

## New Wineskins Post Pandemic Time for Holy Spirit Parish

Jesus told them this parable: "... no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, new wine must be put into new wineskins." Luke 5:37-38

The lesson of this parable is this: keep the new separate from the old, for in this way, both are preserved. Because the new wine would continue to ferment, it would stretch the old wineskins and they would burst. In the parable, Jesus used "new wine" to picture new ideas, new ways of being... a 'changed' people.

Forty years ago, my former pastor and mentor (one of them) Fr. Frank McDonald wrote a column in the "New Freeman" entitled, "New Wine and New Wineskins". In the early columns, he wrote about his experiences of a newly ordained priest serving at the cathedral as the associate... at a time when everything was different, including 'religion' which superseded everything, including culture. He wrote of the waves of people who came up Waterloo/Richmond Streets into our Cathedral for Sunday Mass. He spoke of how the Cathedral block, included the CYO (now gone), St. Vincent's School, St. Joseph's Hospital, Sisters of Charity Convent (also gone) as a 'catholic ghetto'. The purpose of this column was not simply to reminisce about the 'old days' but rather to show us, the reader how over time THINGS CHANGE. No longer did culture support religion, but now culture is at the helm. In other words, things are not the same as they once were. As a side note, Fr. Frank wrote in later columns of the changes and hope came with Vatican II.

As we enter into the 'green phase' of the pandemic, this gospel reading, and Fr. Frank's column come to mind. I cannot help but think that following the worse of the pandemic our whole psyche, our ability to process, our interaction with one another is now different. In all reality, we are that "new wine," and our former way of doing things, including 'Church' as "old wineskins." Looking back, our new parish, Holy Spirit, had a certain momentum in place: a welcoming presence, well attended liturgies and various ministries hard at work addressing the needs of our community and beyond.

Then covid 19 made its appearance, first as a distant threat where some thought, "it could come here, but probably not..." Then the warnings began, World Health Organization (WHO) told us that this could become a pandemic that would affect the whole world. Unfortunately, it did and so we dealt with it. The purpose of this reflection is not to write the history of covid...that is already being done. Rather, I want to emphasize that what we have endured this past 17 months or so has changed us. **How could it not?** We are not the same people that we were prior to covid. We have experienced so much during this time, and not just masks, following the arrows, hand sanitizing, even 2 weeks isolation (for some of us). More importantly, we experience fear, anxiety, even our obligation to attend Mass was put on hold and so were our liturgies for a couple of months.

Phoning in to 'register' for Mass and answering the same familiar questions week after week became the norm. Social Distancing... not touching one another, weddings cancelled and funerals at one time reduced to 5 people (others had to watch from their computers or phones).

As well, many appointments, including visits to our family physician were done by phone. Educating our youth meant restructuring the way classes were taught. While one half of the students attended one week, while the rest of the class joined via computers. Then the following week this would reverse itself, adding undo stress to students, teachers and parents. Add to this the separation from loved ones in healthcare facilities or who live in different provinces or parts of the world. Working from home and Zoom became the new norm. Many chose to 'stay home' and self-isolate for the duration of the pandemic and had groceries and prescriptions delivered. All forms of personal travel were halted. Mental illness and the call for help went through the roof. What we knew as the norm was no more. And so, we prayed...every day and at every Mass for an end of this ordeal or at least for a vaccine.

With reliable vaccines and so many people vaccinated and case numbers of the virus almost diminished in our area, we can return to the pre-pandemic times.

Therefore, where does this leave us as a worshipping community? I am not sure but it will be great! On Saturday, August, 21<sup>st</sup> our Revitalization Committee will be spending a day of prayer and reflection at the Villa Madonna to do an assessment of our faith community thus far. In other words, we will examine the 'old wineskins.' At the same time, we will "brainstorm" on our needs for our 'changed' community... the 'new wine' and what we can do to meet the new needs and opportunities that will present themselves to us.

I want you the people of Holy Spirit Parish to know that the last year and a half was not all "doom and gloom." For many, we have used this time for self-reflection and meditation, an opportune time to draw closer in our relationship with God and to put things into proper perspective. Even though we were restricted in so many ways, people got to know each other. The laughter coming from the office as Bernice registered you for Mass (when I asked her, 'what was so funny?' she would respond with a re-assuring "nothing!") You got to know her and she you. And the Pandemic Committee, a ministry that never existed before, working so hard to welcome you each day... putting actual names to faces, assuring your safety as you come to worship. And in our worship sites, we continued to work in a somewhat foreign environment, so many changes in such a short period of time.

As we return to the "Green Phase" let us pray that we stay in this phase. But as well, let us be gentle with ourselves and with one another. As we move into the 'new' we need to respect those who still may have concerns, for example, those who want to continue wearing a mask and/or who still want to keep their distance. I will continue to wear my mask during the distribution of Communion and it will take time for me to get comfortable as well. Please remember that when it comes to the "Sign of Peace," that it is a sign... some sign... it does not say 'handshake.'

We have accomplished so much during this covid time (refer to our Parish Accountability Report) let us continue to work together, fulfilling our Baptismal mandate to spread the Good News in a world that is beginning its next chapter...let us, with continued courage, optimism and hope to place our 'new wine' into new wineskins.

Blessings,  
Fr. David

### Holy Hour of Adoration – Sunday, Aug 01, 08 & 22, 2021 @ Holy Spirit Parish, St. Rose Worship Site from 1-2 pm

#### COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Jul 03 & 04 – Regular \$1,947.00 Loose \$81.50 BLDG Fund - \$641.00  
eTransfers - \$20.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

July 10 & 11, 2021 - Regular \$1,762.00.00 Loose \$56.00 BLDG Fund - \$135.00  
eTransfers - \$60.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

July 17 & 18, 2021 - Regular \$2,212.00 Loose \$70.00 Food Bank - \$20.00  
eTransfers - \$20.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

July 24 & 25, 2021 – Regular - \$2,812.00 Loose - \$35.00 Food Bank - \$20.00  
eTransfers - \$ 155.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO DROP OFF OR MAIL THEIR MONETARY  
DONATIONS. WITHOUT THIS EFFORT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MEET OUR  
EXPENSES.

**MASS SCHEDULE 2021**

Aug 03, 2021	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Theresia Hoellwarth
Aug 05, 2021	Thu	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Jack Hansen
Aug 07, 2021	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Dorothy & Wilbur Doyle
Aug 08, 2021	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Adrice Leblanc
Aug 08, 2021	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Lorraine Quinn Jayne Cormier
Aug 10, 2021	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Frances McElligott
Aug 12, 2021	Thu	St. Rose Worship Site	12:19pm	Rachel Butler
Aug 14, 2021	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Gladys Williams
Aug 15, 2021	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Andrea Limkilde
Aug 15, 2021	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	John & Peter Leger

**THIS BULLETIN IS FOR 2 WEEKS**

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM AUG 03 – AUG 09, 2021**

**HAPPY NEW BRUNSWICK DAY!!!!**

**Holy Spirit Women's Society**

During the months of August & September, Holy Spirit Parish is holding a school supplies drive for Harbour View High School students in need. The items that have been requested are: pens, pencils (pre-sharpened if possible), erasers, duo tangs, scientific calculators, small binders (1" or 1.5"), backpacks suitable for high school, as well as nut-free pocket snacks (granola bars, etc). Please note that loose leaf is **NOT** needed at this time. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**NEW MINISTRY**

Have you heard? We have a new ministry! We're looking for people who are interested in various forms of technology that we use to support Mass and Evangelization. No experience is necessary, only a willingness to learn about any (NOT ALL) of the following: sound system, blogging, social media, Zoom... If interested please contact Matthew Tingley at: [mrtingley@blackcatsolutions.ca](mailto:mrtingley@blackcatsolutions.ca) or 721-5722, or call the Parish Office.

*Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Patricia Isnor, Catherine Forgrave, Ervine Buckley & Jeffrey LeBreton*

**Holy Spirit Parish**

**St. Matthews & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites**

**August 01 & 08, 2021**

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

**\*\*\* OFFICE HOURS\*\*\***

Tuesday - Thursday: 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)653-6865 Website

[www.holyspiritparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritparish.ca)

Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive

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

[www.holyspiritparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritparish.ca)

Civic Address: 541 Milford Road

Confessions - The Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:15pm Saturdays at

St. Rose of Lima Worship Site

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

**TUES (SMWS) 9AM – 4PM, WED & THUR (SRWS) – 9AM – 4PM**

**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)

**PANDEMIC TEAM CHAIRPERSON**

Mark Palmer – 506-635-5742 or email him at [markj@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto: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](http://www.gentlepathsj.com)

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

services/

Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001