

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – ON CONSULTING THE FAITHFUL

In his "Apologia Pro Vita Sua" John Henry (Cardinal) Newman explained that he converted to Catholicism because he recognized that the Catholic Church was the closest to that of St. Athanasius. I was inspired by Newman's sentiment and chose "The Logos in the Theology of Athanasius" to be the topic of my PhD dissertation. Life got in the way and I never completed it.

However, I also learned that after his conversion Newman narrowly missed being excommunicated for writing "On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine". Athanasius lived during the time after the conversion of Constantine, when Christianity became the State Religion. Constantine and most of that state-controlled Church accepted the doctrine of Arius (which was also accepted later by Mohammed) that Christ was a great prophet, but not divine. Athanasius, backed by the people, gave us the "homoousion" (of the same substance) which is in the Nicene Creed, occasionally recited at Mass. That doctrine is the basis of our belief in the Holy Trinity, expressed in the Sign of the Cross.

Pope Francis convened the Synod on Family back in 2015. Perhaps inspired by Newman he invited the Faithful to submit proposals to the Synod. I accepted the invitation, and proposed that women be invited to the Synod as full participants. Of course I did not hear back. But I was gratified to read an article by Michael Swan in the October, 2015 issue of *The New Freeman* that "Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher raised the question of ordaining female deacons during the first full day of the Synod on Family."

What is the connection between Family and Ordination? The obvious is sometimes hard to see.

Traditional families are made up of mothers, fathers, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers. The Synod was made up of sons and brothers. Period.

Our reading today from the Prophet Malachi is addressed to priests: "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?"

It has always been the role of science to describe our world and the role of faith to worship the God who created us and the world we live in. But God's gift of intelligence means that our understanding of God's creation constantly changes and deepens. In the distant past science taught men to think they were superior to women for a very good but incomplete reason. Religion accepted that science and turned observation into law stating that women should obey men. The scientific basis for that law no longer exists, but religions do not like giving up rules. Malachi says, "You have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction."

Right now, the Faithful are instead instructing the clergy by refusing to join their ranks. How easy would it be to fill those ranks by if married men and women as well as unmarried men and women would all be invited?

~Agnes Beirne, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping



The Synodal Pathway

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 November 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

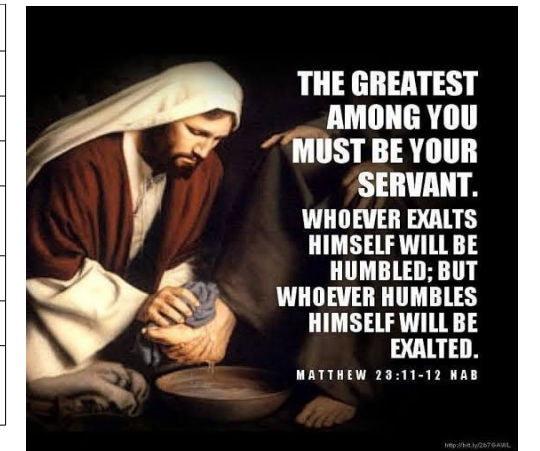
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Day	Scripture Readings	Psalm	Gospel
Mon	Romans 11:29-36	Ps 69	Luke 14:12-14
Tue	Romans 12:5-16	Ps 131	Luke 14:15-24
Wed	Romans 13:8-10	Ps 112	Luke 14:25-33
Thu	Ezekiel 47:1-12 1 Corinthians 3:9-17	Ps 46	John 2:13-22
Fri	Romans 15:14-21	Ps 98	Luke 16:1-8
Sat	Romans 16:3-27	Ps 145	Luke 16:9-15
Sun	Wisdom 6:12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Ps 63	Matthew 25:1-13



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$119.00**; Envelopes: **\$1040.00**;
Christmas Env.: **\$50.00**: **TOTAL: \$1,209.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$60.00**; Envelopes: **\$220.00**; **TOTAL: \$280.00**

Regional Mass Account

Masses: **\$225.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	4	SP	4:00 pm	Marguerite Little †	Claire
Sun	5	IC	11:00 am	Katherine & Donald Ward †	Stuart
Tue	7	IC	4:00 pm	Special Intention	A Parishioner
Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	Rodney Simon †	Donna & Robert Francis
Sun	12	IC	11:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud †	Blaine & Donna

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	12	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Corinne Judi / Rose-Ann	Louise

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	12	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	19	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 parishioners.



WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

ALVERIE ROBICHAUD. CHRISTIAN ROBICHAUD

ROGER MAZEROLLE

ALL RESIDENTS LIVING IN SPECIAL CARE HOMES

PARISH OFFICE HOURS - PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH.

MEMORIAL TREE 2023 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. Memorial Tree requests will be available at the back of the church.

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 Bengals.

*This is the Church we are called to dream: a Church that is the servant of all, the servant of the least.
A Church that welcomes, serves, loves. A Church with open doors that is a haven of mercy.*
~Pope Francis, via X

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE Every November 11, we mark Remembrance Day, commemorating the end of the First World War in 1918. It's also a time to think about those that fought for our freedom and that of all peoples in our common home. For Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Create Hope: Stand for the Land campaign, our partner ERIC—Radio Progreso has asked that we support the defenders of human rights and the environment in Honduras. Next weekend, we will be invited to sign a letter addressed to the Honduran ambassador to Canada, in support of the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector, who have been fighting since 2015 to preserve their water and the Carlos Escaleras national park from mining. To find out more: www.devp.org/campaign. Scan the QR Code to sign the letter digitally.



"Communities are displaced. Rights are violated. Access and rights to water denied. All this to give priority to the extraction and pillaging of resources."

— Leonel George, member of the Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, Colón

COP28 – What's that? An important conference will be held in Dubai from November 30th to December 12th. It is called the CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES or COP28. The number 28 means that it's the 28th time the conference has been held. COP28 is the collective outcome of global efforts to support energy transition and net zero carbon by 2050. There is a renewed sense of urgency on climate change action in the Middle East and UAE, with the net-zero carbon target being prioritized through policies and actions regionally. (Sr Denise Lirette)

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.