"A New Beginning…a Spirit of Renewal" Third Week of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent, I spoke about how this new church year was a 'new beginning' for us. With our Committees working so hard together, a 'Day of Prayer;' and 'A New Bishop' really affirms that the Holy Spirit is truly at work in our midst. However, I would add, that there are 'other new things' going on in our parish. Look at the number of people who are using the **"Bus Service"** offered by the parish to ensure that those who want, can attend the 4PM Saturday Mass-a 'new beginning' for some. As well, I was struck by our **Anointing of the Sick** Service at St. Rose Worship Site where some younger people of our community got involved in serving. Even though the numbers at the reception were low, I was very impressed to see 'new people' along with the 'veterans' helping out… from serving, to cleaning up+ the hall afterwards. Also, the beautiful **First Reconciliation Celebrations** at each worship site certainly brought about renewal for our Religious Education groups. At the same time, the **Advent Reconciliation Service** held at St. Matthew's Worship Site with the use of darkness and light… Word, reflection and song allowed the spirit of **'new beginnings'** embraced those of us who were there.

At **Bishop Reisbeck's Installation** this past Monday, I was impressed by the number of Holy Spirit parishioners who were on hand to witness this beautiful ancient ritual. Hopefully, like me, you picked up on a gentle man of strong faith, energy and vision has come among us. That Mass and ceremony of installation left me with a sense of a **'new beginning'**. As I drove home in the wind and rain, I could not help but think that our diocese was being 'washed clean (and dried)' for this 'new beginning'. Finally, I learned that at the **'Holy Spirit Woman's Group Christmas Potluck'** that new people joined for the first time and a great time of laughter and food were shared by all. As well as the donations that are coming in for **Lonewater Farms** and **Christmas Flowers** are just some of the signs that we truly are being 'renewed' as we await our Lord's coming at the end of time and his birthday December 25th. We still have **Saint John High School Choir**, **Religious Education Christmas Party** and **Evening Prayer** (changed from Taize) this Sunday Evening. Call it what you want, truly this is a time of 'new beginnings' or 'renewal,' it is fun to allow the Holy Spirit to get caught up in these remarkable ways to

'Evangelize.' All of these 'new beginnings' or 'renewals' would not be possible without your openness and willingness to share in these opportunities. On the Third week of Advent, I want to encourage all of you... **Keep up the great work of making the Good News known in so many creative ways!**

God Bless All of you!
~Fr. David

THANK YOU ANONYMOUS DONOR WHO GIFTED THE RECTORY WITH A PROPANE FIREPLACE INSERT TO ACT AS A SECONDARY HEAT SOURCE GOD BLESS YOU!!

CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE

As we have in previous years, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus councils 9176 & 8094, we will be sponsoring needy families for Christmas. We are accepting donations from parishioners to help defray the cost. Your donation will be included in your tax receipt. Just put your name and envelope number on your donation and put it in the collection. Thank you for your generosity!!

Holy Spirit Rectory Hall Prayer Shawl Ministry Prayer shawl every Wednesday in the Holy Spirit Rectory basement in Grand Bay-Westfield, 10am until 1pm. All the yarn is provided; please bring whatever tools are needed. Everyone from both worship sites are welcome. For those interested in getting involved with this ministry please contact Joanne Spencer – 506-486-1800

Bible Study – The bible study group meets at St. Rose Place every 2nd Monday evening of the month from 7pm – 8:30pm. For more information contact Jim @ 651-1689 or Tilda @ 672-5046.

K OF C Council 9176 - Wednesday Night Crib at St. Matthew's Worship Site Hall Wednesday Evening @ 7pm. All are welcome!

Children's Christmas Choir/Pageant – St. Matthew's Worship Site practices will be on **Sundays at 1:30pm** for our Children's Christmas Choir/Pageant. This is for the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Matthews Worship Site. All children are encouraged to take part. For more info contact Mary Rose Daigle @ 647-1547.

Weekend Ministries (Eucharist, Readers, Sacristans, etc) – We are preparing the ministry list for weekend Masses for 2020 for St Rose Of Lima. If you have times when you are not available please email Helen Leblanc at h.leblanc@gmail.com or call 506-674-1548/506-333-9509.

MAKE SAVING A LIFE YOUR GREATEST GIFT: Between December 23 and January 3, we have over 230 appointments we need to fill. The Saint John Blood Donation Center is open Mondays 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Thursdays 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm and Fridays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Open Boxing Day! 405 University Avenue or go to blood.ca for more information or to book an appointment.

December 22nd – **Eucharist Adoration,** Holy Spirit Parish, Saint Rose Worship Site, from 1 - 2 pm.

PLEASE NOTE – THE BUS SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE 6PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT ST. ROSE OF LIMA

We at St. Rose of Lima Worship Site canvassed businesses in West Saint John for donations of coffee cups and soup bowls for use with our Avenue 'B' Ministry. We received a generous donation from ESSO Main Street, IRVING Main Street, Deluxe and Subway West Side. Holy Spirit Parish thanks them for their support!

COLLECTIONS
Dec 07 & Dec 08, 2019 - Regular - $3,001.50 Loose - $462.55 Prolife - $1,286.50
PAD - $1,739.00 (weekly average)
Thank you for your generosity!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR BOTH WORSHIP SITES
December 15, 2019 after the 11am Mass at St. Matthew Worship Site.
Pizza & Hot Dogs
Guest appearance – Jolly Old St. Nicholas!!!!
All Welcome!!!

MASSES

Dec 17, 2019	**Tue**	**St Matthew's Worship Site**	**7pm**	**Souls in Purgatory**
Dec 18, 2019	**Wed**	**St Matthew's Worship Site**	**6pm**	**Joseph Creamer**
Dec 19, 2019	**Thur**	**St. Rose of Lima Worship Site**	**12:10pm**	**Brian LeBlanc**
Dec 21, 2019	**Sat**	**St. Rose of Lima Worship Site (4th Sunday of Advent)**	**4pm**	**Marie & Bunker Montague Leo & Yvonne David**
Dec 22, 2019	**Sun**	**St. Rose of Lima Worship Site (4th Sunday of Advent)**	**9am**	**Rosemary & Edward Lahey Lahey DFM**
Dec 22, 2019	**Sun**	**St Matthew's Worship Site (4th Sunday of Advent)**	**11am**	**Geraldine Rumbolt Olive Phillips**
Dec 24, 2019	**Tue**	**St Matthew's Worship Site Christmas Eve**	**4pm**	**Barb Black Jessica Anderson William Fox**
Dec 24, 2019	**Tue**	**St Rose of Lima Worship Site Christmas Eve**	**6pm**	**Kenny Martin Eldora & Leonard Martin**
Dec 24, 2019	**Tue**	**St Rose of Lima Worship Site Christmas Eve**	**8am**	**Alvetta Keary**
Dec 25, 2019	**Wed**	**St. Matthew's Worship Site Christmas Day**	**10am**	**Gary Mittelholtz**

Lessons & Carols (formerly Taize Prayer) – Sunday evening, Dec 15, 2019 @ 7pm at St. Matthews Worship Site.

One of the largest take-always from the retreat at the Villa Madonna, is that the spirit of the Holy Spirit is an enduring one. While we understand this, sometimes we can lose sight of it. But as the Christmas season approaches, we have a unique opportunity to reflect and connect. As students come home and families reconnect, consider that we are a parish still standing. Despite previous hardships, we are thriving. Though change can feel incremental, we are still climbing mountains.

Take some time this month to reflect on how much stronger we have become as people, a parish, and followers of Christ.

Kenneth Fury – Youth Minister

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF……

Many compliments are received regarding the beautiful art and environment (decorations) in our worship sites throughout the year, especially at Christmas. To help off-set the expense of these decorations we are taking monetary donations contributed **'in memory'** of someone we love. A plaque will be placed at the altar of each worship site with the names and memory of the person(s) we are remembering (this credit will be added to your tax receipt for next year). Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to strive to make our worship sties "welcoming faith communities."
~Fr. David

Holy Spirit Parish

St. Matthew & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites

3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 15, 2019

"When we have the Holy Spirit we have all that is needed to be all that God desires us to be"

***** OFFICE HOURS*****

Mon - Thurs.: 9 am to 4 pm

Office Number - 738-2320 **Office Number - 653-6850**

Friday: both offices closed

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com

Pastor – Rev. David J Martin

Mailing Address: 279 Nerepis Rd, Grand Bay-Westfield, NB E5K 2Z9

St. Matthew Worship Site – (506)738-2320 Fax: (506)757-2948 Website www.holyspiritrcparish.ca
Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive

St. Rose of Lima Worship Site – (506)653-6850 Fax: (506)653-6865 Website www.holyspiritrcparish.ca
Civic Address: 541 Milford Road

Confessions - The Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:15pm Saturdays at St. Rose of Lima Worship Site

Handi Bus Service – 4pm Mass

David Black at 643-7004 or 651-1808 at davidblack@nb.aibn.com
Moira Wilson at 651-2233 or moirawilson4@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Matthew Worship Site –Please contact Linda Spinney at 636-0677 or email her at linspin@nbnet.nb.ca
St. Rose of Lima Worship Site – Please contact Andrea McGrath @ 672-4733 or text 651-6074, or email her at stroselima.religioused@gmail.com

A **special welcome** to those who maybe searching for a new faith community. Please know that your full and active participation is 'welcomed and appreciated'. We hope you consider Holy Spirit Parish your spiritual home.

Sanctuary Light at St. Rose of Lima Worship Site - Week of Dec 15, 2019 is in memory of Evee & Eva Daigle

Month of December St. Matthew Worship Site's Bulletin, Altar Wine, & Bread is in memory of Arthur Legacy donated by Regina Legacy.

The Sanctuary Light is in memory of Arthur Legacy donated by Regina Legacy.