

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

We have 35 total registered students, which includes a total of 16 for First Communion (5 remain ready from 2020, 6 new Grade Two and 5 slightly older; and 6 in Grade eight who will be preparing for Confirmation. There is still time to register your child(ren) especially for their Sacrament Years, but remember every year, every learning experience, contributes to their understanding of our Faith and the Sacraments.

Angie MacDonald and Marijke Blok are remaining with the Sacrament years. At Present, the plan for First Reconciliation/Communion is to use the home study packets we used to review this past years class for First Communion, and create one for Reconciliation, to be available online or by email, and hopefully after the New Year, when restrictions are eased a bit, to have small, in person sessions to review and reinforce, then proceed as we did with the last group, in smaller groups over a few Masses. Marijke feels that the Confirmation students, being older, will benefit more from peer interaction, and she will be contacting registered families with a plan for group gatherings when that becomes possible, hopefully soon after the First of the New Year.

Two other previous teachers have volunteered their time and abilities when we are again able to meet. After the New Year, the non-sacrament classes, will be home study packets, based on the "Be My Disciple" lessons, in two age ranges rather than the individual grade related classes. Any suggestions for online content, as well as questions about the program, are most welcome, and volunteers will still be needed when we can return to gatherings.

Until that time, we are posting weekly lessons based on Advent, and daily projects based on the Jesse Tree tradition, these are available on the Holy Spirit Parish Faithbook page; and through the Holy Spirit Religious Education Facebook group for registered families, or via e-mail for registered families without access.

Linda Spinney – Religious Ed Coordinator

CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE

December 24, 2020	4pm	St. Rose Worship Site
December 24, 2020	4pm	St. Matthews Worship Site
December 24, 2020	6pm	St. Rose Worship Site
December 24, 2020	6pm	St. Matthews Worship Site
December 24, 2020	8pm	St. Rose Worship Site
December 24, 2020	8pm	St. Matthews Worship Site
December 25, 2020	10am	St. Rose Worship Site
December 25, 2020	10am	St. Matthews Worship Site
January 01, 2021	10am	St. Rose Worship Site

PLEASE NOTE

****THERE WILL NOT BE A SATURDAY 4PM MASS ON DECEMBER 26, 2020****

When you reserve your seat for the weekend Mass, you will also be able to register for a Christmas Mass. As of Friday, Dec 11, 2020 we are back to the **yellow phase**. This increases the amount of people we can seat at each of the 8 Christmas Masses. The number of people in your family bubble is **the maximum number of seats you can reserve for that Christmas Mass**. Also, when making your reservation please keep in mind the provincial regulations and guidelines on travel restrictions. Let us pray that we can remain in the **yellow phase** throughout the Christmas Season! Unfortunately, we are not in the clear yet and there continues to be new positive cases reported on a daily basis. Also, if this continues, we should accept the fact there is a possibility that Christmas Masses could be cancelled as they were at Easter.

HAPPY HANUKKAH TO OUR JEWISH BROTHERS & SISTERS – THE FIRST TO EXPERIENCE THE WORD OF GOD

MASS SCHEDULE

Dec 15, 2020	Tue	St Matthew's Worship Site	7pm	Robert Parker
Dec 17, 2020	Thurs	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	12:10pm	Catherine Cummings
Dec 19, 2020	Sat	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	4pm	Leo & Yvonne David Bunker & Marie Montague
Dec 20, 2020	Sun	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	9am	Leo-Paul Poirier
Dec 20, 2020	Sun	St Matthew's Worship Site	11am	George & Sylvia Breau Denise Cormier

LONEWATER FARM

Holy Spirit Parish is collecting donations for Lonewater Farm, a long-term men's rehabilitation and community reintegration facility. Due to COVID-19, the number of residents has been decreased to 15, in various stages of recovery from addiction. Many of the men do not have family or loved ones at Christmas. We can help make it a Christmas of comfort and love.

Suggested list of donations for stocking stuffers:

Bar soap	Combs + brushes	Playing cards, board games
Shampoo and conditioner	Face cloths	Tooth paste, tooth brushes, floss
Deodorant antiperspirant	Nail clippers	Winter hats , scarves, gloves
Socks	Hair products (gel)	Safety razors, shaving cream
Gift bags	Books, DVDs	Candy or other treats for stockings
Coffee mugs	Small gift cards for prizes	Goodies, snacks for their Christmas party

Please: No mouthwash, aftershave, or cologne as they may contain alcohol

All extra items are used throughout the year as many of the men arrive at the farm with little to nothing in the way of possessions and are often in need of basic toiletries.

Also accepting goodies, snacks, or appetizers that the men can enjoy at their Christmas party!

Donations will be accepted until **Sunday December 13, 2020**.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Bernard White, brother of Father White former pastor of St Rose.

*This weekend we welcome into our Faith Community through the waters of Baptism
Myles Phillip Michael Mazerolle*

THE BIBLE, THE HOLY LAND AND ME: Fr Fraser's book selling at \$20 is filled with interesting stories and Bible references. It makes interesting reading and might make a good Christmas gift. Shirley Daigle has copies of this book for sale on Fr Fraser's behalf. She can be reached at 506-738-2435 or 506-639-2731.

Holy Hour of Adoration – Sunday Dec 13 & 20, 2020 at St. Rose Worship Site – 1 – 2pm.

COLLECTION – Dec 05/06, 2020

**Regular \$2,460.00 Loose - \$162.25 eTransfer - \$20.00 Christ the King - \$75.00 Pro-Life - \$235.00
Christmas Baskets - \$750.00 Food Bank - \$240.00
Building Fund - \$425.00. PAD Weekly Average - \$1,848.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00
Thank you for your generosity!!**

3 Reasons the 'Christmas Star' of 2020 Is Bringing So Much Hope

By Hope Bolinger

On December 21, Saturn and Jupiter will align into a beautiful bright star. This will be the first time they align like this since the Middle Ages.

According to [Forbes](#), the two planets will look like a "double planet" and provide an extraordinary amount of light. The last time these two planets aligned like this was on March 4, 1226, according to astronomer Patrick Hartigan at Rice University.

"Alignments between these two planets are rather rare, occurring once every 20 years or so, but this conjunction is exceptionally rare because of how close the planets will appear to be to one another. You'd have to go all the way back to just before dawn on March 4, 1226, to see a closer alignment between these objects visible in the night sky," Hartigan said in a statement.

The spectacular sighting will be viewable from anywhere on earth.

"The planets will appear low in the western sky for about an hour after sunset as viewed from the northern hemisphere, and though they'll be closest on December 21, you can look each evening that week. Although the sight will be sinking towards the horizon, it will be bright enough to be viewed in at twilight. All you need is an unobstructed view to the southwest, and to look to the southwest from about 45 minutes after sunset where you are," Forbes states.

To catch it in the night sky, you'll need a regular telescope at a minimum. But for a brighter view, an astronomer's telescope or a university telescope feed would work better.

Alignments like these, called "conjunctions" are not necessarily rare, but some of them are impossibly rare or only come around once in hundreds of years. Astronomers speculate that the Star of David written of in Matthew was an exceptionally rare triple conjunction between Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus. One such astronomer was Johannes Kepler, one of the greatest astronomers of all time.

3 Reasons the 'Christmas Star' of 2020 Brings Hope to Christians

Aside from the fact that stars are a delight to view during any season of the year, Christians have a number of great reasons to look forward to witnessing this star during the final month of 2020.

1. The Christmas Star Reminds Us of the Original 'Christmas Star'

Theologians have speculated if Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn's alignment formed the first "Christmas star." Considering we have two of those planets aligning now, something that hasn't happened in this way for centuries, we get to have a very real and tangible reminder of what the star of David would have looked like during the birth of Jesus.

2. The Christmas Star Reminds Us of Jesus' Second Coming

Astronomical signs point to the second coming of Christ. Although we cannot predict when he will return, when we see natural phenomena occurrences, we remember that such will be the conditions of the Last Days.

3. The Christmas Star Points Others to Jesus

In the same way the Christmas star lit the pathway for the Magi to find our Savior, we can use the star as an illustration for those who don't yet know Jesus. We can explain to our non-believing friends and family members about the events that took place the night of Jesus' birth when they talk about the bright "star" in the night sky.

Holy Spirit Parish

St. Matthews & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 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

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

Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive

St. Rose of Lima Worship Site – (506)653-6850 Fax: (506)653-6865 Website 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

PANDEMIC TEAM CHAIRPERSON

Mark Palmer – 506-635-5742 or email him at markj@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

Facebook: Gentle Path Counselling Services

**<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling>
services/**

Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001