

The First Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday is the **Baptism of the Lord**. We hear the Lord say in the first reading from **Isaiah**, “Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit.” Those words are echoed in the reading from **Luke's Gospel**, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” This feast marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time on the Church calendar.

During the weekdays, we begin a three-week cycle of captivating readings from the **First Book of Samuel**. We read of Samuel's mother, Hannah, who promises the Lord, “if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the LORD for as long as he lives.” Samuel hears a call from the Lord and responds, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” An epic battle against the Philistines ends in devastating losses for Israel and the capture of the Ark of the Covenant. In his old age, Samuel rules Israel and the elders ask Samuel to appoint a King to rule them. Samuel meets Saul. “When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD assured him, “This is the man of whom I told you; he is to govern my people.’

From now until the beginning of Lent, the weekday gospels are from **Mark's Gospel**. Mark offers us a look at the beginning of Jesus public ministry. Jesus calls his first disciples, fisherman at work: Simon and Andrew, then James and John. “Then they left their nets and followed him.” He drives out evil spirits and heals the sick. He hears the cry of the leper: “If you wish, you can make me clean,” and Jesus, “moved with pity” heals him. Friends lower a paralytic from a roof down into the crowd in front of Jesus, who heals him and says, “Child, your sins are forgiven.” Jesus extends an invitation to the despised tax collector, Levi: “Follow me.”

Daily Prayer This Week

In this first week of Ordinary Time, we might find ourselves feeling a little let-down after the Christmas season, especially in parts of the world where it seems cold and dark most days. This is where we can ask for the grace to let the stories of the gospels come alive in our hearts.

The vivid narratives of this week's gospel are packed with stories of Jesus' entering into the lives of real people and touching them in extraordinary ways. These are not far away stories, but ones that have a real meaning for us. This is a week of invitation from Jesus to us, with two invitations for us to ponder in our hearts this week.

Jesus encounters Levi, a Jewish tax collector. Because of his profession, he was probably wealthy but he had humiliated his family and made himself a pariah to most of those around him. Jesus' response to this “outcast” was to invite him to be one of his closest disciples - and to dine at his house.

In our own lives we may find a loneliness or separation from people in our family or others in our lives. We have parts of our lives that are dark and embarrassing and seem unchangeable. It is into this very darkness and discomfort that Jesus extends the same invitation to us: “Follow me.” This clear and personal call to us is from Jesus who already knows us and our failings and yet asks us to be with him. We can hear this invitation more clearly if we can be touched with awareness of our own failings and understand more deeply how much we need a savior in our lives. It is then that our hearts open to accept this invitation.

This week Jesus invites us to follow him, as friends and disciples. This is a good week for us to contemplate with Jesus, what we are looking for and how much we want to turn and follow him. We can pray to Jesus for the strength to leave the patterns and habits of our lives that so often turn us away from him and ask for the grace to make a new beginning in our lives. If we can sit with our hands open in humility, we can accept that we can't do this on our own, but know in our hearts that with the help of God, nothing is impossible.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS THANK YOU 2021 !!!!

Dear Parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish,

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which draws to close the Christmas Season. Much has changed in the past year and we continue to endure the pandemic. However, as truly faithful people that we are, we persevered. Many thanks for your generosity to all those in our parish for this Advent, Christmas and including the past year; not only in monetary support, but also in your gift of faith and service, sharing your God-given talents to help hold our community together during these challenging times. As well, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all of you who remembered me with your prayers, cards with supporting sentiments, beautiful gifts, and food, during this holy season. We continue to be a parish of gratitude for all that God has blessed us with. Therefore, I want to acknowledge and ‘thank’ the following:

- to our Pandemic Committee who gave of their time and energy to assist us during these uncertain times... still providing a ‘warm welcome’ at the same time ensuring that all protocol and procedures are followed to provide a safe environment to pray.
- to our musicians and cantors, Mary Rose Daigle and Trish Gallagher. As well as students and alumni (trumpet, cello, violins, etc.) from Saint John High School who joined Trish to enhance our 2 and 6 pm Christmas Eve Masses.
- to those on our Liturgy Committee, including the Art and Environment committee who helped parishioners decorated our worship spaces.
- to those who keep our sign at St. Matthew’s Worship Site up-to-date... even in the worse weather.
- to those who made monetary donations to our Christmas Baskets Fund.
- to our Knights for putting up our outdoor manger scene; for addressing the particular needs in our community and for your ongoing assistance-Thank You!
- to those who offered ‘generous response’ to the **Recovery Center (Lonewater Farm)**. Truly what you donated was phenomenal!!
- to those who continue to make and donate soup for **Avenue ‘B’** and offered food and monetary donations for those in need.
- to our Secretary, Bernice Martin, for her ongoing commitment to our parish and it’s administrative demands!
- to anyone or ministry I may have inadvertently failed to mention and those of you who have contributed “silently” in any way toward making this a truly blessed and joyful Christmas celebration, I thank you. These “gifts from the heart” are great signs of the love you have for your faith community.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your loved ones every good blessing for 2022. May we continue to pray fervently for an end to the global pandemic!

Fr. David

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**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely cards, gifts and Christmas Blessings. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. As we enter 2022, with another year of challenges and unknowns, I am looking forward to being there for you as your Parish Secretary.

~Bernice Martin

MASS SCHEDULE 2022

Jan 11, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Jan 13, 2022	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Jan 15, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Helen & Stewart Allen Bernice Vaughan
Jan 16, 2022	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Andrea Limkilde Larry Joudry
Jan 16, 2022	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Joseph Martin

PLEASE NOTE – WEEKDAY MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Dec 19, 2021 – Regular \$1,602.00 Loose \$102.50 eTransfers - \$55.00
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

Dec 24/25, 2021 - 4332.00 eTransfers - \$1,280.00

Dec 26, 2021 – Regular - \$2,612.00 Loose - \$50.00 Building Fund - \$145.00
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

Jan 01, 2022 - \$160.00

Jan 02, 2022 – Regular - \$872.00 Loose - \$65.00 eTransfers - \$20.00 Christmas - \$300.00
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.

*Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families
of Ron Dorcas and Margo (Creamer) Seeley*

CHURCH ENVELOPES are available. We would like to thank you for your patience. We are undergoing a new numbering system. Due to the restructuring of our parish back in 2018 we are now able to come up with a numbering system for our envelopes that will work better for each worship site. The reason we have done this is there was too much waste in envelopes no longer active. Everyone will have a new number. We ask that you pick up a box on your way out after Mass and make sure to include your name and mailing address on the first few envelopes. Also, boxes can be picked up at the office during office hours. With that being said if you are new to our community and want a box of envelopes or prefer to sign up fo PAD (pre-authorized debit) please contact the office to make these arrangements.



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.*

Baptism of the Lord - January 09, 2022

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