

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ *Never Settle for the Path of Least Resistance***

Well this I am certain of, as I am not certain of much else: thank God I do not have the same friends as Jeremiah. "All my close friends are watching for me to stumble" he tells us. Maybe it is a little delusional of me, but I would like to think that my friends are always rooting for my success.

Jeremiah was born in the mid 600's BC in Anathoth, near Jerusalem, the son of one of the priests who lived with their families close to the temple. From a very young age, he felt called by God to be a prophet and began his ministry before he was 20. So totally devoted to his task was Jeremiah, that he neither married nor had children. Despite the lack of support he receives in his work, Jeremiah does not falter in his mission, which is to call the rulers and the people to make changes to the pagan lifestyles they had adopted.

The message Jeremiah shares in the first reading is reiterated in Matthew's Gospel: "Fear no one," Jesus tells his apostles, "for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known." We all have our secrets – pieces of ourselves that we share with no one, not even those closest to us. Some of those secrets are, if not dark, ones that do not show us in our best light, or ones that would embarrass us. Yet our secrets don't define us.

Even with our secrets, something known by Jeremiah and Jesus with complete confidence is the presence of the Lord in their lives. Jeremiah feels the "Lord ... with me like a dread warrior." For Jesus, "even the hairs on your head are all counted. So do not be afraid." Imagine a God who knows us even down to every hair on our head, knows us completely, knows all our secrets, and still loves us.

Jeremiah thought that the world was in too much of a mess to bring children into it. I am certain there are some who feel that way today – the world does seem to be in chaos. Still, if Jeremiah felt this way over 2800 years ago, for us the lesson is the more things change, the more they stay the same. Nearly 100 years ago, Helen Keller said "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it." A world full of suffering will always exist. Two thousand years ago Jesus told us the Kingdom of God is at hand, right now, if we believe and live the Good News. Two thousand years, and we still only have glimpses of that Kingdom. Maybe those glimpses are enough.

Far be it from me to correct the prophet, but maybe Jeremiah was wrong in his decision to not have children. Maybe, because the world is in such a mess, we need to make sure we continue to bring children into it ... and eventually one of those children will correct that mess, will bring to fruit that Kingdom. Ultimately, Jeremiah's harsh judgment of the people he was living among led to his exile to Egypt. Right to the bitter end however, he remains defiant, refusing to allow his spirit to be broken. So we know, that despite his concerns, he had hope – that "thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tunes without the words, and never stops at all" that Emily Dickinson wrote of.

A favourite song of mine is I Hope You Dance sung by Lee Ann Womack. "I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance, never settle for the path of least resistance," she sings. We will always encounter a mess, but to give up because of the mess, means the mess will never be cleared up. I'm with Jeremiah ... it's not about success, it's about doing the job we are called to do. I will leave it to God to worry about the success.

~Ellen Bennett, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time 25 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

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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>	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalms 33	Matthew 7:1-5
<b>Tue</b>	Genesis 13:2,5-18	Psalms 15	Matthew 7:6-14
<b>Wed</b>	Genesis 15:1-12	Psalms 105	Matthew 7:15-20
<b>Thu</b>	Acts 12:1-11	Psalms 34	Matthew 16:13-19
<b>Fri</b>	Genesis 17:1-10	Psalms 128	Matthew 8:1-4
<b>Sat</b>	Genesis 18:1-15	Luke 1:46	Matthew 8:5-17
<b>Sun</b>	2 Kings 4:8-16 Romans 6:3-11	Psalms 89	Matthew 10:37-42



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS JUNE 4TH & JUNE 11TH

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$43.00; Envelopes: \$895.00;

Breakfast Donation: \$20.00;

**TOTAL: \$958.00**

### St. Peter's

Envelopes: \$135.00; **TOTAL: \$135.00**

### St. Patrick's Cemetery

Anonymous Donation Found in Church: \$35.35;

Donations from June 17<sup>th</sup> Mass: \$787.00;

**TOTAL: \$822.35**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian & Leon Vautour †	Stella & Yvon
Sun	25	IC	11:00 am	Alban Vautour †	Janet
Tue	27	IC	4:00 pm	Leo Martin †	Huguette & Family
Sat	1	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell †	Debbie & Dale
Sun	2	IC	11:00 am	Florence Lanigan †	Pam & Family

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

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

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	25	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1st Decade: For our clergy 2nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	2	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3rd Decade: For our youth
Sun	9	IC	10:30 am	Vina	4th Decade: For peace in our world 5th 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.

## CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS FOR WEEK OF JUNE 26TH-30TH

Please note that for the week of June 26th-30th, the Parish Office will be opened on Tuesday evening from 4:00 – 8:00 pm, and on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Normal hours will resume the following week.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES** The Liturgical Ministry Schedules for July and August have been left at the back of the church, please pick up the schedule with your name on it.



**FUNERAL COORDINATORS** The Parish is pleased to announce Judi Whalen and Louise Ongo 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.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON

**MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES** will continue throughout the summer. Our next film discussion will take place on Monday, July 17th at 10:30 am via Zoom. We will be discussing the 2020 animated Disney film *Soul*. Mondays @ The Movies is a film discussion group designed to spark conversation about issues of faith and spirituality found in popular films. Please contact Trevor at 857-4879 or trevord.diocese@gmail.com if you are interested.

*...the summer season is a providential time to cultivate our task of seeking and encountering the Lord. In this period, students are free of scholastic commitments and many families take their holidays; it is important that in the period of rest and disengagement from daily activities, we can reinforce our strengths of body and soul, by deepening our spiritual journey.*

~Pope Francis, 08/06/17 Angeles

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

In collaboration with the Kent Settlement Services and the Town of Beaurivage, we will be hosting a **Canadian Multiculturalism Day Event** on Tuesday, June 27 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Bonar Law Common. Come and enjoy an evening filled with a variety of cultural entertainment, delicious food, uplifting music, and more. We encourage you to dress in your culture of choice!