

Ahead of Time... The Assumption of Mary

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” When I look at the various situations and circumstances of my life, the joys and sorrows, the ups and downs, the hopes and disappointments, the struggles and accomplishments, I realize that I really want to believe that the Lord is somehow present to me in and through them all. I really want to believe that the Lord speaks to me through all the events of my life. And I don’t think I am alone in this desire. My guess is that we all want to believe that our life and existence are somehow more than the particular circumstances that unfold throughout our lives. We want to know and experience that God is really with us through it all. We long for something beyond the particular circumstances. I’m talking about believing **through** the circumstances rather than **in** the circumstances. When we believe this way the circumstances no longer limit or confine us but become portals of God’s intimate presence with us.

The kind of believing I am talking about is an "Elizabeth and Mary kind of believing." Neither one of them should be or could be pregnant. One is too old. One is too young. One is barren. One is a virgin. Yet both are pregnant. Neither Elizabeth nor Mary allowed the particular concrete circumstances of her life to limit God’s presence and action in her life. Neither allowed the circumstances to define who she was or who she would become. Elizabeth believed she was more than just a barren, childless, old woman. And Mary refused to accept that she was a no-one, another unmarried, scandalous woman, but rather believed that somehow she was the instrument of God the Most Holy.

Mary didn’t have it all wrapped up right from the beginning with a crystal clear understanding as to how her life would unfold. I am sure that her “how can this be” question to the angel Gabriel was not the last time in her life that she asked that question. As her life unfolded it wasn’t a bed of roses for her. A sword would pierce her soul she was told when her son was an infant. She will lose him for three days when he is twelve. She’ll think he’s gone mad when he’s thirty. And God only knows the despairing anguish she experienced during those three days following his crucifixion. And yet, throughout all the circumstances of her life her “let it be” never ceased to resound. In fact, what we are celebrating today: Mary’s bodily Assumption into heaven was somehow contained in her original “let it be.”

In this weekend’s gospel we hear Mary’s “let it be” continue to unfold in her *Magnificat*; which is essentially her song of praise and thanksgiving. Barbra Brown Taylor, the Episcopalian priest, author and theologian offers a powerful insight into Mary’s *Magnificat* when she reflects on Mary’s willingness to trust in God as she writes: “All she has is her unreasonable willingness to believe that God who has chosen her will be part of whatever happens next--and that apparently is enough to make her burst into song. She does not wait to see how things will turn out first. She sings ahead of time.” That expression stopped me in my tracks. Praising God ahead of time. Thanking God ahead of time.

I remember when it dawned on me that in the Ignatian practice of the *Examen of Consciousness* which one is advised to make at the end of the day, it is recommended to review your day in thanksgiving. It is not a matter of reviewing the day in order to pick and choose what you will be grateful for but to look back on the day, all of it and everything that occurred, with an attitude of thanksgiving. And now here we have Mary singing ahead of time, expressing her gratitude for all that will unfold in her life- being grateful ahead of time.

The celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is not just concerned with Mary. It is meant to touch our lives, in all the magnificent and not so magnificent circumstances of those lives. Mary’s fulfillment, which we celebrate today, began in and through all the circumstances of her life. On the Assumption, we celebrate and acknowledge the culmination of that fulfillment - a fulfillment that we are all meant to one day share in with her. She invites us today; personally, to trust in a way that isn’t limited to what is reasonable, explainable or even acceptable. To trust that in every moment of every circumstance of our life the word of God is really being fulfilled if we but offer our own “let it be.”

Fr. Damian
St. Joseph’s Abbey
Spencer, Mass

Hand Bell Choir Seeking New Members

Want to try something new?
Meet new friends and learn a new skill?

A Hand Bell Choir looking for new members. We meet at Church of Good Shepherd on Manawagonish Rd, West. Can’t read music,that’s OK.....we will train.

Our mission is to play for others who would enjoy this unique musical choir while having fun ourselves.

For details call Lynn at 635- 8474 and leave your name and number.

YARD SALE & CORN BOIL

Where: Church of The Good Shepherd, 668 Manawagonish Rd.

When: Saturday Sept. 11th 2pm - 5pm

Admission: Free

Kids Activities Free Hotdogs and Corn on cob

The next monthly **Mass for Those Living with Cancer**, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will be celebrated on Monday, August 16, at 6:30 pm. Anointing of the sick will be offered.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The Villa Madonna is happy to announce that we’re opening the doors up again, and we’re looking for a part-time permanent cook to help out at the Retreat House, starting in early September. During our busy times, it could be 20-30 hours week, with alternating weekend work. The job description and details can be seen at the Villa Madonna website, on our Facebook site or on Career Beacon. Resumes can be emailed to villamadonna@nb.aibn.com. Please share this job posting!

Bottles for Life: A fundraising campaign for New Brunswick Right to Life. Drop your refundable bottles at the Golden Mile Redemption Centre, 35 Linton Rd, and tell the teller they are for the New Brunswick Right to Life Fundraiser. If you are unable to bring your bottles to the redemption centre, you can contact the Saint John Chapter of NBRL at: sjrighttolife@gmail.com to arrange for a volunteer to them pick up. Please invite your friends and family to help with this important fundraiser!

The Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick is offering two (2) Scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 each, they will be awarded to one (1) student studying in a French educational institution and one (1) student studying in an English educational institution. Students must be entering their second year of studies or later, in a post-secondary program in the field of health care. Information and application forms are available online at www.chanb.com. Applications must be postmarked by September 30th 2021. For further information please email catholichealth@chpchi.com.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Marie (Millie) Kingston and Cajetan Maillet,

MASS SCHEDULE 2021

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| Aug 17, 2021 | Tue | St. Matthews Worship Site | 7pm | NO MASS |
| Aug 19, 2021 | Thu | St. Rose Worship Site | 12:10pm | Frank Perry Lori Galliera |
| Aug 21, 2021 | Sat | St. Rose Worship Site | 4pm | Fred L. & Ellen J. Roderick Jim Butler |
| Aug 22, 2021 | Sun | St. Rose Worship Site | 9am | Gladys Williams |
| Aug 22, 2021 | Sun | St. Matthews Worship Site | 11am | Rachel Butler |

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Jul 31 & Aug 01, 2021 – Regular \$1,877.00 Loose \$85.00 Food Bank - \$20.00
Avenue 'B' - \$20.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

Aug 07 & 08, 2021 - Regular \$1,789.00.00 Loose \$178.00 BLDG Fund - \$875.00
eTransfers - \$60.00 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.

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

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 or 721-5722, or call the Parish Office.

Holy Spirit Parish

St. Matthews & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites

August 15, 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

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

Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive

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

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

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/

Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001