

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – *What Does Sabbath Mean to You?*

Recently I was in an R.C.I.A. meeting and as a group we were looking at today's First reading. As our leader read the text for us, we were asked to listen intently and then share a word or phrase that we heard that really jumped out at us. The line that kept replaying in my mind was, "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." As we shared our responses to the question on the floor, I was surprised to hear that this also resonated with others at the meeting. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out how difficult it is to honour this commandment in today's world.

I began to remember the stories my dad would tell me about my grandfather and grandmother and how, when he was young, they would peel the vegetables for Sunday dinner on Saturday night so as to not have to work on the Sabbath. And heaven forbid anyone hang a load of laundry on the line on Sunday. And even when I was a young lad, I played a lot of sports, but never on Sunday. Fast forward a few years and it seems today that for most of society, Sunday is just another day. Just as an aside, I know the Sabbath day can be different depending on your faith, but for anyone who is Christian, it is Sunday.

I often wonder why things have changed so much in such a relatively short period of time. While I don't know the answer to that, I do believe that the legislation that has allowed these changes is not changing anytime soon. So, with that in mind, it falls to us, me and you to decide how we will keep God's commandment to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. As I started to examine my own routine on a Sunday, I tried to see how Sunday was different in any way from any other day in my week. If I am being totally honest, other than being at mass every Sunday morning, most of the time having the rest of the day off, and then gathering with family for Sunday dinner, the day is quite similar to many other days.

It occurred to me that while most, if not all of us, do our best to live by these 10 commandments that we hear today, we seem to be able to justify bending the rules a little bit when they become inconvenient. We tell ourselves that we are not hurting anyone if we spend the day shopping, because we're busy through the week and there is no other time to get this stuff done. And what could be any more wholesome than spending time at the arena with our children on a Sunday morning yelling at them to do better? But with this mindset, I think we are missing the point.

When I look at this commandment to honour the Sabbath, I need to see it as God doing for me a favour I refuse to do for myself. I have a loving God, who only has my best interest at heart, telling me that I need to rest. Not for God's benefit, but for mine. Whether I want to admit it or not, I need time out of the busyness of everyday life to re-focus and re-visit who I am as a beloved child of God. How do I live this truth in my relationships with family and friends? And maybe trying to figure out why I always seem to be on the run, and who or what am I running from? The Gospels are filled with accounts of Jesus having to retreat and spend time in prayer so as to live out his mission as God would want him to. I think we can safely say that if rest was important for Jesus, it is crucial for us.

I know that for many people, not working on Sunday is not an option. I was one of those people for many years in my life so often my day of rest was another day in the week. I still needed that rest. I also know from experience with my children that unsolicited advice is often unwanted advice, but I would like to offer this. Take the win, if you can. Be good to yourself and allow yourself to rest without guilt. After all, this is not just a piece of good advice from a friend, it's a commandment from God. ❤️

~ Mark Mahoney
Pastoral Associate

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Third Sunday of Lent 3 March 2024

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

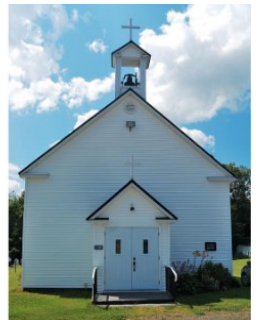
Phone: 506-523-6817

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 Kings 5:1-15AB	Ps 42	Luke 4:24-30
Tue	Daniel 3:25-43	Ps 25	Matthew 18:21-35
Wed	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	Ps 147	Matthew 5:17-19
Thu	Jeremiah 7:23-28	Ps 95	Luke 11:14-23
Fri	Hosea 14:1-9	Ps 81	Mark 12:28-34
Sat	Hosea 6:1-6	Ps 51	Luke 18:9-14
Sun	2 Chronicles 36:14-23	Ps 137	John 3:14-21



THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: \$125.00; Envelopes: \$780.00; Easter Env.: \$20.00; Ash Wednesday Env.: \$20.00; Good Friday Env.: \$20.00; Share Lent Env.: \$20.00 **TOTAL: \$985.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: \$27.15; Envelopes: \$245.00; Ash Wednesday Offering: \$10.00; **TOTAL: \$282.15**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Memorial Tree 2023: \$190.00 **TOTAL: \$190.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	2	SP	4:00 pm	Emily Simon †	Albert Levi
Sun	3	IC	11:00 am	Raymond Perry †	Nancy Perry
Tue	5	IC	4:00 pm	Faye hudson †	Ed & Dawne Furey
Sat	9	SP	4:00 pm	Pearline Simon †	Jane Alice Dedam
Sun	10	IC	11:00 am	Mina Richard †	Harvey Richard

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	9	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	10	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Harvey / Corrine Stephen	Adona

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	10	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	17	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**

Anointing of the Sick will be held in Immaculate Conception Church on Friday, March 8th at 10:00 in the morning.

To all the parents of those who are for Communion and for Confirmation, please be reminded to submit your child's Baptismal Certificate. And also, for those who are for confirmation, please don't forget to request and submit the Confirmation Certificate of the sponsor of your child and email at icprexton@rogers.com.

CATECHISM (Communion participants) – Our next catechism session will take place on Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 pm in Elsipogtog.

For those who wants to rent the hall, please visit the website and please go to <https://ourladyofhope.weebly.com/parish-hall-reservations.html> to book the Parish Hall. Thank you very much.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

LENT GOES TO THE MOVIES Our Mondays @ The Movies film discussion group will meet five times over Lent to discuss Lenten themes in popular films. March 4th – *Straight Story* (1999); March 11th – *Calvary* (2014); March 18th – *Monsoon Wedding* (2001); and March 25th – *Billy Elliot* (2000). All discussions take place on Zoom at 2:00 pm. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com to register. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion, and DVDs will be made available for participants to borrow.

Denouncing oil pollution in Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and biggest oil producer. Despite oil exports worth billions of dollars, millions of Nigerians remain in poverty and face food insecurity. In the south, pollution and contamination by the oil industry are causing great hardship.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) defends farmers' rights and helps protect their lands.

To learn more about the work of HOMEF, read our [Mini-magazine](#) and watch the video at devp.org/lent.

Laudato Si'

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



World Water Day March 22nd

The Laudato Si' Committee invites youth from across the diocese to 'dive in' with us to learn more about **World Water Day!**

Beginning the week of March 10th, youth will be given a package of water information and activities. There will be short videos from individuals across our community, all to raise awareness about the sacredness and importance of God's perfect creation, **WATER!**