

Sixth Week of Easter

John's Gospel offers us comfort and peace in a very direct way for the **6th Sunday of Easter**. Jesus says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

Thursday much of the world will celebrate **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**, while the rest will celebrate it the following Sunday.

Our Easter season readings from **Acts of the Apostles** continue this week. We read of Paul converting a wealthy cloth trader, Lydia; of the dramatic conversion and baptism of the jailer and his family; Paul's bold speech to the crowd at the Areopagus and his fearless preaching in Corinth, despite the growing threat from the Jews. We also see how followers of Paul catch the fire of his faith and now begin to convert others.

In **John's Gospel**, we realize we are approaching Pentecost in a few weeks as Jesus begins to speak of his leaving the earth and of the coming of the "Advocate" - the Spirit of Truth. The image of the Trinity is clear: "when the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father...." To his disciples, the idea of his leaving fills their hearts with grief but Jesus reassures them, "it is better for you that I go" so that the Spirit can come to them. The Spirit "will guide you to all truth." Jesus promises, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy." "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." "Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you."

Whether the **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** is celebrated this Thursday or on Sunday, it is a stirring story from **Acts of the Apostles** of Jesus leaving his disciples and promising them the support of the Holy Spirit. The **Gospel of Luke** tells of Jesus as he led his disciples out "as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven."

Daily Prayer This Week

We sometimes keep the idea of the Trinity firmly in our heads, rather than move it to our hearts. Our logical, practical minds cannot make sense out of three persons in one God.

But clearly this week Jesus wants us to have some sense of what the Trinity is - a continuation of the seamless love and identity between him and the Father. It is the Spirit of that love between them that lives on in us today, guiding us and helping us to follow the message of Jesus' life. It is that Spirit of Jesus that is with us in each of the difficult and joyous moments of our days.

Jesus invites us to discover the power of the Spirit in our lives through an awareness of "the Advocate" supporting us each day. Jesus encourages us in the same kind of intimate relationship he has with the Father. The startling idea of this close, personal conversation one might have with a parent, models for us how we can speak to him.

If we feel tongue-tied or don't know where to begin, that is exactly the place to start. Each morning as we awaken, we can speak from our hearts.

Loving Jesus, I'm not sure how to do this. I can feel in my heart an emptiness or longing for something deeper in my relationship, but I don't always know where to begin. Help me to open my heart to you this day, and to carry with me the sense of how much you love me and how much you want this kind of personal relationship with me.

Let me feel your Spirit present with me as I face the challenges of the day and let me live my life this day as your follower, in the peace of your love.

It is a simple prayer and one that we can remember as we go about our day, head to a meeting, stand in the kitchen or fold laundry. It is not complicated to have a closer relationship with God but it takes focus. And always, we can end our day with a simple prayer of thanks for the many blessings of the day.

Jesus ascended into heaven, leaving us with the gift of the Spirit - a comfort and accompaniment for our journey. Let us turn to Jesus in our daily life and trust that we are not alone and ask for the graces we need to love as we have been loved.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Resurrection at Holy Spirit Parish

With the budding of trees, the greening of the grass and the new flowers breaking through the ground, all point to 'resurrection'. We see 'resurrection in the face of a new baby and their happy families. We see 'resurrection in the faces of old friends meeting for the first time after a two year break. A resurrection is happening at Holy Spirit Parish-our community is coming back to life after the long pause caused by the pandemic. While we are not totally out of the woods with the virus, vaccines have made it possible for us to return to gathering and many more people have returned to attend our liturgies again.

Throughout the past year, I have been counting the number of attendees at each Mass. Our lowest number of people attending happened this past January with a total of 88 parishioners for all three masses. After that 'lull' and the lifting of restrictions, people began to return. During Holy Week we had over 500 people in attendance (combination from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday). We had many of our regular parishioners return and we welcomed some visitors. Also new families who have moved here from other parts of Canada have been welcomed into our fold. Many people have shared with me that they had missed their church and the Mass, that they were doing everything else (with caution), why not Mass? They also shared that something was missing such as 'praying with the worshipping community'. The Easter celebrations, with music, song, and energy drew them into new beginnings.

Last week, you received the "Holy Spirit Accountability Report for 2021" which gave you a look at faith community at work, spreading the Gospel message. Copies are available at the entrance of both worship sites and on our parish website. It is remarkable to see the amount of work that has been accomplished even as we navigate our way through the current pandemic.

In Act of of the Apostles the early converts to Christianity dedicated themselves to four things: "*They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.*" (Acts 2:42). While we can serve (Women's Group, Knights of Columbus, Alpha to name but a few) we can pray together, even for our shut-ins or those who are still cautious about gathering. The fullness of the Christian experience requires people be present together in person. We have known the painful time of separation - and rightly so - to get through the danger the virus posed before vaccines were available. With many vaccinated, taking on regular chores such as groceries and banking, many people have heard the call to come and pray and thankfully are returning.

With this in mind, I want to share with you an event that the Revitalization Committee is planning. On **July 23rd**, the Revitalization Committee will be gathering at **St. Matthew's Worship Site Hall** with the chair of all the other committees (along with 2 support members) to discuss how to continue to build up our parish and discern what direction we want to move in to best serve our community. **This meeting is IMPORTANT.** Yes, it will mean sacrificing a Saturday, but hopefully you will look at this as an investment in our parish.

Along with all committees and parishioners, our Revitalization Committee is committed to rebuilding our parish with both worship sites and exploring new ways to be Church. The pause of the pandemic caused many of us to realize how important Holy Spirit Parish community is, and it gave us the space and time away from what we "normally do" to explore other avenues to bring the Gospel out into the world.

We are Holy Spirit Parish... if we allow our 'namesake' to move us, hopefully we will not emerge from the tomb like Lazarus-bound and tied up, but like Jesus, filled with the Spirit of God, transformed and empowered to go beyond what we were before.

We are glad for everyone who has returned and for the new people who have joined us! Resurrection is happening at Holy Spirit Parish. Our doors are opened and everyone is always welcomed. It's great to be back!

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You will renew the face of the earth."

Fr. David Martin

MASS SCHEDULE 2022

May 24, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Omer Pitre Delicia Brideau
May 26, 2022	Thurs	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Special Intentions
May 28, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Mildred (Millie) Kingston Living & DFM of Daly Family
May 29, 2022	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Bob & Pat Thibeau
May 29, 2022	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Malcolm & Doreen McGovern Jessica Anderson

BLESSINGS ON THIS VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: May 22, 2022 - St. Rose Worship Site 1-2 p.m.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families Matthew Matchett, Jean Doyle, Georgina Monaghan and Carol Anne Bonnenfant,



The Women's Society is holding a fundraiser bake sale, to support our activities, on May 29th in the entrance of St. Matthew's worship site, both before and after the 11am mass. All items will be \$5, sold as a pie, a cake, a plate of cookies, a pan of squares, etc. There will also be homemade jams, jellies, pickles, and handmade dishcloths. Come buy some delicious goodies and help support what we do! Donated items to sell would be greatly appreciated, please call or text Jill 639-0007 or Angie 639-6582. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Women's Society is hosting a pot luck lunch, for all the women of Holy Spirit Parish on Wednesday June 1st at 12:30 pm in the rectory hall 279 Nerepis Road. Please bring your favourite dish to share. We really hope to see you there!



ON JUNE 10TH AT ST. MATTHEWS HALL THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 9176 AND THE CANCER SOCIETY WILL HOST A ONE TIME CHASE THE ACE EVENT. THIS IS TO COMPLETE THE SESSION THAT HAD TO STOP DUE TO COVID. THE JACKPOT WHICH IS PRESENTLY \$2, 438.00 MUST GO! THEY WILL BE SELLING TICKETS FROM 6PM – 7:45PM SO THE JACKPOT WILL DEFINITELY BE MORE. TICKETS ARE 1 FOR \$5 OR 3 FOR \$10. FIRST TICKET DRAWN WILL GET 20 PERCENT OF THE DOOR PROCEEDS. THEN TICKETS WILL CONTINUE TO GBE DRAWN UNTIL THE ACE OF SPADES HAS BEEN REVEALED.

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

May 08, 2022 – Regular \$2,882.00 Loose - \$246.00

Building Fund - \$110.00 Cemetery - \$51.00

PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$179.00

May 15, 2022 – Regular \$1,495.00 Loose - \$295.80 eTransfers - \$70.00

Initial Offering - \$20.00

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.

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.

6th Sunday of Easter - May 22, 2022

For the Month of May the bulletin, altar wine, bread is in memory of Rose Anna Pitre

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Holy Spirit Parish –Please contact Linda Spinney at 636-0677 or email her at linspin@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