

EXPLORING OUR FAITH - *The Breaths of Life*

Patience is not one of my virtues. Lack of it is probably one of my more glaring faults. While I have spent much time in my life praying for patience, persuaded to continue to do so by a priest friend when I was about to give up (or run the risk, he felt, of losing my trust in God's willingness to respond to our prayers ☐ that particular prayer has not, as yet, been answered.

The first reading today is from a man who had endless patience – we've all heard (and likely used) the saying 'the patience of Job.' Job is from the land of Uz. He had a good life - a large, close-knit family; plenty of live-stock; and many servants. In the first chapter of the Book of Job he is described as "blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil." We learn that Satan believes this to be so only because of his circumstances in life. To prove such is not the case, God allows Satan to turn Job's life upside down, rendering him penniless, without his family, left miserable and desperate and it is at this point that we meet him in today's reading. If you were to continue to read from there, you would learn that despite all the adversity that Job experiences, all his many sufferings, he remains faithful to God. At the conclusion of the book, God rewards Job by making his life even better



than it was before. Job was indeed blessed because of having great patience.

What strikes me today, however, from the reading we hear, is not Job's patience, but his wisdom. "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle ... my life is a breath." The older I get the more I become aware that I have far fewer days in front of me than behind me. Time passes way too quickly, and the years fly by not as slowly as they once seemed to. Life, I have realized for some time, is indeed but a breath. I know, logically, that each breath I take could be my last, and try to remind myself of that every morning. THIS day is a gift – I may have no other. I ask myself: How would I live if I really understood that to be a truth? Experience has taught me that somehow we all believe we are invincible, despite all proof to the contrary.

At times I am able to live with gratitude for the many blessings that fill my world – the love and support of family and friends; the material comforts that allow me to be sheltered, feed, watered; the means to travel and be entertained; the faith that gives me hope and comfort. Still, as often as I succeed in living that way, I also fail to do so. Something doesn't work the way I want it to; someone doesn't respond the way I expect them to; tasks aren't completed as quickly or efficiently as I desire. And my response is impatience, or worse. Gratitude disappears.

We are here for a breath. In his book *The Winners*, Fredrik Backman says: "We can't stop the first and last breaths we take any more than we can stop the wind." So I ask, how do we live the breath of time we get between those two breaths? How do we WANT to live them? Are we anywhere near to doing that? And, if not, are we willing to make the changes in our lives we need to, to achieve that? Many years ago I remember someone saying 'I want to live my life so that there is standing room only at my funeral.' Me ... I'm going to aim for that.

~ Ellen Bennett

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 4 February 2024

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



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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 Kings 8:1-13	Ps 132	Mark 6:53-56
Tue	1 Kings 8:22-30	Ps 84	Mark 7:1-13
Wed	1 Kings 10:1-10	Ps 37	Mark 7:14-23
Thu	1 Kings 11:4-13	Ps 106	Mark 7:24-30
Fri	1 Kings 11:29-32	Ps 81	Mark 7:31-37
Sat	1 Kings 12:26-34	Ps 106	Mark 8:1-10
Sun	Leviticus 13:1-46	Ps 32	1 Corinthians 10:31— 11:1 / Mark 1:40-45



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$195.00**; Envelopes: **\$875.00**; Initial Offering: **\$10.00**; Christmas Env.2023: **\$20.00**; Heating for the Church: **\$40.00**; New Year's Offering: **\$20.00**; Mass Stipends: **\$30.00**; Ash Wednesday Env.: **\$20.00**; Hall Rental: **\$110.00** **TOTAL: \$1,320.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$20.25**; Envelopes: **\$235.00**; Initial Offering: **\$100.00**; **TOTAL: \$355.25**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	3	SP	4:00 pm	Regina Rae Simon †	Patricia Francis
Sun	4	IC	11:00 am	Raymond Beaudouin †	Serge & Carol Beaudouin
Tue	6	IC	4:00 pm	Faye Hudson †	Ed & Dawne Furey
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell †	Debbie & Dale
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	Nathalie & Frank Legoff †	Son, Bill

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Dennis / Louise Stephen	Gloria

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	11	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	18	IC	10:30 am	Gail	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

To all our donors, please don't forget to write the amount of your donations on your envelopes. And to all our Collection Counters, please don't forget to write the actual amount on the envelopes. Thank you very much.

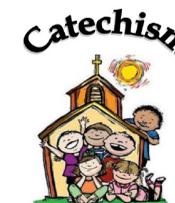
UPCOMING CATECHISM LESSONS & CELEBRATIONS

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

Join us on a Lenten Adventure!



Laudato Si is a letter from Pope Francis that he writes to everyone on the planet, urging us to protect the earth. In his wisdom, Pope Francis suggests that human life is built on three important relationships: with God - with our neighbour - with the earth itself. A young Franciscan Friar, Daniel Horan, has taken it

upon himself to try to help us better understand Laudato Si. Please plan to join us on a **Lenten Adventure** as we post Fr. Dan's videos every few days throughout Lent. We encourage your comments and thoughts as each video is posted. Pope Francis is asking us to change, and so we hope that you will join us on this journey. Posts will start on Ash Wednesday. We look forward to spending Lent with you!

ENLARGE YOUR TENT: A Symposium on Welcome and Hospitality

The English Diocesan Adult Faith Commission invites you to an interactive discussion on Thursday, February 29th, 7:00 pm at Holy Family Parish in Moncton (52 Falkland Street). Grounded in Isaiah 54:2, the tent image was used by Pope Francis to help inform our Synod conversations, and we will use it as a starting point for our conversation on the 29th. For more information and to register, contact Trevor at 857-4879, trevord.diocese@gmail.com or online at www.diocesemoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities.

Enlarge Your Tent

A SYMPOSIUM ON

Welcome and Hospitality

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Moncton
English Adult Faith Commission

February 29th, 2024
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
52 FALKLAND STREET, MONCTON

Register with Trevor at 506-857-4879, trevord.diocese@gmail.com or online at www.diocesemoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities