

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

My reflections for this week's readings and gospel are focused on the First Reading from the book of Proverbs. The first reading talks about a woman who is valuable in many ways. She's trustworthy, hardworking, and caring. This isn't just about being a good wife, but also about being a strong individual. Her skills are practical; she can work "with wool and flax" and she helps the less fortunate. This paints a picture of a person who is balanced both in personal and communal responsibilities. The reading also mentions that real worth isn't just physical beauty or charm but moral and practical qualities.

It's not just about being a "worthy wife" but a woman of substance or valor. This makes the message relevant beyond marital context, but as an example of the strength a woman (wife, mother, friend) can portray. The theme in this reading, I think, is an invitation to live in such a way that we develop and make the best use of the talents, skills, abilities, and gifts God has given us. Pope Francis has stated that " God has given us so many good things, entrusting different talents to each of us. We possess a great wealth that depends not on what we possess but on what we are."

All too often, especially in these present times, we look at our lives and see only the things we lack. We then yield to the temptation to say " If only"--- if only I had that job; if only I was pretty/handsome; if only I had that home; if only I had money and success, if only I didn't have this or that problem. These words "If only" prevent us from seeing the good all around us. They make us forget the talents we possess. You may not have "that" but you do have "this" just as the woman in this reading realized and developed.

The Book of Proverbs praises the woman who is rich in love, whose value is greater than that of pearls. I was able to experience this as I was growing up in my mother (whose name was Pearl incidentally) . I knew she loved my father and my sister and me. She was a stay-at-home mom who trained as a nurse so would often be asked to look at someone in the neighbourhood that was sick to see if he/she needed to go to a doctor (back then you had to pay even to see a doctor). My sister and I had to straighten up our toys and she put on her red lipstick to be ready " for Daddy to come home from work" . She gave us unconditional support as we made our way through high school and all its challenges. Then my father died suddenly (49 years old) and mom had to face many challenges. She learned how to drive a car (so she didn't have to depend on someone to take her places). She had to use her nursing skills and go to work. She didn't complain that because dad's pension wasn't enough to make a go of it and used her skills to make a good living and be a help as a nurse in a doctor's office. After she died at her wake, my sister and I heard many stories/examples of what type of woman, friend she was to so many. It made us realize that she indeed was the strong woman we thought she was. Hopefully, many of you can reflect on the reading from Proverbs and see your own example of a woman of strength, resiliency, love that the reading illustrates.

I read a poster once that said " A strong woman is both soft and powerful; she is both practical and spiritual. A strong woman in her essence is a gift to the world." Harold Macmillan, former prime minister of England wrote: " No man succeeds without a good woman behind him; wife or mother, or if it is both he is twice blessed indeed." So, fellow women, let us hope and strive to be like the woman in the first reading. Let us use the gifts, talents, abilities we have been given for the greater good.

~Cathy Keirstead

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 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

Mon	1 Macabees 1:10-63	Ps 119	Luke 18:35-43
Tue	2 Macabees 6:18-31	Ps 3	Luke 19:1-10
Wed	2 Macabees 7:1-31	Ps 17	Luke 19:11-28
Thu	1 Macabees 2:15-29	Ps 50	Luke 19:41-44
Fri	1 Macabees 4:36-59	1 Chr 29	Luke 19:45-48
Sat	1 Macabees 6:1-13	Ps 9	Luke 20:27-40
Sun	Ezekiel 34:11-17	Ps 23	Corinthians 15:20-28 Matthew 25:31-46

The Parable
of the
Talents



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$117.25**; Envelopes: **\$695.00**;
 Propagation of the Faith: **\$5.00**; October Masses:
\$50.00; Hall Rental: **\$80.00**; Sale of Missals: **\$100.00**
TOTAL: \$1,047.25

Immaculate Conception Cemetery Fund

Cemetery Env.: **\$100.00**; **TOTAL: \$100.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$10.00**; Envelopes: **\$210.00**;
 October Masses: **\$20.00**; Missals: **\$10.00**
TOTAL: \$250.00

St. Bartholomew's Cemetery Fund

\$100.00 TOTAL: \$100.00

Regional Mass Account

\$100.00 TOTAL: \$100.00

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	18	SP	4:00 pm	Barbara Daley †	Debbie & Dale Harnett
Sun	19	IC	11:00 am	Lillian Vautour †	Judy Cormier
Tue	21	IC	4:00 pm	Rosa Richard †	Jeanne Warren
Sat	25	SP	4:00 pm	Fr. Alyre Cormier †	Claire
Sun	26	IC	11:00 am	Dr. Francis Kenney & Mrs. Juanita Kenney †	Elena & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	25	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	26	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Louise Pat / Harvey	Judi

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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



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 (Rexton & South Branch) 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, or by dropping a bulb request in the collection basket. Requests can be found at the back of the church.

***** NEW ****SAINT BARTHOLOMEW CEMETERY** in Molus River (Bass River) will illuminate a Christmas tree at the graveyard in remembrance of loved ones or as a sign of gratitude or to extend prayers for someone. With a donation of \$10.00 per Bulb you can have a Solar bulb added to the tree. We accept cash, cheque, e-transfer to mghannay1@gmail.com password -bulb. Donations along with the person's name can be given to Carmel Whalen, Rita Whalen, Daneen Warman, Christa Ward-Gillis & Marilyn Hannay by December 15, 2023.

CEMETERY FLOWERS We ask that those who have placed plastic flowers on stones in the cemetery please remove them before the end of November. If left over the winter the flowers will blow into neighbouring yards

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD DURING ADVENT Come join us on the road to break open the Sunday readings of Advent. **First week of Advent will be at Immaculate Conception in Rexton 10:00 am on Saturday December 2nd.** Second week of Advent will be at St. Lawrence O'Toole in Irishtown at 10:00 am (after 9:30 am mass) Monday December 4th. Third week of Advent will be at Immaculate Heart of Mary (after 9:30 am mass) Wednesday December 13th. Fourth week of Advent will be at St. Bernard's (after 9:30 am mass) Thursday December 21st. *Take this opportunity to reflect and grow in what God is telling you this Advent.*

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY SOCIAL & TREE LIGHTING will take place at the Rexton Lions Club on November 26th 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

MASS OF THANKSGIVING - IN HONOUR OF FATHER ALLISON S. CARROLL'S RETIREMENT 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.

THE LONGING AND THE SHORT OF IT: A MORNING ADVENT RETREAT – On **Saturday, November 25th** Craig Murphy will lead us on an Advent Retreat entitled *"The Longing and the Short of It: An Advent Retreat,"* from 9 am – 12 pm at Broadleaf Guest Ranch in Hopewell Hill, Albert County. Please register with Karen at 387-4198 or email karen.diocese@gmail.com or online at www.diocesemoncton.ca → **Pastoral Offices** → **Adult Faith** → **Formation Opportunities**. **There will be a registration fee of \$20.00 for each participant.**

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE Pope Francis calls us to hear *"the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"* (Laudato Si', 49). Yet, since 2015, the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector have been trying in vain to be heard. In their struggle for justice, defenders are attacked, criminalized and even killed. Eight defenders were unjustly imprisoned for over two years, and three people have been murdered since January 2023. Thank you to everyone who **Signed the letter** last week-end to the Honduran ambassador to Canada asking her government for protection, justice and reparation for environmental defenders and for Carlos Escaleras National Park (devp.org/act).

