

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH – Nature and the Soul

A few days ago, as I drove around Île d'Orléans outside Quebec City (near Montmorency Falls and Sainte Anne de Beaupré), I was pleased to see so many families enjoying themselves outdoors. Apple orchards, one after another, were busy with families clambering in and out of tractor-drawn wagons taking them to and from the u-pick orchards. Seeing people, young and old, escaping the world of electronic gadgetry to enjoy the outdoor was telling on a number of levels. Why were they there and there in such numbers? It was sunny and warm. It was Thanksgiving weekend. But was there more going on?

"Why is it," I asked myself, "that the great outdoors seem to feed peoples' souls more than organized religion?" Why do so many people feel a deeper connectedness to the Sacred biking through a park or walking on a trail than sitting in a church pew? I concluded that these people in the apple orchards were not simply looking for

apples; they were—without knowing it—searching for and discovering their souls. The inner world of Spirit (their souls) and the outer world of matter (apples) were coming together at a subconscious level. The late Fr. Thomas Berry (1914-2009) said it better than I am saying it when he wrote, "The universe and the human soul find their fulfillment in each other."

Bill Plotkin, an American psychologist, incorporated another level to the way he treated his patients. Since 1980, he traded in the confines of an office for the vastness of the outdoors. This psychologist/wilderness guide directs people not only through mountain ranges of the American West but, more to

the point, into the inner wilderness of their soul. In one of his books, *Soul craft*, Plotkin says that the discovery of our souls is always a downward pull. It's a journey of descent, a journey meant for all of us and not just for heroes and heroines of mythology. Fearing the risk of losing what we have, most of us just want more...more of the stuff that doesn't feed the soul. Soul work is not for the fainthearted. Before we can ascend into the world of Spirit (moving upward toward God) we must descend into the Soul, our true self. I suppose when Jesus said "follow me" he meant downward into a sharing in his death before he meant upward into a sharing in his resurrection.

Nature plays a key role in the downward movement into our souls. Finding our soul is both our greatest longing and our greatest terror according to Bill Plotkin. It takes courage to do soul work. We are not here to save the world. We have a Saviour, Jesus, who did that. We are here to find our place in the cosmos and from there offer our unique gift to the world. We are here to love and serve. Theologian Frederick Buechner said this in an eloquent way: "Our calling is where our deepest gladness and the world's hunger meet." Plotkin writes in *Soul craft* that, "Your soul is your true nature. Your soul can also be thought of as your true place in nature." He goes on to write: "It is no surprise, even in the contemporary world, that profound encounters with soul often occur during solitary wilderness sojourns, just as they did for the founders of the major religions: Moses on Mount Sinai, Jesus in the desert for forty days, Muhammed in a cave outside Mecca, Buddha under the bodhi tree...Many people fill their days with a thousand and one distractions in an attempt to muffle the cry of their souls...When we become alienated from soul—our inner nature—we lose respect for our outer nature, resulting in pollution and degradation of the environment." Go for a walk. Pick apples. Discover your soul.

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

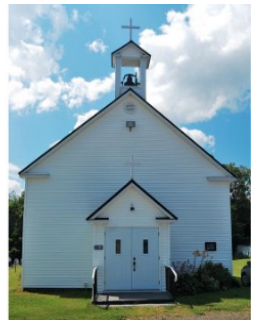


# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 October 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 | Romans 1:1-7                           | Ps 98     | Luke 11:29-32    |
| Tue | Romans 1:16-25                         | Ps 19     | Luke 11:37-41    |
| Wed | 2 Timothy 4:10-17                      | Ps 145    | Luke 10:1-9      |
| Thu | Romans 3:21-32                         | Ps 130    | Luke 11:47-54    |
| Fri | Romans 4:1-8                           | Ps 32     | Luke 12:1-7      |
| Sat | Romans 4:13-18                         | Ps 105    | Luke 12:8-12     |
| Sun | Isaiah 45:1-6<br>1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 | Ps 96     | Matthew 22:15-21 |



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$83.00; Envelopes: \$525.00

**TOTAL: \$608.00**

### St. Peter's

Loose: \$39.25; Envelopes: \$170.00;

**TOTAL: \$209.25**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

|     |    |    |          |   |                   |
|-----|----|----|----------|---|-------------------|
| Sat | 14 | SP | 4:00 pm  | John & Catherine Daigle †                 | Claire            |
| Sun | 15 | IC | 11:00 am | Leo Martin †                              | Huguette & Family |
| Tue | 17 | IC | 7:00 pm  | Deceased Members of the Hanrahan Family † | Nancy             |
| Sat | 21 | SP | 4:00 pm  | Wallace Best †                            | Lois & Richard    |
| Sun | 22 | IC | 4:00 pm  | Kathleen Thompson Warwarak †              | Bill & Stuart     |

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

|     |    |    |         | Lectors   |                             | Eucharistic Ministers |
|-----|----|----|---------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sat | 21 | SP | 4:00 pm | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm:<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions: | Lois                        | Stella                |
| Sun | 22 | IC | 4:00 pm | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm:<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions: | Corinne<br>Louise / Jocelyn | Gloria                |

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

|     |    |    |          | Leader | Intentions  |
|-----|----|----|----------|--------|---|
| Sun | 22 | IC | 4:00 pm  | Vina   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Decade: For our Clergy; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decade: For our parishioners;   |
| Sun | 29 | IC | 10:30 am | Gail   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Decade: For our youth; 4 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For peace in our world;<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For the intentions of parishioners. |



**WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:**

**ALVERIE ROBICHAUD. CHRISTIAN ROBICHAUD**

**ROGER MAZEROLLE**

**ALL RESIDENTS LIVING IN SPECIAL CARE HOMES**

**CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 22ND** Please note the 11:00 am mass on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be moved to 4:00 pm. The Redemptorist Provincial Superior will be in the area for a number of days and would like to visit and meet with each community where a Redemptorist priest serves as pastor.

**CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS FOR OCTOBER 18TH** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> IN LIGHT OF THE INSTALLATION OF BISHOP GUY DESROCHERS, C.S.S.R.



**CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE** *If you want to develop a deeper spiritual life, if you believe in the power of prayer, if you believe in the sanctity of life, and if you believe women play an important role in church and society then I would like to invite you to join the Catholic Women's League of Canada.*

Since COVID-19, like so many other councils, our council has not been active; I am hoping to change this. Debbie Richard has led the council for many years and she is interested in seeing the council take an active part in the church community again. I know when I was president of the Diocesan Council, Rexton was always the most welcoming council, we can be that again. So to kick-start our council, on October 21<sup>st</sup> Madonna Clark, President and Leslie

Carr, Vice-president of the New Brunswick Provincial Council of the CWL will be in Rexton to deliver a presentation titled **UNITY OUTREACH**. Unity Outreach is part of a national initiative to reach out to every parish council in Canada through in person visits. I do hope you will attend and enjoy a cup of tea with us! Mark your calendars for **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 1:30 – 3:00 IN THE CHURCH HALL**. Thank you, Louise Ongo.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE



**INSTALLATION OF NEW ARCHBISHOP OF MONCTON** All are invited to celebrate the Episcopal Installation of the seventh Archbishop of Moncton, The Most Reverend Guy Desrochers, C.S.S.R. on Wednesday, 18 October, at 3: 00 pm, in the Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption Cathedral. All the faithful are strongly encouraged to attend the celebration on October 18th, to meet the new Archbishop and welcome him among us.

We are excited to announce a return to our **THEOLOGY ON TAP** series of guest speakers. Our first guest will be Dr. Andrew Wilson who will give a presentation entitled **Scared Sacred: Halloween as Christian Carnival**. The session will take place on Monday, October 23, 2023 at Five Bridges (121 Pine Glen Road, Riverview) from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Please contact Karen at karen.diocese@gmail.com or 387-4198. You may also register online by going to [www.diomoncton.ca](http://www.diomoncton.ca) → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith Development → Formation Opportunities, and then click on the Theology on Tap Poster.

**FR. PETAR LJUBICIC** will speak at St. Bernard's Parish on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm (Rosary at 5:30 pm to be followed by mass and talk. Fr. Ljubicic was chosen to announce the Medjugorje Secrets and he will speak about this on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sponsored by the Ave Maria Centre of Peace.

**HAS SCIENCE KILLED GOD?** You are invited to a presentation and discussion about faith and reason in the modern world! October 26th from 7 - 9 p.m. at Holy Family Church (52 Falkland St. Moncton) Our guest speaker will be Eugene Aucoin, a retired human resources director and university professor who has spoken across Canada and around the world about nurturing human potential. Can faith in God and modern reasoning be reconciled? Eugene's book, *Has Science Killed God?* looks at three powerful ideas that will reignite your faith! (See: [www.eugene-aucoin.com](http://www.eugene-aucoin.com))