

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – ♪ LOVE, LOVE, LOVE ♪ ... ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE ♪

The multitudes of songs and poems which talk about love is endless. As a reader, I can attest that it is also a common theme in many books, a universal concept, understood and lived out in a variety of ways. Love really does appear to make the world go round, as someone once said. We are a society which is consumed by various interpretations of love, the lack of love, and what we feel love should look like.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that when asked: "Teacher, which commandment ... is the greatest?" Jesus responds, " You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... you shall love your neighbour as yourself." Explicit enough. We simply need to love one another. Over the years, I have begun to accept that maybe loving one another is part of what the first commandment is also, especially if we believe that Christ is in all of us.

It is easy enough to love those who are like us, those who are in our inner circle – family members, close friends, even distant friends. It is far more complex to love that annoying neighbour who insists on throwing his snow in your driveway; that homeless person who continues to steal from you and damage your property; that person on the other side of the world who lives a life contrary to what you stand for and believe in. And yet ... as Christians we believe they too are created by the Almighty, they too are created in the image of God. How much easier it would be if we didn't believe that. Then we could choose whom to love. Maybe though, we need to separate loving and liking. Loving is about treating others as we would like to be treated – with dignity, with respect. Liking ... that is an entirely different ball game.

My mother was an amazing individual. I have a brother who says it was from her – this simple, not very well educated, not particularly confident woman – that he receives his strength. She was certainly a woman of profound wisdom. We were a family of 9, living on the income of a federal civil servant, given my mom was, as were most women of her generation in St. John's, NL at that time, a stay at home mom. Yet, despite having a lower middle class income, throughout our lives Mom always reminded us that money did nothing to define a person's character. That we, even from the income tax bracket within which we lived, were as good as the next one. Gradually, what I began to realize was that if we were as good as the next one (Mom's words), they were as good as us. If we were not to be judged by our position on society's ladder, nor were they. If we were meant to be loved by our neighbour, so are they. As St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, we need to spend less time judging, and will therefore have more time for loving for "if you judge people, you have no time to love them."

Knowing it, and living it, are two different matters. Jesus calls us to live in this mantle of love, and tells us repeatedly that as we are called to live it, we are helped by the God who created us out of love; the God who loves us with an unconditional, never ending love. Since God loves us all, we are all worth loving. We do not make this decision to love, God makes it. We are not good people worth loving because we have chosen to love God; we are good people because God has chosen to love us.

If, as Jesus told the lawyer in today's Gospel reading, "on these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets," then our responses, and our decisions, need to be guided by loving God, and loving our neighbour – those neighbours whom we like, and even those we don't. Maybe we are not as successful in achieving that because we don't love ourselves – we don't see ourselves as the treasure of which then Deacon Carlos Jacinto spoke of in the reflection he gave the Sunday before he was ordained.

It answers an age old question for me: it is far more important that we love than we be loved. Yet, we are loved. And with the help of the God who loves us, we will love the Creator and the neighbour He has created. Because God "working within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." (Eph 3:20)

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

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 29 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

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	Romans 8:12-17	Ps 68	Luke 13:10-17
Tue	Romans 8:18-25	Ps 126	Luke 12:35-38
Wed	Romans 7:2-14 John 3:1-3	Ps 24	Matthew 5:1-12
Thu	Wisdom 3:1-9 Romans 5:5-11	Ps 27	John 6:37-40
Fri	Romans 9:1-5	Ps 147	Luke 14:1-6
Sat	Romans 11:1-29	Ps 94	Luke 14:1-11
Sun	Malachi 1:10 1 Thessalonians 2:7-13	Ps 13	Matthew 23:1-12



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$55.00**; Envelopes: **\$560.00**; Hall Rental: **\$80.00**;
Baptism Donation: **\$100.00**; Sale of Missals: **\$145.00**;
Sale of Votives: **\$181.00** **TOTAL: \$1,121.00**

Immaculate Conception Cemetery Fund

Prepaid Funeral Expenses: **\$300.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$48.25**; Envelopes: **\$150.00**; Needs of Cdn.
Church Env.: **\$35.00**; **TOTAL: \$208.25**

St. Bartholomew Cemetery Fund

Donation: **\$100.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	28	SP	4:00 pm	Linda Fagan †	Dwight & Jeannette
Sun	29	IC	11:00 am	William & Normand Hines †	Bill LeGoff
Tue	31	IC	4:00 pm	Kathleen & Orley McEachern †	Nancy
Sat	4	SP	4:00 pm	Marguerite Little †	Claire
Sun	5	IC	11:00 am	Katherine & Donald Ward †	Stuart

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	4	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	5	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Pat Donna / Jocelyn	Adona

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	5	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	12	IC	10:30 am	Gail	3 rd Decade: For our youth; 4 th Decade: For peace in our world; 5 th 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**

MEMORIAL TREE 2023 Believe it or not, the Advent season begins this year on December 3rd and it is time to start thinking about our Memorial Tree. To purchase a bulb, those in South Branch should contact **Phyllis Shortall** (506-523-6178), **Carol Beers** (523-6389 / 427-0027), or **Stella Marinelli** (506-523-3612). In Rexton you can purchase a bulb through the Parish Office. Envelopes and bulb requests will be made available at the back of the parish starting next weekend.

REXTON CRAFT FAIR will take place on Saturday, November 18th at Bonar Law Memorial School, 197 Main Street in Rexton. There will be handmade crafts and food vendors. General admission is \$5.00 with children under 10 admitted for free. In case of storm, the event will take place on Sunday, November 19th. Presented by the Friends of the Bengels.



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone from the Archdiocese and beyond who took part in the Thanksgiving Mass marking the departure of Archbishop Valéry Vienneau and in the Episcopal Installation Mass celebrating the arrival of Archbishop Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R. The committees who oversaw the preparation of these great Celebrations wish to express their appreciation to all who contributed in one way or another to the success of these events. **THANK YOU!** ~Gisèle St-Amand

INVITATION TO MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS (by ZOOM) with special Co-Host Archbishop Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R., on Friday November 3rd (Hymns at 6:50 p.m., Mary's Way of the Cross 7:00 p.m.)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85242385627?pwd=ZEFMRmp5bVp2UUlBTC9rUXpFd0JLZz09> Meeting ID: 852 4238 5627 Passcode: 221013 See the bulletin board for more details!

ADVENT @ THE MOVIES We are excited to announce again this year we will meet four times (via Zoom) prior to Christmas to discuss Advent themes found in some of our favourite popular films. All discussions will be held on Mondays at 2:00 pm via Zoom. Monday, **November 27th** at 2:00 pm we will be discussing the 2019 film *1917*; **December 4th**: *Citizen Kane*; **December 11th**: *Frozen*; and **December 18th**: *The Polar Express*. Mondays @ The Movies is a film discussion group designed to spark conversation about issues of faith and spirituality found in popular films. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com if you are interested.



2023 CEMETERY BLESSINGS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST

Solemnity of All Saints

Indian Island 4:00 pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2ND

All Souls' Day

Chapel Point 2:00 pm

Bass River 2:30 pm

Elsipogtog (following mass at 6:30 pm)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

South Branch (20 min before 4 pm mass)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Rexton (following 11:00 am mass)