

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH ~ REFLECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. We celebrate the revelation that Jesus was born as the Son of God. Today's Gospel illustrates this revelation through the story of the three Magi ( Wise Men) who travelled to visit Jesus following His birth.

" There ahead of them went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. "

The Magi embarked on a journey of faith until they reached the manger where Jesus laid. They brought gifts that symbolized their revelation of His divinity: Gold , which associated Jesus as a king; Frankincense , which was often used in worship, and symbolized the holiness of Jesus ; Myrrh , a perfume used at the coronation of a king and also for embalming, which symbolized that Christ would one day die for us.

Most of us are familiar with the legendary presence of the " three kings " from manger scenes in our churches and homes. I remember being chosen in grade 8 to help set up the manger scene in our church and placing the statues of these men in flowing robes , around the Baby Jesus. There were also the figures of the shepherds and their sheep so I knew that Jesus was revealed to the rich and the poor - representing all the peoples of the earth.

In celebrating the Epiphany we should remember that epiphany is given to those who continually seek the Lord's presence in their lives. Each of us is called to search for the many ways in which God reveals Himself in our lives. We are all in the process of coming to know Jesus as Lord. Each of us is at a different place in our faith journey. The many experiences of our lives have shaped how we see God and others. Pope Francis stated : " The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life as in faith , for faith is not a suit of armor that encases us; instead, it is a fascinating journey , a constant and restless movement , ever in search of God . The Magi also returned home 'by another way'. They challenge us to take new paths. "The Magi's return ' by another way ' represents that whenever we encounter Jesus we will never be the same.

One of our family traditions is the giving of three gifts to each other ( like the three gifts of the Magi ). Our granddaughters think that 'Santa' brings them three gifts just like the Baby Jesus got. To extend this further, perhaps we could worship Jesus through the giving of 3 gifts : our time , talent and treasure.

The Magi followed the star and found Christ. May we , too, find the Lord who continues to search for us. And may Christ, the Light and the Light of Christ fill all our homes , families , and our communities this day and always.

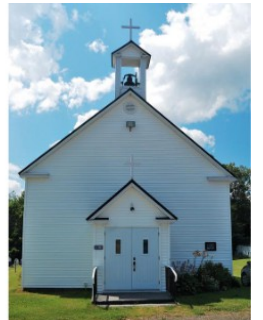
~ Cathy Keirstead

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord 7 January 2024

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

<b>Mon</b>	Isaiah 42:1-7	Psalm 29	Mark 1:7-11
<b>Tue</b>	1 Samuel 1:9-20	Psalm 116	Mark 1:14-20
<b>Wed</b>	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Psalm 40	Mark 1:29-39
<b>Thu</b>	1 Samuel 4:1-11	Psalm 44	Mark 1:40-45
<b>Fri</b>	1 Samuel 8:4-22A	Psalm 89	Mark 2:1-12
<b>Sat</b>	1 Samuel 9:1-19	Psalm 21	Mark 2:13-17
<b>Sun</b>	1 Samuel 3:3B-19 1 Corinthians 6:13C-20	Psalm 40	John 1:35-42



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DECEMBER 25TH & JANUARY 1ST

### Immaculate Conception

(DECEMBER 24) Envelopes: \$850.00;  
 (DECEMBER 25) Loose: \$334.85 Christmas Env.:  
 \$1,000.00; (DECEMBER 31) Loose: \$156.35  
 Envelopes: \$550.00; (JANUARY 1) Loose: \$55.00; New  
 Year's Env. \$310.00; Initial Offering: \$120.00; Hall  
 Rentals: \$560.00; Heating for Church Env.: \$100.00;  
 Previous Two Weeks Donations: \$700.00;  
**TOTAL: \$4,736.20**

### Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Envelope: \$100.00;  
**TOTAL: \$100.00**

### St. Peter's

(DECEMBER 23) Loose: \$30.50; Envelopes: \$210.00;  
 Christmas Envelopes: \$446.50; (DECEMBER 30) Loose:  
 \$40.00; Envelopes: \$160.00; (JANUARY 1) New Year's  
 Env. \$20.00; Initial Offering: \$20.00; Hall Rentals:  
 \$180.00;  
**TOTAL: \$1,107.00**

### St. Peter's Cemetery

Memorial Tree 2023: \$1,700.00; Cemetery Fund  
 Lottery: \$86.00 **TOTAL: \$1,786.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	6	SP	4:00 pm	Stephanie Peters †	Barb Jadis
Sun	7	IC	11:00 am	Katherine A. Hatt †	Bill Legoff
Tue	9	IC	4:00 pm	Geraldine Flynn †	Teakles Family
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	Russel Sock †	Sandra Warner
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	Jimmy Curwin †	Dolores Francis

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING WEEK

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Gloria Pat / Vina Adona

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	14	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 Our World; 5 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For the intentions of Parishioners
Sun	21	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**

I want to express my gratitude to the people of Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Grouping who since 2019 have been helpful and supportive to me as I navigated the tasks and responsibilities of parish office administration. As



someone "from away" (albeit next county over) I have experienced this community to be one of a deep faith linking generations of families, friends, and newcomers to the area. I am especially grateful to those of you who trusted me by sharing your personal stories of faith and struggle. I have genuinely stood in awe of the Christian role models I have encountered here. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, and in Matthew's Gospel we hear about the Magi's visit to infant Jesus. The part of this story that resonates most strongly with me may seem insignificant, but we hear that after the Magi give their gifts to Jesus, "they left for their own country by another road." I like to think after encountering Christ they left by another road because they were transformed in such a way

that leaving differently was the only possibility. This is my feeling as I move on from my responsibilities in your parish office. Clear vision can be altered by life circumstances, but with time comes perspective. I have encountered the face of Christ in your community, and I leave here transformed, by another road. Thank you and God Bless all of you.

~Trevor

**Catechism will be on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.**

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**WELCOME TO SENIORS CONNECT** a safe space for Seniors to gather, socialize, learn about, and discuss issues related to aging in New Brunswick. Our **next gathering** will take place on **January 11** at 10:30 am at the Dan Bohan Centre at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 5 Fatima Dr., Riverview. We will have retired dietician Lynn Burdock join us. Jot down any questions you may have in the meantime. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email [karen.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:karen.diocese@gmail.com)

On Christmas night the angel announced to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news..." This message must still resound in our nights, in the nights of this world in crisis. Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us"! On this occasion, I wish to convey to all my most sincere wishes, a Holy Year 2024 filled with love, peace, and joy in Christ! May it be an opportunity for you to recognize in an even deeper way this Jesus "God with us", who walks alongside us as he walked alongside his disciples.

**Most Rev. Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R.**  
 Archbishop of Moncton

