

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 |

Please Note - Registration for Christmas Masses will begin Wednesday, Dec 09, 2020. When you reserve your seat for the weekend Mass, you will also be able to register for a Christmas Mass. The numbers of people in your house bubble (living under same roof) are **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. Unfortunately, for the past couple of weeks positive cases have been climbing across Canada. If this continues, we may have to accept the fact there is a possibility that Christmas Masses may be cancelled as they were at Easter.

MASS SCHEDULE

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|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Dec 08, 2020 | Tue | St Matthew’s Worship Site | 7pm | Delcia Brideau |
| Dec 10, 2020 | Thurs | St. Rose of Lima Worship Site | 12:10pm | Brian LeBlanc |
| Dec 12, 2020 | Sat | St. Rose of Lima Worship Site | 4pm | Rachel Butler Stanley Gaudet Ralph Magee |
| Dec 13, 2020 | Sun | St. Rose of Lima Worship Site | 9am | Monique Pineau |
| Dec 13, 2020 | Sun | St Matthew’s Worship Site | 11am | Susan Roberts |

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:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 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.**

‘Living with Christ Booklets’ available in the entrance of both worship sites.

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, 2020 - St. Rose Worship Site – 1 – 2pm.

COLLECTION – Nov 28/Nov 29, 2020

**Regular \$1,247.00 Loose - \$81.00 eTransfer - \$755.00 Christ the King - \$300.00
Building Fund - \$205. PAD Weekly Average - \$1,848.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00**

Thank you for your generosity!!

Beginning Advent

What are the key first steps to enter into Advent?

We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, "Come, Lord, Jesus." We might expand that prayer, in quiet moments of our days ahead, "Come into my life. I trust you don't mind if it is still messy. I believe you love me, because I need your love. I don't fear you can't find the way to my heart. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give." Some of us will want to open our hands on our laps or hold up our arms in the privacy of our rooms and say out loud, "Come, Lord, Jesus, come into this house, into my family, into our struggles. Come and heal us, and give us joy again. Come and unite us and let us experience, each in our own way, a bit of the joy you are offering me now." And, before a single decoration goes up, we have prepared for Christmas' message with the foundation of faith, with the mystery of Advent's gift. God wants to be with us. Advent is letting God's will be done in our hearts and in our everyday lives.

Getting in Touch with Myself

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

The Two Parts of Advent

Part 1: up until December 16

While most liturgical seasons have the gospel as their main focus, during the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day. After almost two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets from the Hebrew scriptures - in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophets speak more clearly of the coming of a Savior. So, in reading the first reading, for the first part of Advent, we listen to the anticipation, expectation, hope and promise. In listening to the second reading, we listen for the fulfillment or connection with the gospel.

Part 2: December 17 – 24

In these last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes. Now the gospel brings us to our celebration of Christmas. The gospels are taken from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Each of these days, the first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures, and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel. So, we can read the gospel first and then read the first reading. The sense of anticipation and fulfillment builds as we read the story of the preparation for Jesus' first coming into this world for us.

~Online Ministry – Creighton University

Holy Spirit Parish

St. Matthews & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 06, 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:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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/**

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