

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – A Little Irish

A few years ago, someone close to me learned through DNA testing that one of the parents who raised her was not a biological parent. This sent waves of shock through her family, in part because half her DNA was from an entirely different race of people with a different language and culture. “*Your ancestry DNA certainly sounds more interesting than mine,*” was my response, which I now know was cavalier, given the personal and emotional upheaval she was experiencing. This news was shocking mostly I think because at the age of 65, she learned her identity was different than what she had known her entire life. In one sense, this did not matter because to me she was the same human being I had known and loved my entire life. Nothing had changed. But if you were to ask her, she would have told you that everything had changed because with all possible parents dead by then, she was left with unanswered questions about the story of her family. If you have submitted your DNA for analysis to one of the many organizations offering the service, you are granted access to a list of thousands of people from around the world who have submitted their own DNA for analysis and with whom you share DNA. You can easily communicate with these people via email or other messaging service, so reaching out and attempting to forge relationships with her newly found biological family played an important part of my friend’s life. A life-long Christian woman who loved her family and all of Creation, she would never have said she hated her life. At the same time I admired the courage it took for her to step away from what she had known into the completely new and unknown territory of meeting relatives from a different walk of life.

My DNA story is fairly typical of someone born in Atlantic Canada in the early 1970s; mostly French and other assorted European. My mother was a LeBlanc with connections to the Bourque, Richard, and Bourgeois families, among other familiar names. My father was a Drosbeck, whose grandfather immigrated to Canada from Belgium but had strong German connections. After I submitted my own DNA for analysis the greatest surprise has been that 19% of my DNA was Irish. “Oh Danny Boy!” I could celebrate St. Patrick’s Day like a real Irish person at O’Donahue’s in Miramichi. To be honest most of what I knew about Ireland involved St. Patrick, *Angela’s Ashes*, and the (1991) film *The Commitments* (which you should really watch by the way).

I was reminded of a time several years prior when one of my Theology professors returned to me my final paper for the course with the comment, “*You have a Celtic soul.*” I had not heard of such a thing before, and at the time I did not understand what she meant, but it sounded kind of interesting to me, maybe something to do with wind instruments.



According to U.S. Catholic,

Celtic pre-Christian culture, dating back to 500 B.C.E., permeated the land, and these beliefs also strongly influenced Celtic spiritual practices. As a result, much of Celtic Christianity can be characterized by a strongly incarnational theology: The natural world, in particular, reveals the sacramentality of all creation. Matter is infused with the divine presence and offers glimpses of the world behind the surface of things. This spirituality celebrates the human imagination, cultivating creativity through various art forms such as manuscript illumination and vibrant metalwork.

As I read about Celtic spirituality and Celtic Christianity, I noticed some of its characteristics (dreams, landscapes, water, solitude, silence, seasonal cycles, etc.) echoed strongly

through my own personal spirituality, and inform how I (try to) live out my faith despite my Germanic surname.

So on this Feast of St. Patrick when we are all a little Irish, *may the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh!

~Trevor Drosbeck,
Office for Evangelization and Catechesis
Archdiocese of Moncton

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Fifth Sunday of Lent 17 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

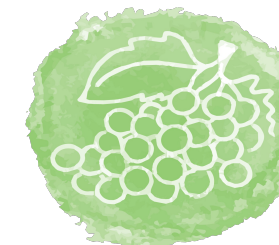
Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week

Mon	Daniel 13:1-62	Ps 23	John 8:1-11
Tue	2 Samuel 7:4-16	Ps 89	Luke 2:41-51A
Wed	Daniel 3:14-95	Dn 3	John 8:31-42
Thu	Genesis 17:3-9	Ps 105	John 8:51-59
Fri	Jeremiah 20:10-13	Ps 18	John 10:31-42
Sat	Ezekiel 37:21-28	Jer 18	John 11:45-56
Sun	Mark 11:1-10 / John 12:12-16 / Isaiah 50:4-7	Ps 22	Mark 14:1–15:47



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$82.00**; Envelopes: **\$475.00**; Votive Candles: **\$125.00** **TOTAL: \$682.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$15.00**; Envelopes: **\$175.00**; **TOTAL: \$190.00**

Regional Mass Account

Mass Stipends: **\$45.00** **TOTAL: \$45.00**

St. Peter's Cemetery

Cemetery Fund: **\$140.00**; Memorial Tree 2023: **\$70.00** **TOTAL: \$210.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	16	SP	4:00 pm	Emily Simon †	Rosie Augustine
Sun	17	IC	11:00 am	Patrick Gray & Abigail Gray †	Catherine Gray
Tue	19	IC	4:00 pm	Mina Richard †	Neil Richard
Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	Josie McGlynn †	Bill McGlynn
Sun	24	IC	11:00 am	Odette & Ron Sawyer †	Diane, Jeannine & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	23	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading / Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	24	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Gloria / Dennis Marian	Louise

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	24	IC	10:30 am	Vina	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	31	IC			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**

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

March 26 th	Chrism Mass (Tuesday)	10:00 AM	Moncton Cathedral
March 28 th	Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	Indian Island
March 29 th	Good Friday	3:00 PM	Elsipogtog
March 30 th	Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)	8:30 PM	Rexton
March 31 st	Easter Sunday	10:30 AM	South Branch

CATECHISM (Confirmation participants) – Our next catechism session will be on Tuesday, **March 26th at 7:00 pm** in Elsipogtog.

UPCOMING FILIPINO MASS will take place on **Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 pm** in St. Anne-de-Kent Church. A Filipino priest, **Fr. Carlos Jacinto** will preside the mass over and it will be in **Tagalog/Filipino** language.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE for April-May are now available at the back of the church.



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

WAY OF THE CROSS 2024 – Please note the Way of the Cross on March 29th will take place at Holy Family Church in Moncton and NOT Immaculate Heart of Mary Church as originally published in your bulletin.

LENT GOES TO THE MOVIES - Our Mondays @ The Movies film discussion group will meet regularly over Lent to discuss Lenten themes in popular films. **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.

THEOLOGY ON TAP - Our next Theology on Tap will take place on Monday, April 22nd (Earth Day), when we will be joined by Sr. Denise Lirette, fj who will give a presentation entitled “My Faith Journey: From Sky God to God Consciousness at the Heart of the Cosmos.” The event will take place at Mai Asian Restaurant (1909 Mountain Road, Moncton) at 6:30 pm. To register visit www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities. For more information contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email karen.diocese@gmail.com.

R.C.I.A. FORMATION WITH CATHERINE ECKER - We will be offering a series of four virtual formation sessions (Via Zoom) on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.), facilitated by Catherine Ecker. Catherine joins us from the Archdiocese of Toronto, Ontario where she currently serves as the Coordinator of Ministry with Maturing Adults and Parish Catechist at St. Mary's Parish. She is also a lead Canadian expert in Christian Initiation and has co-authored the *Alive in the Spirit!* confirmation preparation program for young people. Sessions will take place on **April 22nd, April 29th, May 6th, and May 13th** from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. To register visit www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith → Formation Opportunities. For more information contact Trevor at 857-4879 or email trevord.diocese@gmail.com

