

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – *How the Light Gets In*

Throughout our lives, we encounter experiences that knock our sense of balance off kilter and we discover that what we believed to be unchangeable is now somewhat unstable. When unexpected loss, trauma or darkness envelops us or those we love, we sometimes question our deepest beliefs in God and in ourselves. Although varied reasons exist, few of us have managed to totally avoid these times of soul-searching crises. Our present pandemic has been such a catalyst for some. Although some people have enjoyed discovering previously untapped sources of faith enrichment, the loss of “normal” has left a void in many people’s lives; leaving them unsure of how to find nourishment for their spiritual hunger. Many have told me that they feel drained; that the never-ending sense of “crisis” has depleted their inner reserves of hope and optimism, making it hard to feel God’s presence in their lives.

Thinking about the many different faith altering moments of our lives made today’s gospel story of Thomas relatable for me. He is often unfairly referred to as “Doubting Thomas,” but I prefer how some writings refer to him as “Thomas, the Twin,” for he represents all of us at those points in our faith lives



when we are torn between belief and unbelief, between old beliefs and new truths; that dual nature of an evolving faith that moves between the peace we find in our assurance that God is near and the confusion of struggling with doubts and uncertainty.

Teachers of our faith have often referred to these internal struggles of faith as “*dark nights of the soul*,” and I find comfort knowing that many great saints experienced these difficult times on their faith journey. Like Thomas, we find ourselves begging for some sort of proof or sign that our faith in God’s love is legitimate and true. We may not be given the opportunity offered Thomas to physically touch the risen Christ, but sometimes allowing ourselves to be open to encountering the risen Christ can reveal God to us in new and totally unexpected ways. Recognizing these encounters help us to evolve, yet again, in our relationship of faith. As in any relationship of value, be it marriage, friendship or

faith, a constant demand for proof of another’s love can prevent the trust needed to recognize the love that is being offered. Being *open* to receiving someone’s love and acceptance, often allows us to *recognize* the signs of its existence even when it may not resemble what we expected.

The disciples were experiencing their own “dark night of the soul,” and locked the doors in fear, ashamed of their betrayals and failures and afraid of an uncertain future. Yet Jesus found a way to get past their walls and, without judgement or reprisals, offered them the gift of his peace. Unlike Thomas, Jesus never asks for *proof* of their belief or strength of faith or level of worthiness, but offers his gift of hope and light unconditionally. They had to accept the gift, however, to recognize its true worth. God seeks us into relationship regardless of our failings, even when we are unable to seek out God.

The story of Thomas and the disciples during their dark days of doubt and fear, reminds me of one my favourite songs, “Anthem” by Leonard Cohen, in which he writes “*There is a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.*”

~Mary Joshi

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

Second Sunday of Easter 7th April 2024

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

12 School Street Rexton, NB E4W 2E5

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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	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10 Hebrews 10:4-10	Ps 40	Luke 1:26-38
Tue	Acts 4:32-37	Ps 93	John 3:7B-15
Wed	Acts 5:17-26	Ps 34	John 3:16-21
Thu	Acts 5:27-33	Ps 34	John 3:31-36
Fri	Acts 5:34-42	Ps 27	John 6:1-15
Sat	Acts 6:1-7	Ps 33	John 6:16-21
Sun	Acts 3:13-15; 17-19 1 John 2:1-5	Ps 4	Luke 24:35-48



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

Immaculate Conception

Loose: **\$110.00**; Envelopes: **\$695.00**; Share Lent Env.: **\$70.00**; Good Friday Env.: **\$395.00**; Easter Offering Env.: **\$455.00**; Votive Candles: **\$155.00**; Hall Rental Payment: **\$230.00** **TOTAL: \$2110.00**

St. Peter's

Loose: **\$165.00**; Envelopes: **\$215.00**; Share Lent Env.: **\$55.00**; Good Friday Env.: **\$20.00**; Easter Offering Env.: **\$85.00** **TOTAL: \$540.00**

St. Bartholomew's Cemetery

Donation: **\$200.00** **TOTAL: \$200.00**

Regional Mass

Mass Stipend: **\$15.00** **TOTAL: \$15.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	6	SP	4:00 pm	Emily Simon †	Mr. Mrs. George Sanipass
Sun	7	IC	11:00 am	Ernie LeBlanc †	Diane, Jeannine & Family
Tue	9	†C	4:00 pm	NO MASS	
Sat	13	SP	4:00 pm	Philip Lennox †	Angus & Stella Murphy
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	Odette & Ron Sawyer †	Diane, Jeannine & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sun	13	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Lois	Stella
Sun	14	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm 2 nd Reading & Intentions	Donna / Corrine Marian	Louise

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	14	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	21	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

PLEASE NOTE, FR. BERNARD WILL BE AWAY FROM APRIL 8TH-12TH, SO, THERE WILL BE NO 4:00 PM MASS IN REXTON ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH.

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.

CATECHISM (First Communion participants) – Next catechism session will be on Tuesday, **April 16th** at 7:00 pm in Elsipogtog.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

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 Thursday **April 11th** at 10:30 am at Holy Family Church, 52 Falkland St. Moncton. An avid gardener will be speaking to us about **benefits of gardening**. She will also instruct us on container gardening inside on a window ledge, our balcony and our backyard. We ask that you **bring your favorite pot** to plant a little something in it. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email karen.diocese@gmail.com

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.

MONDAY @ THE MOVIES Our next Monday @ The Movies will be on April 29th at 2:00 PM when we will discuss the 2022 film The Whale, starring Brendan Fraser. Monday @ The Movies is a film discussion group which meets monthly on Zoom to discuss faith themes in popular films. Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email karen.diocese@gmail.com

Seniors CONNECT

A safe space for seniors to gather, learn, and talk about issues related to aging in New Brunswick

The benefits of gardening on our wellbeing have been proven. Why not join us and dig in a little dirt, plant something that you can enjoy on your window ledge, balcony or outdoor garden. Learn about what grows well in containers for beauty and eating. Antonia Glavas will be with us to share her joy and knowledge from many years of home gardening.

Holy Family Church
April 11th at 10:30 am

Please bring with you your favourite plant pot for planting

Contact Karen at 387-4198 / karen.diocese@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON
Office for Evangelization and Catechesis