

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH –Wisdom and Choice

There are three prayers that I have known for as long as I can remember. “Now I lay me down to sleep ...” “Our Father ...” and ... the Serenity prayer. My grandmother had a plaque hanging by her kitchen sink, that I liked to ask people to read: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Today’s readings made me think of the Serenity prayer. The first reading tells us that wisdom “hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.” The gospel reading reminds us of how essential it is to distinguish between what can be changed and what cannot be changed, particularly when we are responding to the needs around us. I don’t know what the relationship was between the ten bridesmaids of the gospel

story, but I imagine that they were friends or at least members of the same community. When the five run out of oil, they expect that their friends will help them out. I imagine that many of the people listening to Jesus tell this story for the first time, also thought that those who had brought extra oil would help those who did not have enough.

That seems like the kind of story that would be told by the man who praised a widow for donating the only two coins that she had to the temple and who told the rich young man to sell his possessions and give to the poor. But Jesus does not speak on behalf of those who did not bring enough oil, instead he encourages all who hear the story to cultivate the wisdom the five who brought extra oil and would not share it.

It seems to me that the issue here is about accepting what we cannot change while changing what we can. The thing that could not be changed was the

fact that five bridesmaids did not think ahead and there was not enough oil to light ten lamps. There was, however, enough oil to ensure that the bridegroom would not arrive in the dark and there were bridesmaids present to welcome him and lead him into the celebration. I wonder what would have happened if the five who did not have oil had stayed to welcome the bridegroom when he was announced even though their lamps were empty. They may not have stood out as bridesmaids, but they would have been present to welcome the bridegroom and join in the wedding banquet. The foolishness of the five was less about the fact that they did not bring extra oil and more about the fact that they lost sight of what really mattered. They were so focussed on the mistake that they could not undo, that they did not see what they still could do.

The real focus of today’s gospel is not on the foolish bridesmaids, nor is it on the wise bridesmaids. The real focus is on the welcoming of the bridegroom. It is less about what we have done to prepare for the moment and more about how we respond to the moment. As I reflect on this week’s gospel, I am acutely aware of how much energy I can waste focussing on what I or others should have or could have done differently in the past, rather than asking myself what others need now and what I can do to show love and care now.

~Pam Driedger, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit

God,  
grant me the  
serenity  
to accept the things  
I cannot change,  
the courage  
to change  
the things I can,  
and the  
wisdom  
to know the  
difference.

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 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

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

<b>Mon</b>	Wisdom 1:1-7	Ps 139	Luke 17:1-6
<b>Tue</b>	Wisdom 2:23-3:9	Ps 34	Luke 17:7-10
<b>Wed</b>	Wisdom 6:1-11	Ps 82	Luke 17:11-19
<b>Thu</b>	Wisdom 7:22-8:1	Ps 119	Luke 17:20-25
<b>Fri</b>	Wisdom 13:1-9	Ps 19	Luke 17:26-37
<b>Sat</b>	Wisdom 18:14-16	Ps 105	Luke 18:1-8
<b>Sun</b>	Proverbs 31:10-30-31 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6	Ps 128	Matthew 25:14-30



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$118.75**; Envelopes: **\$823.50**;  
Sale of Pix: **\$45.00**; Hall Rental: **\$230.00**;  
**TOTAL: \$1,217.25**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$48.00**; Envelopes: **\$335.00**; **TOTAL: \$383.00**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery Fund

Funeral Prepayment: **\$410.00**; Sale of Plot: **\$500.00**;  
Perpetual Care x 2: **\$200.00**; **TOTAL: \$1,100.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	11	SP	4:00 pm	Rodney Simon †	Donna & Robert Francis
Sun	12	IC	11:00 am	George & Margaret Robichaud †	Blaine & Donna
Tue	14	IC	4:00 pm	Karol W. Joseph Ike-Duninowski †	Elena Kenney
Sat	18	SP	4:00 pm	Barbara Daley †	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	19	IC	11:00 am	Lillian Vautour †	Judy Cormier

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	18	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	19	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions:	Gloria Donna / Vina	Marilou

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	19	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 <sup>st</sup> Decade: For our Clergy; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decade: For our parishioners; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Decade: For our youth; 4 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For peace in our world; 5 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For the intentions of parishioners.
Sun	26	IC	10:30 am	Gail	



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

**ALVERIE ROBICHAUD. CHRISTIAN ROBICHAUD**

**ROGER MAZEROLLE**

**ALL RESIDENTS LIVING IN SPECIAL CARE HOMES**

## WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR NEW PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, KAY ARAGON.

Kay will begin training on Monday although the future parish officer hours have not yet been determined. If you happen to encounter Kay around the church or the hall, please extend to her a warm welcome. At this time, the parish office hours will remain the same.

**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 are available at the back of the church.

**CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY SOCIAL & TREE LIGHTING** will take place at the Rexton Lions Club on November 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Join us for a heartwarming Christmas gathering filled with joy and community spirit. Donations are encouraged (sweets/sandwiches to share with attendees, non-perishable food items for the local food bank, ornaments to hand on the tree in memory of a loved one.) Let's come together and make this holiday season a time of giving, remembrance, and festive cheer. Contact Judy Carpenter with the Rexton Community Improvement Centre at 523-8186.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**LAUDATO SI** is a letter from Pope Francis that he writes to everyone on the planet, urging all of us to protect the earth, our common home. In his wisdom, Pope Francis suggests that human life is grounded in three important and intertwined (entangled) relationships: *with God - with our neighbour - with the earth itself*. A young Franciscan Friar, Daniel Horan, has taken it upon himself to help us all better understand Laudato Si. Please plan to join us on **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** as we gather together at **St. Bernard's Church Hall (basement)** to watch Part 1 of Friar Daniel's series, 'Understanding Laudato Si'. This is a short 20-minute video that we can all watch, and then discuss, together.

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING - IN HONOUR OF FATHER ALLISON S. CARROLL'S RETIREMENT** Fr. Carroll was ordained October 8, 1978. His years of ministry included: Curate at St-Augustine's (1977-1981), Pastor: Holy Rosary - St. Vincent's, Sackville (1981-1986) and pastor of St. Edward's in Dorchester (1983); Pastor: St. Michael's, Moncton (1986-1997), St. Jude's, Salisbury (1987-1997), St. Augustine's, Moncton (1997-2000), Moderator: St. Augustine's (2000-2006), Priest Moderator of St. Bernard's: (St. Bernard's, St. Vincent's, St. Bartholemew and St. Clement's 2005-2023); Moderator St. Augustine's Pastoral Unit (St. Augustine's, St. Michael and St. Lawrence O'Toole (2012-2019) and Priest Moderator Our Lady of Mercy (Pointe-du-Chêne 2014 - 2019). To honor his years of service and for all that he has done for us and our Lord, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving in his honor, **Thursday, November 23, 2023, at 7 PM at St. Bernard's Church** (43 Botsford Street). **All are invited to attend.** For those who wish to extend greetings, there will be a basket at the entrance of the church to drop them of in. **Thank you, Fr. Carroll for your care, love, and ministry to each of us. God bless you with His great peace, good health, and many happy years of retirement.**

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE — CARITAS CANADA** is responding to the call from our partner ERIC—Radio Progreso to raise awareness of the tragic plight of the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. We stand with them as they defend their right to water for survival and struggle to obtain: Justice, Reparations and protection, the cancellation of irregularly granted mining permits, and the restoration of their national park. **Let's ask the Honduran government to better protect environmental and human rights defenders and to act for justice.** Stand in solidarity. Sign the letter to the Honduran ambassador at [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act).

