

First Week of Advent

Sunday is the beginning of a new liturgical year with the **First Sunday of Advent**. The first reading from the **Book of Jeremiah** offers a comforting promise of safety to beleaguered Israel: "those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure." **Luke's gospel** offers us a repeat of several of the daily gospels, advising us to be alert and vigilant, watching for signs. "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Friday is the **Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier**, the legendary Jesuit missionary.

During the first part of Advent - until December 17 - we focus on the first reading. This week it is from the **Prophet Isaiah**. These readings are about promises. Isaiah is consoling, building up and preparing his people to have hope. "In the days to come," he says over and over. When the day of promise comes, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." Even though King David's line, and that of his father, Jesse, are almost wiped out, Isaiah proclaims hope: "On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." Who would believe even a peace in nature - lion lying down with the lamb? "There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea." God's unique ways of favoring the poor, which Mary comes to know and proclaims in her *Magnificat*, are seen when Isaiah says, "He humbles those in high places, and the lofty city he brings down; He tumbles it to the ground, levels it with the dust." Even Jesus' own statement about his mission is seen in the powerful images Isaiah uses to give us courage and hope: "On that day the deaf shall hear ... the eyes of the blind shall see ... the lowly will ever find joy in the LORD ..." "On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people."

The gospels for this first part of Advent are chosen from several gospels. They are meant to match the first readings and to show that the promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus brings healing. He raises up the childlike. And Jesus calls and sends the twelve apostles to continue his ministry.

Daily Prayer This Week

Despite all of the distractions at this time of year, we really can focus on Advent during these weeks. We seem to get very busy, and at times have to go to a number of social events or wrestle with budgets and shopping, but the heart of this season is all about expectant hope. So, we begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time - just a few minutes each day - to reflect on how much God promises us.

Each morning this week, while we are first coming to consciousness, we can name a desire, name an emptiness or feeling of anxiety or worry that we can feel. It is into the raw places in our lives such as these, that our Lord came to be with us. So, this week, we can begin to invite our Lord to be Incarnate in our lives, in the places we need him the most.

Our goal this week is to let ourselves feel like those to whom the promises of our God are made. We want to get in touch with ourselves, especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Savior. We do this by keeping our focus on the places that feel like a desert, the places that feel like we've been through a war, the places that feel like a lifeless stump. When we have a hard time seeing, we ask for the grace to be able to believe the promise that we shall see. When we seem deaf, we place our trust in the One who assures us that we will hear. And when we feel beaten down and awfully lowly, we turn to the One who promises that we will "find joy in the Lord." And, who among us doesn't have days on which we are aware of various kinds of wounds? On the day of promise, "the Lord binds up the wounds of his people."

As we let these deep realities of our daily, busy lives come into focus and interact with the readings, something wonderful happens. We become more and more aware of our need for God. Very naturally and quite spontaneously, a prayer comes forth from deep within us, which we can say in the smallest moments of our busiest days. "Come, Lord." "Come and save me." "Come and be with me in all of these messy, empty, dry and disordered places in my life." "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow. I feel my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me."

All of this preparation can happen in the simplest way, before the first Christmas decoration goes up. And, for each moment of each day that we encounter a place that we desire, that we long for our Lord's coming, we can express our thanksgiving. Each night we might pray:

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?" (Ps. 27)*

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

RECOVERY CENTRE (LONEWATER FARM)

This past September Lonewater Farm moved from their Nerepis location to a newly renovated facility on Horizon's Ridgewood Addiction and Mental Health Services Campus in South Bay, under their new name **Recovery Centre**.

The Recovery Centre continues to be a long-term men's rehabilitation and community reintegration program for Addiction Services of Horizon Health Network. There are 14 male residents in various stages of recovery from addiction, many without support from families or loved ones. The dedicated staff works hard to provide their clients with comfort and love at Christmas. As in previous years, there will be a Christmas party for the men, along with Christmas stockings filled with personal hygiene items and small gifts.

Holy Spirit Women's Society is coordinating this outreach project. Donations can be brought to either worship site between November 20 and December 12, 2021.

Suggested donations:

Bar soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, nail clippers
Toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream
Winter hats, scarves, gloves, socks
Coffee mugs, playing cards, board games, DVDs, books, puzzles
Candy or treats, gift bags

Please NO mouthwash, aftershave, or cologne as they contain alcohol.

The staff will also be accepting any goodies, snacks, or appetizers for the clients to enjoy at their party!
Thank you for your support.

Jill Robillard – Holy Spirit Parish Women's Society Chairperson.

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Nov 21, 2021 – Regular \$1,624.00 Loose \$169.00 eTransfers - \$55.00 Christ the King - \$525.00
Food Bank - \$20.00 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

Nov 30, 2021	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Dave Black
Dec 01, 2021	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Ervine Buckley
Dec 04, 2021	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Dorothy & Wilbur Doyle & DFM Ned Morrisey
Dec 05, 2021	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Andrea Limkilde
Dec 05, 2021	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Doris Fury Dave Black

In the absence of Fr. Tom, I will be saying Mass for the residence of Chateau Champlain each Wednesday at 11:00 am

SAINT JOHN CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE 2021

Once again this year we will be sponsoring several families for the Christmas Exchange. This is in the form of a gift card from Sobeys for the family to purchase food/necessities to help get them through the holidays. These past few years, with the fall out of the pandemic, has been especially tough on people's income. Any assistance from you to help defray the costs would be greatly appreciated. Just drop it in an envelope into the weekly collection with your envelope number and this will be included in your yearly tax receipt. Thank you for your generosity now and in the past for your support.

Fr. David Martin

MANY THANKS - Last Sunday, because of the icy roads, I was unable to preside at the 9am Mass at St. Rose Worship Site. Many thanks to Marijke Block, Kevin Reid and those who helped put together a Lay Service last minute! I am very proud of you and your gifts!!

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Prayer shawl ministry meets weekly on Wednesdays, from 10am to 1:30pm in the rectory hall at 279 Nerepis Road, Grand Bay-Westfield. Knitters & crocheters are welcome, or anyone wanting to learn. Yarn is supplied. Please note that masks are required.

Holy Spirit Women's Society – November's Monthly meeting will be Monday, November 29, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Rectory Hall. All women of both worship sites are welcome to attend. Also, if you want to keep up with what we are doing, find us on Facebook by searching Holy Spirit Women's Society. Please note that masks are required. Jill Robillard – Chairperson 639-0007

Advent Candles: 4 Candles, Unscented, 10 Inch Advent Taper Candle Set, Long Burning. Saint John Chapter, New Brunswick Right to Life, Fundraiser \$15.00 per set. sjrighttolife@gmail.com.

Contact Helen Leblanc at 506-674-1548 or 506-333-9509

K of C – Council 8094 - Nov. 25, 2021 the monthly Rosary and Adoration service is 6:30 pm at St. Rose Worship Site. We will be praying for all souls. All are welcome.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Sean O’Neill and Francis Hurley

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 9 am to 4 pm
SMWS - Office Number - 738-2320
SRWS - Office Number - 653-6850
Monday: 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 (SMWS)
(506)738-2320 Fax: (506)653-6865
Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive

St. Rose of Lima Worship Site (SRWS)
(506)653-6850 Fax: (506)653-6865
Civic Address: 541 Milford Road

WEBSITE: www.holyspiritrcparish.ca

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

ST. MATTHEWS & ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITES

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

1st Sunday of Advent - November 28, 2021

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

Sanctuary Light at St. Matthews Worship Site – for the month of November is in memory of Domician (Joe) Robichaud

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/>

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