit 12:1-20	Tobit 13	Mark 12:38-44
Sun	Deuteronomy 8:2-16 1 Corinthians 10:16-17	147	John 6:51-58



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$149.00**; Envelopes: **\$791.00**;

Papal Charities: **\$5.00**;

Indigenous Reconciliation: **\$70.00**;

TOTAL: \$1,015.00

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **TOTAL: \$140.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$31.55**; Envelopes: **\$130.00**; **TOTAL: \$161.55**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **TOTAL \$10.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian and Leon Vautour †	Dwight & Jeannette
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	Nathalie Legoff †	Bill Legoff
Tue	6	IC	4:00 pm	Raymond & Florence Lanigan †	Pam & Family
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	Ken and Janet Curtis †	Stella & Yvon
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	Thomas & Geraldine Flynn †	Don & Linda Teakles

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Donna Pat / Dennis	Marilou

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	11	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 st Decade: <i>For our clergy</i> 2 nd Decade: <i>For our parishioners</i>
Sun	18	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3 rd Decade: <i>For our youth</i>
Sun	25	IC	10:30 am	Vina	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:

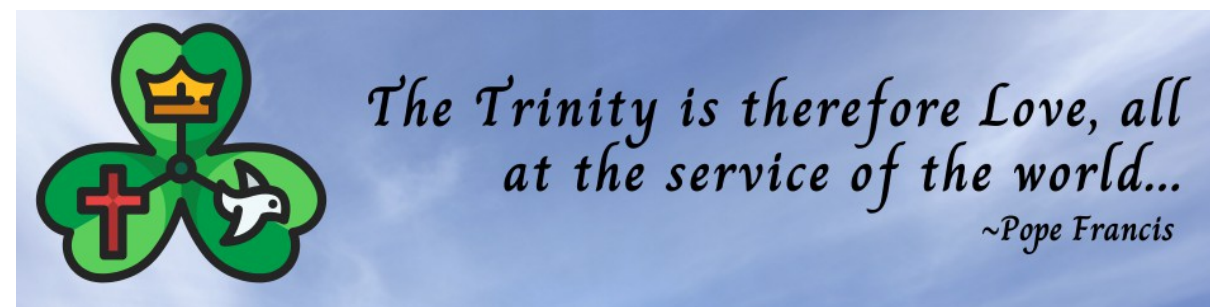
Alverie Robichaud, Christian Robichaud, Roger Mazerolle and all residents living in special care homes.

CHALICE CHILD SPONSORSHIP WEEKEND Chalice is coming to Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit! **At the June 10th-11th masses**, Canada's largest Catholic Child Sponsorship organization will provide you the opportunity to begin a relationship with a child in the developing world through the benefits of child sponsorship. It is a powerful way to reveal God's love for those most in need. Please visit www.chalice.ca for more information about Chalice and its mission.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL 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.



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.

