

**Our Sacred Stories:  
God & Us  
Gathering around the Table**

Thanksgiving! The leaves are changing. The air is growing colder and crisper. The sun sets earlier. It seems like we are finally saying goodbye to our summer. It is a difficult goodbye. Yet it is also a moment to celebrate. In an earlier, more agriculture-centred age, this was the time to offer thanks to God for all the gifts of the earth. We may not be so centred now, but we continue to rely on those who produce our food. Thus, we thank them for their efforts. We continue to thank God for nurturing the soil which produces the harvest.

At the centre of Thanksgiving is a meal. We dine with family and friends. We express our gratitude to God and to others in a gathering around the table. Many of our human celebrations centre on a meal. Dining seems to be a common gathering point for us as human beings. From birthdays to Christmas to a simple visit of friends, our human tendency seems to be to gather for a meal. Around the table we become relaxed, we come to know one another better. Foods are part of our culture and to share our food with others is to share something of ourselves with others. Perhaps that is why in formal and informal gatherings there is invariably a meal in which the participants sit down at the same table.

The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah uses the image of a rich and abundant banquet to describe the fullness of God's goodness poured out for all the peoples of the earth (Isaiah 25:6-10). Looking to the age of the messiah, the prophet uses a meal, shared by all peoples, as the great sign and symbol that the messiah has come. The reign of God is among us, and all creation is blessed by the presence of God.

Matthew's Gospel uses the same image for the same reign of God, with twist. He shares one of Jesus' stories, a parable of the Kingdom about a wedding feast, another banquet (Matt.22:1-10). The parable focuses on the invitation to a meal. The key here is that when the first invited guests refused the invitation, the doors of the banquet were thrown wide open. Servants were sent "into the streets and gathered all whom they found." Both Isaiah and Matthew proclaim the fullness of God's goodness for all creation. The table is large and the table is full.

This image is repeated, with the same message every time we gather around our Table for Eucharist. Theologian Eugene LaVerdiere focuses on the Eucharist as it is presented in the Gospel of Luke. The title of his book is *Dining in the Kingdom of God*. We may seldom think in this way, but that is in fact what we do when we gather around our Eucharistic table. We dine in the Kingdom of God. And we dine with a meal of thanksgiving.

Eucharist, literally, means *thanksgiving*. Whether it is around this Table of Eucharist or at the tables at which we gather with family and friends, we proclaim our gratitude – to God and to one another for the presence of goodness with which we are blessed in God and in one another. St. Paul, writing to the Philippians gives us a wonderful prayer to acknowledge both God and one another in this way – seeing both our lacks and our gifts. (Phil.4:12-14, 19-20).

Even now, in the midst of a pandemic, our Eucharist remains a celebration of God's goodness and the openness of God's reign to all. We may find ourselves with some limits in how we gather around The Table, but The Table must still be a celebration of God's openness to all peoples. Somehow, with all our current limitations, we must express a welcome to all, for we are "dining in the Kingdom of God."

**John Jennings**

*Thanksgiving Blessings*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Oct 13, 2020	Tue	St Matthew's Worship Site	7pm	David Doiron
Oct 15, 2020	Thurs	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	12:10pm	Frank Perry Ann Galliera
Oct 17, 2020	Sat	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	4pm	Don Sullivan Barb Bruce
Oct 18, 2020	Sun	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	9am	Ray Connolly Charles H. & Laretta Moyer
Oct 18, 2020	Sun	St Matthew's Worship Site	11am	Leo Oliver Tess Sewell

**Women's Society** - The Women's Society would like to thank parishioners for their generous donations of school supplies for Harbour View High School. We filled 4 banana boxes, & the school was very appreciative. Thanks so much!

**Women's Society** - For the month of October the Holy Spirit Women's Society will be collecting items for the Coverdale Centre for Women, which operates a women's shelter. Items needed are new or gently used *pajamas (no nighties please) or leggings, toilet tissue, coffee, whitener, sugar, snacks (pudding, etc), cereal, hot chocolate, juice boxes*. Thank you!

Please call the office 9am-4pm at (506)738-2320 (Tues&Wed) or (506)653-6850 (Thurs) to make arrangements for your donation drop off outside of Mass times.

**Bottles for Life:** A fundraising campaign for New Brunswick Right to Life. The garage at Saint Rose Worship Site, Holy Spirit Parish will be open before and after the weekend masses October 24 and 25th. Please bring your redeemable bottles for this important fundraiser. You can also contact the Saint John Chapter of New Brunswick Right to Life to have a volunteer pick up bottles from your home. [sjrighttolife@gmail.com](mailto:sjrighttolife@gmail.com)

**Confirmation:** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Christian, October 20, 7 pm at St. Rose Worship Site. Once again, following limited numbers allowed in the church, each candidate will have a number of invites only.

**First Communion:** We are currently working on setting a date for First Communion... please bear with us.

**Holy Hour of Adoration** ; Sunday Oct. 11th 1:00 to 2:00 and Sunday October 18th 1:00 to 2:00. Covid protocol to be followed regarding mask, registration at the door and 6 feet distancing as per the direction of our Covid Team at Holy Spirit Parish.

*This weekend we welcome into our Faith Community through the waters of Baptism*  
*Brantley Douglas Scott McCullough*

Earlier this year we had to post pone 2020 Confirmation due to Covid 19. Please keep these candidates in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 20, 2020 with Bishop Riesbeck at St. Rose Worship Site.

Joanna Jackson		Megan Marino
Rebecca Williams-Simms	Gregor Dunnett	Cierra Duplisea
Alexandre Chevarie	Emily Francis	Andrew Magee-Dempsey
Cassandra Perry	Kate Peacock	Brendan Little
Marley Hazen	Matthew Wallace	Morgan Daley
Madison Whelton	Jamie Mazerolle	Ava Mason
Adam Dunnett	Ethan Coleman	Kaitlyn Anderson

This year, **World Mission Sunday** is on October 18, 2020. This is a world-wide celebration of and collection for the missionary Church. The funds raised will go to emergency aid when disasters strike, to care for refugees in war torn nations, to establish and support rural health clinics, and to provide for the daily needs of all missionaries. Please pray for the missions often and please be generous on World Mission Sunday.

**THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS DEDICATED TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY**

**COLLECTION**  
**Oct 03/04, 2020**

Regular \$2,061.00 Loose - \$90.00 Needs of Cdn Church \$100.00  
 eTransfers - \$70.00 Building Fund - \$1,440.00  
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,848.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

**Thank you for your generosity!!**

**DID YOU KNOW??**  
 The New Freeman is available online on the Saint John Diocesan Website.  
[www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org](http://www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org)

**Holy Spirit Parish**  
**St. Matthews & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites**  
**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 11, 2020**

*We are a welcoming community of growing disciples who share our faith, support one another, and lead others to Jesus.*

**\*\*\* OFFICE HOURS\*\*\***  
 Tue/Wed/Thurs: 9 am to 4 pm  
 Office Number - 738-2320 Office Number - 653-6850  
 Monday & Friday: both offices closed

**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 Email: [holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com](mailto: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.holyspiritreparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritreparish.ca)  
 Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive  
 St. Rose of Lima Worship Site – (506)653-6850 Fax: (506)653-6865 Website [www.holyspiritreparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritreparish.ca)  
 Civic Address: 541 Milford Road

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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 Holy Spirit Parish –Please contact Linda Spinney at 636-0677 or email her at [linspin@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:linspin@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Gentle Path – Counselling Services – Pathways to Hope**

Gentle Path Counselling Services provides counselling at the 28 Richmond Street Office and is now scheduling appointments at Horizon’s Market Place Wellness Centre in the Lower West Side

**We offer counselling for:**

Anxiety	Addictions	Grief & Loss	Domestic Violence
Couples Counselling	Sexual Assault Trauma	Self Esteem & Body Image	Sexual Identity & Orientation
PTSD	Parenting	Depression	First Nations
Kids & Teens	Blended Families	Anger Management	Work Related Issues

(Subsidies are available)  
 Gentle Path Counselling Services, Ltd.  
 Phone (506)652-7284 Toll Free 1-888-394-4022  
[www.gentlepathsj.com](http://www.gentlepathsj.com)

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