

Second Week of Advent

“Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever.” Those words from **Baruch** are in the first reading for the **Second Sunday of Advent**. **Luke's Gospel** offers us a first look at the promise of John the Baptist as he cries out, “Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**. Wednesday is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, with its own special readings.

We focus on the first readings from the Prophet **Isaiah** this week. With the Babylonian Captivity, the temple was destroyed, the leaders of the people were taken away to Babylon and a remnant was left behind. A life-threatening desert separated the people. In this context, Isaiah proclaims God's vindication of the people in exile. The desert will be reborn. A highway will bring their liberation. And the signs will be that there is healing and peace. “Comfort, give comfort to my people,” says the Lord. The valleys will be filled in, the mountains leveled - every obstacle will be overcome - to build a highway for our God to come and save us. The people can hardly believe the good news. They are weak and weary of their captivity. Isaiah proclaims, “They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings.” He offers support: “I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'” The people have been at a distance from the Lord for some time and were not obeying the commandments. The Lord says, “I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go.” The final first reading this week is a piece from the book of **Sirach** in which the prophet Elijah is praised. Elijah, who was destined to come again to restore order before the day of the Lord, is seen in the reading from **Matthew's Gospel** to be John the Baptist.

The gospels this week, taken from various evangelists, show Jesus as the fulfillment of the liberation promised. Jesus heals the paralytic. He tends to the lost sheep of his flock. He comforts us who labor and are burdened. Jesus teaches a true wisdom.

Daily Prayer This Week

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our busy lives begins with getting in touch with our own desires. Advent is a wonderful time to ask myself, “What am I looking for? What do I desire? What longing can I recognize in my heart?” The answers to those questions will be our best guide for daily prayer. The readings this week offer some possible ways to talk with the Lord about our desires.

We can begin by trying to get in touch with a part of my heart that is divided, perhaps with a desert separating the two parts. For example, is there a disconnect between my primary commitments and the amount of time and attention that I give to them? Is there a distance between who I say I am and who I actually am? Do I experience something missing between what I believe and how I live those beliefs? We all have these contradictions and inconsistencies within us. These are the places into which we can let our Advent desiring grow. This week, we can imagine the prophet saying, “There will be a path between what is separate or divided or at a distance in your life!” or “What is desert, barren, dry and life-less in you will come to life!” We can hear, “You will find freedom and comfort, where you have been finding yourself in a captivity to pattern and routine, where you have felt weak and weary.” “Learn from the Lord and learn real wisdom.”

When one or more of these desires really strikes a chord in our hearts, Advent begins for us. Each morning this week, we can turn to our God, when we first wake up, while in the shower or getting dressed, and simply ask: “Come, Lord. Come into this place, into this embarrassing place of need in my life.” We may be able to be specific and ask, “Please, Lord, come and be with me and bring life and hope into my morning as I face this meeting.” As we go to work or do laundry or shop, or head home from work, we might ask, even more specifically, for the grace to love - to take the liberating journey across the desert - and let the Lord bring us home to a place of comfort, healing and peace.

Advent is about our coming to a felt sense of our need for a Savior and letting our Savior into our hearts to save us. Advent comes alive for us as we identify our desires and let them be expressed as longing and expectant hope. Into this space our Lord comes with good news, healing and a peace the world can't give. As we taste our desires and longing grow, we can give thanks each evening before we go to bed, to acknowledge we are being given a great grace of a growing intimacy with our God, right in the midst of our very busy days.

[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.

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. **Many thanks to those who have already generously donated.**

Fr. David Martin

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Theresa Smith

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Nov 28, 2021 – Regular \$3,672.00 Loose \$189.35 eTransfers - \$165.00 Christ the King - \$35.00
Food Bank - \$150.00 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

Dec 07, 2021	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Delcia Brideau
Dec 09, 2021	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Ervine Buckley
Dec 11, 2021	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Brian LeBlanc Ralph Magee Rachel Butler & Stanley Gaudet
Dec 12, 2021	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Andrea Limkilde
Dec 12, 2021	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Susan Roberts John White

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEUDLE

December 24, 2021 – 2pm – St. Rose Worship Site

December 24, 2021 – 4pm – St. Matthews Worship Site

December 24, 2021 – 6pm – St. Rose Worship Site

December 25, 2021 – 10am – St. Matthews Worship Site – Please note - no 4pm Mass

January 01, 2022 – 10am - St. Matthews Worship Site – Please note - no 4pm Mass

PLEASE NOTE

As we are limited to 50% capacity at each worship site (Government Covid Rules) you will have to register for our Christmas Masses. Registration begins Wednesday, Dec 08, 2021. Also, upon attending your chosen Mass time you will be seated by our pandemic team so we can maximise our space.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation!

Holy Spirit Women's Society – November's Monthly meeting will be Monday, December 06, 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.

Synod Survey – Available this weekend is a survey for our Synod. You are encouraged to fill out this survey...as you are the voice...the people of God. This survey may be completed perhaps as a family or group or individually. **In the 'name' field just put Holy Spirit Parish as this survey is anonymous.** This process is open to all. This survey can be accessed on the diocesan website <https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/synod-2021-2023>.

Please return completed surveys to the parish by weekend of January 22/23, 2022

Alpha Course - Mark your calendars: Zoom **Alpha Course** starting on January 18, 2022 @ 6:30pm. for 11 weeks of exploration, discovery of God's great love for YOU. Making new friends, asking the tough questions in an open, non judgmental environment. Everyone is welcome to join, regardless of faith background, church affiliation (or non)! It's Free, Bring a friend- it is awesome to do this with a friend or family member (and Zoom makes it easy to join from anywhere). info and sign-up: Susan Nicol at susannicol2016@gmail.com



By their action, you will recognize them. If you want to be part of an organization that is building a better world, family, parish, one community at a time, contact us!
Council 9176 – Grand Knight – Keith Doiron @ 506-738-8989
email: keithdrn717@gmail.com

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.

2nd Sunday of Advent – December 05, 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

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