

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ *He Said What???*

Had you ever noticed the number of flat-out contradictions in scripture? For example,

- the last shall be first;
- lose your life to find it;
- take the lowest seat if you want to have the highest;
- the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served;
- a virgin will conceive;
- an old woman with an old husband will give birth to a child. and so on.

We might have said that if we want to be first, we would have to get into the front of the line, not the end. And, if we want to be alive, we must make some moves not to lose our lives. And so on. These are common sense, aren't they?

Instead, this Sunday's readings are introducing us, gently and partially, to ways in which such common sense opinions do not go deep enough. Try this on:

*We have to be like lifeless, empty earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us.*

In the [First Reading](#) a distinguished lady in the little village of Schunem shows great hospitality to the prophet Elisha, even to the point of building and furnishing a little room on the second floor of her house, with a bed, table, chair, and lamp for him for whenever he visits. Another contradiction: she is childless, yet Elisha promises that in one year she will be fondling her own baby son. She is shocked. But the promise comes true.

Then, when the boy becomes a young man, he suddenly dies ([2 Kings 4:18-37](#)). Elisha comes from twenty miles away and brings him back to life.

Life is given twice where there was no hope of life: death triumphing but life restored. It is contradictory, but is this the way of the Lord?

Then in the [Second Reading](#), St. Paul writes to the Church in Rome that they are baptized into Christ's death and are buried with him!

A grim statement. But then Paul says, if we die with Christ, we shall also live with him, shall live a life in God (Second Reading).

Die in order to live?

In the [Gospel](#) Jesus makes a most enigmatic, not to say contradictory, statement: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

No matter how we try to explain away that statement and neuter its content, it still means what it says. Losing your life is the only way to possess it. Letting go is the only way to hold on. How can such contrary claims simultaneously be true?

I want to suggest a metaphor. A glass has to start out empty in order to succeed as a glass. If it is sealed up, or if it is solid, or if it is already full, nothing can be poured in.

Does this sound like one more contradiction? No. A container has to be empty if it is to be filled.

The same goes for us. We have to be like empty earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us. This is the source of all the "contradictions" in the Gospels and certainly in the readings this Sunday. We have to empty out if we are to be filled up with God's gifts.

~Fr. John Foley, SJ (Saint Louis University)

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 July 2023

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



### Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

Phone: 506-523-6817

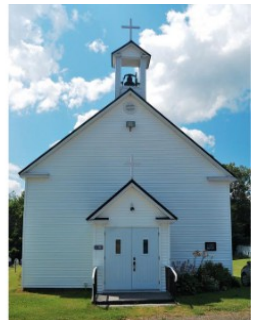
Email: [icprexton@rogers.com](mailto:icprexton@rogers.com)

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

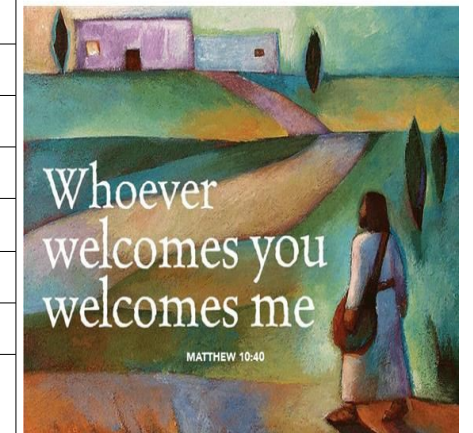
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

### St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

### Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Day	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Mon	Ephesians 2:19-22	Psalm 117	John 20:24-29
Tue	Genesis 19:15-29	Psalm 26	Matthew 8:23-27
Wed	Genesis 21:5-8	Psalm 34	Matthew 8:28-34
Thu	Genesis 22:1-19	Psalm 115	Matthew 9:1-8
Fri	Genesis 23:1-4	Psalm 106	Matthew 9:9-13
Sat	Genesis 18:1-15	Luke 1:46	Matthew 8:5-17
Sun	Zechariah 9:9-10 Romans 8:9-13	Psalm 145	Matthew 11:25-30



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$103.10**; Envelopes: **\$450.00**;  
 Donation: **\$10.00**; Baptism Certificate: **\$10.00**;  
 Proceeds from 06/17 Breakfast: **\$1,401.25**;  
**TOTAL: \$1,974.35.**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$42.00**; Envelopes: **\$120.00**; **TOTAL: \$162.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	1	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell †	Debbie & Dale
Sun	2	IC	11:00 am	Florence Lanigan †	Pam & Family
Tue	4	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson †	Ed & Dawn Furey
Sat	8	SP	4:00 pm	Brenda Warham †	Claire
Sun	9	IC	11:00 am	Lee, Stella, & Dale McIntyre †	Don & Linda

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	8	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	9	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions:	Stephen Corinne / Rose Ann	Louise

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	2	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1st Decade: For our clergy
Sun	9	IC	10:30 am	Vina	2nd Decade: For our parishioners
Sun	16	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3rd Decade: For our youth
					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.



### BIG BREAKFAST FUNDRAISERS

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who gave their time, energy, & enthusiasm to raise **\$1,401.25** at our June 17<sup>th</sup> breakfast and **\$1,736.00** at our May 13<sup>th</sup> breakfast, making a total of **\$3,137.25!** We want to thank everyone who came out and had breakfast, purchased tickets and to all those who made food and monetary donations. Thank you for your feedback and we are pleased to let you know we will have an electrician assess the electrical needs. Have a great summer.

MAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> BREAKFAST INCOME		JUNE 17 <sup>TH</sup> BREAKFAST INCOME	
Door (Breakfast/Donations)	\$1,678.00	Door	\$1,019.75
50/50	\$214.00	Donations	\$240.50
Lottery	\$144.00	Lottery	\$86.00
Other Donations	\$453.32	50/50	\$137.00
<b>GROSS INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,489.32</b>	<b>GROSS INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,483.25</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$753.32</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$82.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,736.00</b>	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,401.25</b>
50/50 Winner (\$214.00)	Carla Wood	50/50 Winner (\$137.00)	Janice Little
Lottery Winner (Picture)	Rose Fillmore	Lottery (Adult)	Carson Lut (sp)
Lottery Winner (Beach Set)	Joe LeDucke	Lottery (Child)	Lorraine Whalen

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES** of local high schools who are celebrating their convocation with family and friends. Hats Off, Class of 2023! May God bless and keep you always.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO SPENCER LAWSON** who is the recipient of this year's Our Lady of Hope Parish Scholarship, in the amount of \$300.00. Well done, Spencer!

