

The Fifth Week of Lent

In the **Fifth Sunday of Lent**, John's gospel brings us the story of the woman accused of adultery. Religious leaders bring a woman to Jesus challenging him: "Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women." Jesus responded only, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." The crowd quietly dispersed. Jesus seeing there is no one left to accuse the woman says gently, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

The first readings this week prepare for the gospels. We begin with the long, but well worth reading, story of Susanna, which ends in "blessing God who saves those who hope in him." The bronze serpent on a pole reminds us of Jesus' saving cross. Three young men refuse to commit idolatry and show us how God protects "the servants who trusted in him." God entered a covenant with Abraham. In the midst of his persecution, Jeremiah praises God, "For he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!" God promises to unite the people in an everlasting covenant.

Our gospels are again from John, the **Fourth Gospel**. Jesus continues to challenge the Pharisees, who plot his arrest. Jesus challenges those who do not believe in him: "I know where I came from and where I am going." Reminding us of the bronze serpent and his death, Jesus says, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM." To the children of Abraham and to us Jesus declares, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." "Whoever keeps my word will never see death. ... Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM." They heard what they thought was blasphemy and tried to stone him. Jesus simply told the truth, because, "the Father is in me and I am in the Father." After the raising of Lazarus, the plans were set to destroy Jesus. The high priest says the prophetic words, "it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish."

Daily Prayer This Week

This is the last full week of Lent. We can feel the conflict and struggle developing in the readings. As we read about the drama that surrounded Jesus' last days on earth and reflect upon its meaning, we experience how the drama that is going in our own hearts is more intense the closer we get to the end of Lent. The Spirit of the Lord is really trying to help us be more open and more free, to receive the graces our Lord wants to offer us.

There is another spirit that is fighting just as hard to distract us, discourage us, and prevent us from being open and attentive to God's gifts. The closer we get to the mystery of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection for us, the more we can experience struggle. If I experience myself somewhat "at war" with myself, then these are very important days to keep deliberately asking our Lord to help me.

It is also a great time to begin to prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. We can reject the unloving choices we've made, all that is unjust, dishonest, disrespectful and violent. We want to refuse to be mastered by empty promises. Declaring our desire for freedom is a great preparation to receive this great gift.

If we have developed the habit of naming a desire the first thing each morning, and carrying on a conversation with our Lord in the brief background moments of the day, we are already comfortable with letting the Word or the Season interact with the concrete events of the week. This way of finding intimacy with our Lord, through our daily interaction - even in a very busy life - is so appropriate for the Fifth Week of Lent. We can discover areas that are still resistant to God's grace. We can ask for help to practice new ways of being free, or new ways of loving. We can find ways to make financial sacrifices to give to the poor this week.

Each night this week, we can give thanks. The closer we get to celebrating Holy Week and the events that brought us our salvation, each of us can express our gratitude, realizing this was all for me.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Apr 03, 10 & 17, 2022 - St. Rose Worship Site 1-2 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE 2022

Apr 05, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	June MacEachern
Apr 06, 2022	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	David Keleher
Apr 07, 2022	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Walter Page Larry Joudry
Apr 09, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Jeannita LeBlanc Leonard Upton & DFM
Apr 10, 2022	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site (Palm Sunday)	9am	William Parent Fannie & Wilfred Comeau
Apr 10, 2022	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site (Palm Sunday)	11am	Paul Daigle & Leonide Daigle Duncan MacDonald Jr.

The following is an excerpt taken from America, The Jesuit Review, March 28, 2022

There are female presidents and CEOs. Why are we still asking if women can lead in the church?

Only a hundred years ago, the first lay woman was employed at the Vatican; this week, the new Constitution for the Roman Curia declared that "any member of the faithful may preside over a Department or Body, given their particular competence, power and governance or function," which has widely been interpreted to mean that a woman could run any Vatican office, except perhaps the Dicasteries for Clergy and Bishops. Previously, many top roles of prefect and secretary were limited to priests or cardinals; the new constitution bears no such limitations. Clarifying the document at a Vatican press conference March 21, one of its writers said that the "power of governance in the church does not come from the sacrament of [Holy] Orders" but from a mission given by the pope. (*Colleen Dulle is an associate editor at America and co-hosts the "Inside the Vatican" podcast*)

Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land on Good Friday: The Good Friday Collection, on April 15, 2022, is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Christian sites of the Holy Land and to support the Church in the pastoral, educational, and social works that contribute to a sustained Christian presence in the land where Jesus the Christ once walked.

This Pontifical Collection will be taken in the parishes during the Good Friday celebration. Those who are unable to attend the service are still able to contribute online by going to canadahelps.org and searching for "Commissariat of the Holy Land" or by Interac e-transfers to terresainte@bellnet.ca Receipts will be issued.

On behalf of the Custody of the Holy Land,
I sincerely thank you for your support,
Fr. Robert Mokry, OFM, Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada

Lenten Revitalization Series – The Diocese are pleased to offer a Revitalization Series for Lent on Tuesday evenings following the 5:30pm Mass at the Cathedral. Check out their website for more information - www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org

Unplanned – what she saw changed everything: A movie based on a true story. Saint John Chapter of New Brunswick Right to Life is excited to present this movie, There will be Three showings: Saturdays 8:00 PM March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th Boardroom Diocesan Building. You can also view the movie at home, same dates and time via Zoom, contact sjrighttolife@gmail.com for the link. If anyone wants to set up another date and time to watch this movie as a group or in your home contact us.

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Mar 27, 2022 – Regular - \$2,142.00 Loose - \$222.00 eTransfers - \$90.00

Initial Offering - \$20.00 Snow Removal - \$150.00 Food Bank - \$20.00

Food Bank - \$160.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$179.00

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.

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY

Once again this summer we have an opening for a student who will be entering post-secondary education in the fall to work primarily in our cemetery (St. Augustine's Cemetery). This position is registered in the NB SEED program. You can direct any interested candidates to the www.NBSEED.ca to apply. The job position title is Landscape Maintenance Contractor. All interested candidates must apply via the NBSEED website.

HOLY SPIRIT BURSARY

Holy Spirit Parish is awarding 5 bursaries amounting to \$500.00 each. Applicants must be an active member of Holy Spirit Parish and will be required to submit a short paper including: name of secondary institution for the fall of 2022, current activities in the parish and goals for the future. This Bursary is offered to those who are graduating from High School and are attending a secondary level of education (University or College). Please submit to parish office by May 20, 2022 by email: holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

For those waiting patiently for First Communion, Home study has started, to be used in combination with in person classes over the next 6 weeks, with a goal of celebrating First Communion early in May. With regard to First Reconciliation, there is only one candidate fully prepared for our Parish, and we will have to postpone that Sacrament, at least for the rest of the class, until next year when hopefully, there will be no further concerns about restrictions, or whatever other concerns are preventing full participation."

Linda Spinney – Religious Ed Coordinator – Holy Spirit Parish



In the entrance of both worship sites there is a basket of mini colouring books with a small pack of crayons for our young (or young at heart) parishioners. Please help yourself!

2021 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

It is that time of year again when you are asked to submit a report from your respective committees so we can prepare our Accountability Report for the parish.

Please submit your Report to the office via email by April 08, 2022.

There are plenty of commemorative coins available. Contact the office during office hours to arrange for pick-up of this wonderful tribute to our former St. Augustine church.

NEXT WEEKEND, APRIL 10, IS PALM SUNDAY

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Apr 03, 2022

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CEMETERY CLOSED UNTIL MAY 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