

EXPLORING OUR FAITH - Teach Us Something New

*“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”
~Isaiah 43:18-21*

Think back for a moment on the teachers you have encountered in your lifetime. Were there teachers you still remember to-day as “good” teachers? What do you think made them a good teacher? Were they an authority on an issue or topic? Did you find their teaching style engaging?

There are several people who come to mind for me in response to this question, and while some of them were professional educators, many were not. Upon reflection, the good teachers I met along the way share some characteristics in common. They teach in their own way inspired me to seek out new knowledge and experiences that would broaden my mind and help me to grow. They were passionate about the subject at hand and committed to helping students learn in creative ways relevant to their style of learning.

I think it is common to mistake speaking with certainty as speaking with authority. Who can take seriously someone unless they “tell it like it is”? Defending any criticism by doubling-down on their position? Shutting down others who threaten their expertise? My own experience of this model of teaching is it has the potential to shut down the learning and shut out the receiving of new information.

Other teachers brought me valuable life lessons, some through example, and some through helping me to understand an issue better, and others by helping me to understand myself better. Most encouraged me to read as much as I can about a subject that sparked interest, including perspectives that challenge my own. I was encouraged to seek out knowledge, new experiences, talk to people from diverse backgrounds and learn something new from them. I think of good education as truth-seeking, and at the same time consider truth-seeking to be transformational, as it can take me to a place I have not been.

Jesus was a spiritual teacher who spoke to people “as one with authority,” surprising those gathered in Capernaum with this new information. Jesus taught the crowds in the synagogue something new, something that offered an opportunity for transformation.

Perhaps some of you have watched the series **Greenleaf**, on Netflix about a pastor who presides over a large charismatic Christian church in Tennessee. While not specifically Roman Catholic, the series provides a fascinating exploration of the Universal Christian church, and interestingly often leaves the most pressing questions unanswered. In episode eight of the fifth season, the pastor’s wife, also a preacher, spoke to the assembly about this newness, which she delivered with authority:

*I want to talk about the new. I want us to think together about the new. I want us to dream together today about the new. Not what this church has ever been, but what has **never** been, what we can’t even imagine a church to be! Help us learn and love our past well enough to let go and move forward into the future. Who had ever heard of such a thing? You see, when God saved all the guilty people with the death of one innocent man, **that** was new. I stand here with no ideas, no plans, with my arms open and my heart and my mind open and I am saying ‘Make me something new!’ I am asking you, ‘show me forgiveness where there can be none, redemption when it’s far too late; the waters where the wells long ago ran dry; acceptance where there is hate. I want you to show me what I can’t explain, I want you to make me what I can’t become!’ (Abridged)*

At the beginning of this reflection, I invited you to reflect on the good teachers you have met, and what it was about them that resonated with you. Now I invite you and I both to consider this: **When was the last time Jesus taught you something new?** Something you had not heard before, something that astonished you. What was it? When was the last time you felt yourself transform into a new way of being by listening to or reading scripture?

My prayer for all of us today is that Jesus teaches us and guides us all in his truth. Make me new. Make us all something new.

~Trevor Droesbeck
Archdiocese of Moncton Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 28 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:

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

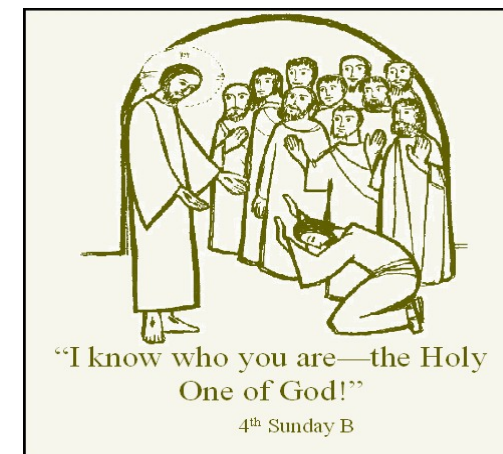
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter’s Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	2 Samuel 15:13-30	Ps 3	Mark 5:1-20
Tue	2 Samuel 18:9-30	Ps 86	Mark 5:21-43
Wed	2 Samuel 24:2-17	Ps 32	Mark 6:1-6
Thu	1 Kings 2:3-1-12	Chr 29	Mark 6:7-13
Fri	Malachi 3:1-4	Ps 24	Hebrew 2:14-18 or Luke 2:22-40
Sat	1 Kings 3:4-13	Ps 119	Mark 6:30-34
Sun	Job 7:1-7	Ps 147	1 Corinthians 9:16-23 / Mark 1:29-39



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$123.00**; Envelopes: **\$595.00**; Initial Offering: Hall Rental: **\$10.00**; Hall Rental: **\$430.00**; Mass Stipends: **\$90.00**;
TOTAL: \$1,248.00

St. Bartholomew Cemetery Fund

Memorial Tree Bulbs: **\$80.00** **TOTAL: \$80.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$30.00**; Envelopes: **\$100.00**;
 Heating for the Church: **\$20.00**;
TOTAL: \$150.00

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	27	SP	4:00 pm	Carmel Sock †	Carol & Leon Sock
Sun	28	IC	11:00 am	Jimmy Curwin †	Shirley Curwin
Tue	30	IC	4:00 pm	Jimmy Curwin †	Marilyn Stout
Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	Regina Rae Simon †	Patricia Francis
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	Raymond Beaudouin †	Serge & Carol Beaudouin

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Corrine / Pat Vina	Adona

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	4	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	11	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**



You are cordially invited for the upcoming 80th Birthday celebration of **STELLA ARSENAULT** on **February 3, 2024**, to be held in Rexton Lions Hall from 2:00~5:00pm.

Important Notice for Seniors in the Five Rivers and Kent County Area

Thank you to all the seniors who contacted The Department of Social Development and registered to be added to the Provincial wait list.

For all those Seniors who have **not registered** and are interested in affordable senior apartment housing in the Rexton area, **please call 1(833)733-7835**.

WHO can register? - Seniors in the Kent County are.

Be prepared to provide - Name, Address, DOB, SIN, Monthly Income &

Location – Answer is “Richibucto” (you should request that they add “Prefer Rexton” in notes).

We will advise the status of our application for government funding as soon as we receive updates.

Thank you.

UPCOMING CATECHISM LESSONS & CELEBRATIONS

CONFESSION & COMMUNION

Feb. 13th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

Mar. 5th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

Mar. 15th ~ Rexton @ 6:30pm – Confession Celebration

Apr. 2nd ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

Apr. 16th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

May 14th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

May 19th ~ Rexton @ 4pm – Communion Celebration

CONFIRMATION

Feb. 27th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

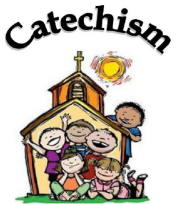
Mar. 26th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

Apr. 30th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

May 28th ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm

June 2nd ~ Rexton @ 11am – Confirmation

Celebration



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK will be celebrated at **St. Bernard's Church (43 Botsford Street, Moncton)** on **Sunday, February 11th at 2:00 pm**. (Mass and Sacrament of the Sick) **Who should celebrate this sacrament?** Those who are elderly and whose frailty is becoming more pronounced; those adults and children who are suffering from a major illness; illness comes in many different forms - physical, mental, psychological, emotional, and spiritual; those who are facing or recovering from surgery or serious medical tests; those suffering from a serious accident; those who suffer from chronic illness such as arthritis or diabetes; those who care for the sick, especially those who are closely bound in love to them.

The English churches of the Archdiocese of Moncton work together to offer this communal celebration. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in this celebration. **It is important that those who are sick and those around them understand the significance of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as a sacrament of healing.**

