

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH – LENT : A TIME TO FALL BACK IN LOVE WITH GOD**

It's resolution time! At least, that's what most people think of doing when Lent begins. There are signs that remind us of the importance of making new resolutions and keeping them: pants have become too small; the waist is too round; the mirror seems to be distorting us a bit. It's time to eat healthy, we say... which also allows us to eat a little more, perhaps!

But for Christ, there is nothing truly "holy" about this kind of resolution. Lent is a time to renew our loving relationship with Christ and with our brothers and sisters around the world. Through the beautiful texts that will be offered to us throughout Lent, God will invite us to renew our Christian commitment by nourishing our faith in his Word and reminding us that "we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4) Attentive listening to the Word of God, lived each day in the silence of our hearts, is the primary attitude that will enable us to undertake a true spiritual turning point or change in our lives, which can so easily become anemic or lukewarm as we follow the currents of the world.

You might say, "I don't really need to change anything in my life. I have been a good Christian for a long time. I don't commit any serious sins. " But consider the great apostle Paul: he wasn't a great sinner either. On the contrary, according to Jewish law, he claimed to be a man without fault. But when Jesus challenged him one day, this personal encounter with Him completely overwhelmed him and he became a man whose heart burned with love for God and for his neighbor.

Prayer, fasting and sharing. These are the three magic words that define the time of Lent. To live a "holy" forty days that will surely lead us to participate in the glorious resurrection of Jesus at Easter, I propose to you a different kind of fasting. A fast that will give a true place to God in your heart and that will consume you with love for your neighbor:

- Fasting on food a few times a week, or reducing the quantity, will lead me to stand in solidarity with the 3 million people who die of hunger every year all over the world.
- Fasting of electronic games, television, worldly readings or activities that do not elevate the soul in any way and that will allow me to devote more time to intimate prayer, this heart to heart with God.
- Fasting from unnecessary shopping or extravagant spending.
- Fasting that pushes me to share certain goods or talents with the most needy.
- Fasting of certain leisure activities that will allow me to do some volunteer work and that will bring me in solidarity with those who suffer from chronic or terminal illnesses, or who are desperately waiting for the presence of someone who will know how to chase away their morbid loneliness.
- Fasting of a thousand and one small renunciations of my own will and offered to God to relieve or save souls, especially those who are still waiting for their deliverance from purgatory.

I wish each and every one of you a "holy" Lent. Let us take advantage of this sacred time that God gives us to fall in love with Him again; to become more supportive and compassionate towards our brothers and sisters who unfortunately stopped "bothering" us a long time ago. Imagine, for a moment, how transfigured and radiant the Earth would be if we all decided to live this Lent by making more effort to love one another sincerely, as Christ has shown and taught us by his example and words? We would already be in paradise, I am sure! As Lent begins, let us choose to embellish and transfigure our world by devoting more of our time to God and to our neighbor.

Sincerely yours in Christ our Redeemer,

*+ Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R.*

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Archbishop of Moncton

# Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

## Second Sunday of Lent 25 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**

<b>Mon</b>	Daniel 9:4B-10	Ps 79	Luke 6:36-38
<b>Tue</b>	Isaiah 1:10-20	Ps 50	Matthew 23:1-12
<b>Wed</b>	Jeremiah 18:18-20	Ps 31	Matthew 20:17-28
<b>Thu</b>	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Ps 1	Luke 16:19-31
<b>Fri</b>	Genesis 37:3-28A	Ps 105	Matthew 21:33-46
<b>Sat</b>	Micah 7:14-20	Ps 103	Luke 15:1-32
<b>Sun</b>	Exodus 20:1-17	Ps 19	1 Corinthians 1:22-25 / John 2:13-25



## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

### Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$173.20**; Envelopes: **\$600.00**; Initial Offering: **\$10.00**; Ash Wednesday Offering: **\$85.00**; Votive Candles: **\$110.00**; **TOTAL: \$978.20**

### St. Peter's

Loose: **\$19.00**; Envelopes: **\$380.00**; Ash Wednesday Offering: **\$10.00**; Donation 2023: **\$400.00** **TOTAL: \$809.00**

### St. Peter's Cemetery

Memorial Tree 2023: **\$100.00** **TOTAL: \$100.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	24	SP	4:00 pm	David Harnett †	Dale & Debbie
Sun	25	IC	11:00 am	Roseline Martin †	Alverie & Huguette
Tue	27	IC	4:00 pm	Isabel Isaac †	Jesse & Natasha Simon
Sat	2	SP	4:00 pm	Emily Simon †	Albert Levi
Sun	3	IC	11:00 am	Raymond Perry †	Nancy Perry

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	2	SP	4:00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading / Intentions	Lois Stella
Sun	3	IC	11:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading & Intentions	Louise / Judi Donna Marilou

## ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	3	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 <sup>st</sup> Decade: For our Clergy; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	10	IC	10:30 am	Vina	3 <sup>rd</sup> Decade: For our youth; 4 <sup>th</sup> Decade: For peace in our world; 5 <sup>th</sup> 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**

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** - Catholic Women's League members know faith is important to women. Members are called to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. We are Catholic and Living It! Come grow with us! Our first meeting of the year will be held on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the parish hall. A social will follow a brief business meeting. Looking forward to seeing you.  
~Louise Ongo

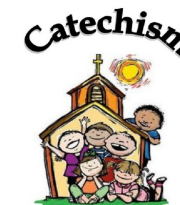
## UPCOMING CATECHISM LESSONS & CELEBRATIONS:

### CONFESSION & COMMUNION

Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Rexton @ 6:30pm – Confession Celebration  
Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
May 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
May 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Rexton @ 4pm – Communion Celebration

### CONFIRMATION

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
May 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Elsipogtog @ 7pm  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Rexton @ 11am – Confirmation Celebration



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

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.

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**ENLARGE YOUR TENT: A Symposium on Welcome and Hospitality** The English Diocesan Adult Faith Commission invites you to an interactive discussion on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 ground our Synod conversations, and we will use it as a starting point for our conversation on the 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information and to register, contact Trevor at 857-4879, [trevord.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:trevord.diocese@gmail.com) or online at [www.diocesemoncton.ca](http://www.diocesemoncton.ca) → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities.

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 **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30am at the Holy Family Church, 52 Falkland St. Moncton. We will be joined by a representative from the Alzheimer's Society to talk about how **we can keep our brains sharp**. Jot down any questions you may have in the meantime. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email [karen.dioceses@gmail.com](mailto:karen.dioceses@gmail.com).

