

EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ *Enlarge the Space in Your Tent*

Exodus' telling of the Israelites camping in the desert, coupled with Jesus' missioning of the 12 disciples to "go out to the lost sheep of the House of Israel," brought to mind the ongoing Synod on Synodality underway in our Church and its implications for how we as a Church might become less polarized and exclusive while at the same time becoming more compassionate, loving, and hospitable to everyone Jesus invited to the table. I do not mean my personal guest list of those I like, but Jesus' guest list, which includes...well...everyone.

In 2021 Pope Francis announced a synod on synodality ([Synod 2021-2024](#)) to take place in Octobers of 2023 and 2024. This involved in its early stages a time of local preparation where parishes around the world were invited to take part. If you happen to be unfamiliar with church synod, Pope Francis has essentially asked us to reflect on how our church can create spaces where she listens to the Holy Spirit through the voice of her faithful. This synod is particularly significant because it recognizes the laity as a voice of The Church in a much broader way.

This Diocesan Stage of the synod involved conversations among many clergy and laity at parish and diocesan levels. [You can read the reports as well as a synthesis from the Archdiocese of Moncton on the diocesan website.](#) Pope Francis described these synod conversations as a "time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations, and ministries." According to Francis, this process "is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium."

In 18 years of serving in pastoral ministry, I have heard many frustrated people echo some variation of "The church needs to adapt to the world around it, or else it will become irrelevant." I love our Church, and in my own lifetime she has been a personal source of great comfort, belonging, and nearness to God. I also think there is truth to this statement about the need for change, not because I believe God has changed recently but because I believe I have changed and the way in which I understand God has changed. There is a bit of a problem though, and it is not intended as a criticism of anyone in particular, because I think it is a part of our human nature. The problem is that not 100% of the time, but often enough, humans are stark-raving **terrified** of even the most subtle change to the status quo or challenge to our world view.

I took part in the Continental Phase of the Synod in January of this year, where I participated in conversations with English-speaking faithful from across the United States and Canada. Listening to others from such a multiplicity of backgrounds was fascinating and gave me a much better appreciation of our Church's rich diversity. It was also encouraging to know there are still spaces where we can look one another in the eye and have respectful conversations grounded in good listening.

During the conversation I participated in (which took place on Zoom), every person was given adequate time to speak and share their observations without having someone else roll their eyes, shut them down or disagree with them. It was a powerful exercise in listening. The working document for the Continental Stage of the synod was entitled "[Enlarge the Space of Your Tent](#)," taken from Isaiah 54:2. The document states "This tent is a space of *communion*, a place of *participation*, and a foundation for *mission*."

An invitation for some and also a challenge for many, we have been asked to reflect on our meaning when we claim *all are welcome*, or when we claim God sent Jesus into the world to save *everyone*, or that God loves *each of his children equally*. We often say these things but across my time in ministry I have also often heard "All are welcome, **but...**" or "God loves each of his children equally, **but...**" In either instance the imposition of "but" changes the meaning of the sentence and takes on more judgment and responsibility than belongs to me.

Through the synodal conversations which took place over the past couple of years, and through today's readings I also hear an invitation to broaden our own tents in outreach and mission; to create space for, make feel welcome those Jesus invited to the table. No buts.

~Trevor Drosbeck, Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 18 June 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	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Psalms 98	Matthew 5:38-42
Tue	2 Corinthians 8:1-9	Psalms 146	Matthew 5:43-48
Wed	2 Corinthians 9:6-11	Psalms 112	Matthew 6:1-18
Thu	2 Corinthians 11:1-11	Psalms 111	Matthew 6:7-15
Fri	2 Corinthians 11:18-30	Psalms 34	Matthew 6:19-23
Sat	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Tobit 71	Luke 1:5-17
Sun	Jeremiah 20:10-13 Romans 5:12-15	Psalms 69	Matthew 10:26-33

The harvest truly is
plenteous, but the
labourers are few.

Matthew 9:37

quoting.org

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS JUNE 4TH & JUNE 11TH

Immaculate Conception

Loose (Jun 4): **\$102.00**; Loose (Jun 11): **\$115.00**;
 Envelopes (Jun 4): **\$600.00**;
 Envelopes (Jun 11): **\$1,290.00**;
 Indigenous Reconciliation: **\$5.00**;
 May Masses: **\$27.00**; Share Lent: **\$20.00**;
 Good Friday: **\$10.00**; Easter Offering: **\$10.00**;
TOTAL: \$2,179.00

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **TOTAL: \$50.00**

St. Peter's

Loose (Jun 4): **\$29.00**; Envelopes (Jun 11): **\$285.00**;
 Loose (Jun 11): **\$24.00**; Envelopes (Jun 11): **\$120.00**;
 May Masses: **\$12.00**; **TOTAL: \$470.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Cemetery Envelopes: **TOTAL \$10.00**

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Donation IMO James & Bridget Roach: **\$60.00**

St. James Cemetery

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	Deceased Members of St. Patrick's †	Former Parishioners of St. Patrick's
Sun	18	IC	11:00 am	Agnes LeBlanc †	Don & Linda Teakles
Tue	22	IC	4:00 pm	Neglected Souls in Purgatory †	A Parishioner
Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian & Leon Vautour †	Stella & Yvon
Sun	25	IC	11:00 am	Alban Vautour †	Janet

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	25	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Stephen Corinne / Rose Ann	Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	24	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 st Decade: For our clergy
Sun	25	IC	10:30 am	Gail	2 nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	2	IC	10:30 am	Vina	3 rd Decade: For our youth
					4 th Decade: For peace in our world
					5 th 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.

WORDS CANNOT SUFFICE TO EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE OUR FAMILY FEELS in response to the love and caring displayed by our community. So many of you honoured Gerald by showing our family love and compassion through your actions, gifts of food, sharing of stores, and many cards and messages. You have truly lightened our hearts and allowed us to smile as we remember Gerald. Thank you. Ginny, Sarah, and Jonathan Richard.



FUNERAL COORDINATORS The Parish is pleased to announce Judi Whalen and Louise Onggo have agreed to share Funeral Coordinator responsibilities at Immaculate Conception. Judi can be reached at 506-338-0181 or by cell at 506-251-9130 and Louise can be reached at 506-523-6978 or by cell phone at 506-866-6507. The parish would also like to express its gratitude to the contribution made by Linda Teakles during the years she has served in this role. The search continues for a third person to assist, so if you think you are called to this ministry please see Fr. Bernard or contact Judi or Louise.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR. J.E. HUDSON who celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 9th. Fr. Hudson was ordained at Immaculate Conception Parish in Rexton on June 9th, 1963 by Bishop Norbert Robichaud. He served briefly at St. Augustine's in Moncton before he continued his career with the Archdiocese of Toronto before retiring. Thank you, Fr. Hudson for your years of service to the Church.



St. Joseph is the model of the educator and the dad, the father. I, therefore, entrust to his protection those who are fathers. Best wishes to you on your day! I ask for you the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. May you be for them as St Joseph was: guardians of their growth in age, wisdom and grace. May you guard them on their journey: be educators and walk with them. Thank you for all you do for your children: thank you.

May St. Joseph bless you and accompany you.

~Pope Francis, General Audience 19 March 2014

