

Third Week of Advent

Sunday of the Third Week of Advent begins with the **Prophet Zephaniah's** announcement of liberation and God's presence among the people after decades of their own infidelity. In **Luke's Gospel** John the Baptist is the focus of the expectation in the people who come to him asking what to do. He exhorts them to integrity and charity and announces the one who is to come: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Monday is the **Memorial of Saint Lucy, Martyr**. Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**.

We continue to focus on the first readings in this first part of Advent. From the Book of Numbers, we have the proclamation that "a star shall advance from Jacob..." Zephaniah is the prophet of impending doom, if the people don't abandon their idolatry. But this week we read about consoling healing, "on that day," when the Lord comes. Isaiah's message is full of promise: "Turn to me and be safe ... for I am God; there is no other!"

On Thursday, we reach the December 17th and in these last eight days of Advent the focus returns to the gospels with stories from Jesus' family in the time before he was born. Matthew's gospel offers the genealogy of Jesus' family. On the 18th we read Matthew's account of the nativity: Joseph decides to divorce the pregnant Mary until an angel appears to him in a dream, saying, "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." On the 19th, in the first chapter of Luke's gospel, Elizabeth and Zechariah struggle with their inability to have a child. They are told they will have a child named John who will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When Zechariah doubts, he is struck speechless.

Daily Prayer This Week

This Third Week of Advent, our daily prayer continues to allow us to become much more concrete about naming our desires and preparing the way for the Lord. We begin this week with joy, knowing that our celebration of all the ways our Lord comes to us is near.

In these familiar readings is an invitation to us to ask again for help, perhaps especially in dealing with our fears. In many of this week's gospels an angel, a messenger from God reassures these holy but very human members of Jesus' family over and over: "Do not be afraid." Fear can come in between us and God when asking for the help we need in our lives.

In the midst of what our culture tells us should be a picture-perfect holiday season, we can step back and get in touch with our fears and ask God to help us deal with the relationships we are afraid of, the family tensions that make us apprehensive, and the stress that can take us out of the spirit of Advent reflection. If we pause for just a minute, we can feel in our hearts that Jesus is saying gently to us each day: "Do not be afraid."

These very busy days can still be a time for us to focus our desires, perhaps each morning at the side of our bed, while in the shower or while going about our daily errands. We can ask God to remind us again that what we are doing in our daily lives is touched by the sacred because God is present in even the most mundane tasks.

"Lord, let me place my trust in you. I get so independent and think I need to fix everything myself. Let me remember not to be afraid of so much and to ask you for the healing that my heart needs so badly. Give me the patience this week to deal with the relationships in my life that need mending and the forgiveness that I can give others and that I need so badly myself. Be with me through the darkness so that I can see the light that you bring to us and the joy with which you want to fill our hearts."

We are moving toward the end of our Advent journey. Even if we don't feel like we have "started" on Advent yet, we can begin today. We are being invited: "Do not be afraid!"

[Creighton U Online Ministries](https://www.creighton.edu/online-ministries/)

Synod Survey –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> **There are spare copies in the entry way of each worship site**

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

Former St. Augustine's Church Building

On December 09, 2021 the former St. Augustine's Church building was leveled and is in the process of being disposed. Although hearts are saddened, including my own, we know that the 'church' is not a building but rather the people of God. In the Book of Ecclesiasts we hear "there is a time to build and a time to tear down". As well in the Prophet Jerimiah 1-10..."We need to uproot and tear down in order to build and plant..." May we continue to be grateful to our ancestors for the faith that they have passed onto us. ~Fr. David

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Paul McIntyre, Tony Hartlen and Marilyn Pitman

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

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Nov 28, 2021 – Regular \$3,057.00 Loose \$143.00 eTransfers - \$20.00 Pro-Life - \$400.00
Building Fund - \$915.00 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

Dec 14, 2021	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Joseph Martin
Dec 16, 2021	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10p m	Millie Kingston Special Intentions
Dec 18, 2021	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Leo & Yvonne David Ralph Magee
Dec 19, 2021	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Adrice LeBlanc
Dec 19, 2021	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	George & Sylvia Breau Andrea Limkilde

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEUDLE

****December 24, 2021 – 2pm – St. Rose Worship Site (NOW FULL) ****

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. Call the office to register. 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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SRWS & SMWS– We are in need of volunteers after the 9am & the 11am Masses on December 19, 2021 to help retrieve the decorations and decorate our Worship Sites for our Christmas season.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Prayer shawl ministry meets weekly on Wednesdays, from 10am to 12pm 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.

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.holyspiritparish.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.

3rd Sunday of Advent – December 12, 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