

EXPLORING OUR FAITH - *The Miracle of Ordinary Time*

Today is the second Sunday in ordinary time. For much of my life I've thought of ordinary time as the "boring time" in the church year, the space holder between the important events. Today I am struck by the fact that ordinary time is the time of infinite possibility. Ordinary time is the time immediately after the creation, the birth, the resurrection, the pouring out of the Spirit. Ordinary time is the time when we are invited to work as full partners with God to move the world from potential to ...

Ordinary time is everything that we can imagine in those three dots.

Today's Scripture readings highlight the miracle of the ordinary. The most striking thing about the events of both the first reading and the gospel reading is the fact that these key moments in the biblical story are not striking events. Samuel is trying to fall asleep, and he hears his name. I imagine that in that moment between being awake and being asleep most of us have "heard" something similar, but when Samuel hears, he jumps up and runs to Eli. And Eli, either with true understanding, or in his desire to sleep without interruption, is wise enough to tell Samuel to listen to what God might want to say to him. Samuel's listening shapes the rest of the story of Israel.

In many ways, the gospel story is even more "ordinary" than the first reading. Andrew was standing with John the Baptist when Jesus walked by. John identified Jesus as someone sent by God, so Andrew decided to follow him and listen to him for the day. Andrew then decided to go and get his brother Peter and invite him to come listen too. Jesus meets Peter and gives him a nickname. Listening to that nickname shaped Peter and shaped the life of the church which we are part of.

We are not told what God said to Samuel. We are not told what Jesus said that inspired Andrew. All we are told is that ordinary people, in the course of ordinary events, chose to listen for the voice of the divine and that choice changed everything.

One of the things that I have witnessed over and over in the years that I have spent working in the hospital, is the extraordinary power of being still and listening. Over and over again, I have met people who, in the face of terrible suffering, found a sense of meaning or purpose or connection, a sense of peace or joy or love which they say they never knew before. In each case it has been the act of being still and listening with an open heart that has made the difference. Sometimes it is the patient who is still and listens. Sometimes it is family. Sometimes it is staff. But always, there is stillness and listening, and then something new is born.

It is easy to think that wonder and mystery in life are elusive because they can only be found in high holy days and extraordinary events. But the truth is, the greatest wonder and mystery in life is elusive because it is hidden in the ordinary and therefore about as visible to us as the tip of our nose. I wonder what miracles would come to pass in 2024 if each of us committed to taking a few moments, before we fall asleep each day, to just be still and listen with an open heart for the echoes of God's voice in the experiences of that day. I wonder what we would find if we made what Saint Ignatius called an "examen" of the ordinary, in order to give birth to the extraordinary.

~Pam Driedger, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 January 2024

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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Office Hours:

Monday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Tuesday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm,
Wednesday to Friday - 9:00 am - 3:00 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 Samuel 15:16-23 | Ps 50 | Mark 2:18-22 |
| Tue | 1 Samuel 16:1-13 | Ps 89 | Mark 2:23-28 |
| Wed | 1 Samuel 17:32-51 | Ps 144 | Mark 3:1-6 |
| Thu | 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7 | Ps 56 | Mark 3:7-12 |
| Fri | 1 Samuel 24:3-21 | Ps 57 | Mark 3:13-19 |
| Sat | 2 Samuel 1:1-27 | Ps 80 | Mark 3:20-21 |
| Sun | John 3:1-10 | Ps 25 | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 / Mark 1:14-20 |



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$114.25**; Envelopes: **\$710.00**; Initial Offering: **\$110.00**; Heating for the Church: **\$540.00**; Sunday Missal: **\$5.00**; Donation: **\$100.00**;
TOTAL: \$1579.25

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$55.00**; Envelopes: **\$175.00**;
Initial Offering: **\$40.00**; Heating for the Church: **\$35.00**;
TOTAL: \$305.00

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Sat | 13 | SP | 4:00 pm | Russel Sock † | Sandra Warner |
| Sun | 14 | IC | 11:00 am | Jimmy Curwin † | Dolores Francis |
| Tue | 16 | IC | 4:00 pm | Mina Richard † | Nancy Richard |
| Sat | 20 | SP | 4:00 pm | Carmel Sock † | Robert & Donna Francis |
| Sun | 21 | IC | 11:00 am | Raymond Perry † | Nancy |

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

| | | | | Lectors | | Eucharistic Ministers |
|-----|----|----|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sat | 20 | SP | 4:00 pm | 1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions | Lois | Stella |
| Sun | 21 | IC | 11:00 am | 1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions | Corrine Louise / Jocelyn | Gloria |

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

| | | | | Leader | Intentions |
|-----|----|----|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 21 | IC | 10:30 am | Gail | 1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners; |
| Sun | 28 | 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**

The Work of Christmas, by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart

CATECHISM – Our next catechism session will take place on Friday, January 19th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - Did you know the Catholic Women's League was formed in the early 20th century to help immigrants arriving in Canada? Members continue to help the most vulnerable across the country. Come and add your helping hands to ours. Our first meeting of the year will be held on Monday, January 22nd at 1:30 PM in the parish hall. A social will follow a brief business meeting. Dues (\$35.00) will be collected. Looking forward to seeing you. ~Louise Ongu

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

MONDAY @ THE MOVIES Our next film discussion will take place via Zoom on January 29th at 2:00 pm, when we will talk about faith themes from *Five People You Meet in Heaven* (2004). 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.

THEOLOGY ON TAP Our next Theology on Tap will take place on Monday, February 12th at 6:30 pm at Mai Asian Restaurant on Mountain Road. Our guest speaker will be Fr. Carlos Jacinto who will speak to us about vocation and discernment. Please register with Karen at 387-4198, karen.diocese@gmail.com or online at www.diocesemoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE (May 16– 26, 2024) where Our Lady has been appearing daily for 42 years. Cost of \$3570 includes all airport taxes, security, fuel surcharges, airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) INFO: Hector Caissie at hectorcaissie@gmail.com or 506-857-2295.

Theology ON TAP

**VOCATION AND DISCERNMENT:
A LOVE STORY**
with
Fr. Carlos Jacinto

FEBRUARY 12TH @ 6:30 PM
MAI ASIAN RESTAURANT, MONCTON
1909 Mountain Road