

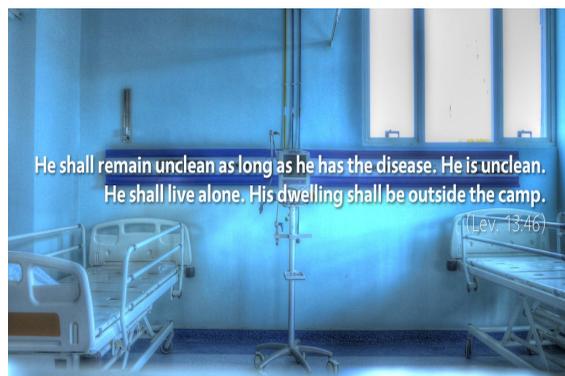
EXPLORING OUR FAITH – *Law Enforcement*

There are many levels of interpretation for today's readings. The first reading is from Leviticus, chapter 13 verses 1 and 2, then 45-46. The Book of Leviticus is part of the first 5 books of what used to be called the "Old Testament" (as opposed to the New Covenant created by Jesus at the last Supper). Those first five books were cobbled together in Babylon by all the different leaders of the 12 tribes of Israel, thrown together and forced to work together. Leviticus is a collection of laws. Finding some sort of order in interpreting them has been the work of priests and lawyers for centuries, even millennia.

Jesus was a Jew. It is apparent from many Gospel stories that He was considered an expert and was questioned about many aspects of the Judaic laws. He was even asked how to prioritize them. Is there a key for interpreting all of these thousands of laws? In fact He said yes, there is a key. Love God; love your neighbor. Both are pretty much the same.

Back to the particular law in today's readings.

Anyone who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of their head be disheveled and shall cover their upper lip and cry out "Unclean, Unclean." That person shall remain unclean as long as the disease persists, and being unclean such a one shall live alone with their dwelling outside the camp.



As I mentioned there are many levels of interpretation. Is this a medical issue? What is the historical setting? (3 millennia ago, at least). When is quarantine an appropriate solution to a medical problem? (when the cause is unknown). What changes in medical knowledge have happened in 3 millennia? (Back one century and even one decade ago during Covid 19, quarantine was a good solution for protecting society in general from contagious disease.) Finding a cause and cure is a better one.

There was a very dangerous side effect to the practice of quarantine. It introduced using isolation as a solution to other social problems: expulsion, excommunication, prison, etc. Even worse, when it came to medical problems, sometimes the cause was assumed to be the morals of the victim. This view in turn made freedom from illness, or other misfortunes, like poverty or disfigurement or injury, to be signs of God's disfavour.

Rules are a very necessary and good part of human life. But rules in Christianity need to be constantly reassessed in the light of the key given to us by Jesus. It is a pitfall of many religious people to try to prove one's own goodness simply by following rules "religiously".

~Diahann & Agnes

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11 February 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

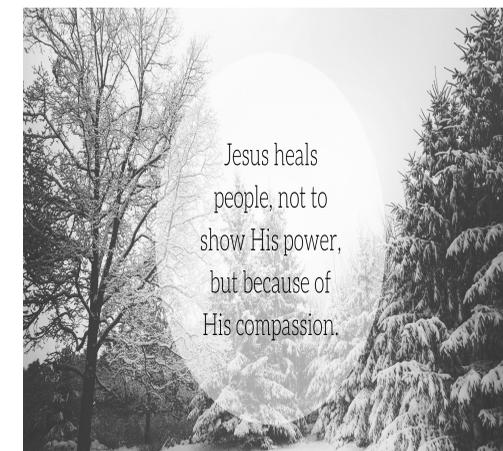
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	James 1:1-11	Ps 119	Mark 8:11-13
Tue	James 1:12-18	Ps 94	Mark 8:14-21
Wed	Joel 2:12-18	Ps 51	Matthew 6:1-18
Thu	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Ps 1	Luke 9:22-25
Fri	Isaiah 58:1-9A	Ps 51	Matthew 9:14-15
Sat	Isaiah 58:9B-14	Ps 86	Luke 5:27-32
Sun	Genesis 9:8-15	Ps 25	1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:12-15



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$126.00**; Envelopes: **\$660.00**; Initial Offering: **\$5.00**; Votive Candles: **\$120.00**; Hall Rental: **\$205.00**
TOTAL: \$1,116.00

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$20.00**; Envelopes: **\$240.00**;
 New Year's Day Offering: **\$5.00**; Church Donation: **\$100.00**
TOTAL: \$365.00

Immaculate Conception Cemetery

Cemetery Fund Offering: **\$100.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Memorial Tree 2023: **\$140.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	10	SP	4:00 pm	Lucy & Dorrence Campbell †	Debbie & Dale
Sun	11	IC	11:00 am	Nathalie & Frank Legoff †	Son, Bill
Tue	13	IC	4:00 pm	Isabel Isaac †	Jesse & Natasha Simon
Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	Lillian Vautour †	Phyllis Shortall
Sun	18	IC	11:00 am	Mina Richard †	The Richard Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	17	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	18	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Donna / Harvey Marian	Judi

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	18	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	25	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

TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2023 are now available and have been placed at the back of the church. If you would like to receive a digital (emailed) version of your tax receipt please contact the parish office.

Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated in Elsipogtog, St. Anne's Church at 6:30 in the evening.

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!

This Lent, let's work toward Reaping our Rights.

This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's **Create Hope: Reaping our Rights** campaign calls you to stand with small-scale farmers and peasant communities who feed the world while caring for the Earth. Do this by:

Donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on March 17, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 73 projects in 36 countries around the world!

Learning more by reading the Mini-magazine and other resources available at devp.org/lent/resources.

Meeting our solidarity visitors and participating in the [campaign launch webinar](#) on February 17 at 1:30 p.m. ET.

[For more information, contact the New-Brunswick regional Office of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada in Moncton, tel. 506 801-0440.](#)

