

SEPTEMBER 4 – 10, 2022

Twenty-third Week of Ordinary Time

On the **Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time** we hear Wisdom marvel at God's ways. Paul writes to his friend, Philemon, about Philemon's slave, Onesimus, who is now a convert and in prison with Paul. Paul asks that he be taken back as a son or a brother. In **Luke's Gospel**, Jesus tells the crowd that following him will involve radical conversion and requires that each us discern if we can prepare for the self-denial required.

Thursday is the **Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, with its own special readings. Friday is the **Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest**.

In our first reading, we continue with Paul's **First Letter to the Corinthians**, an intimate look at the struggles of an early Church community.

In **Luke's Gospel** this week we see Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath, in a synagogue, right in front of his religious critics who plot to deal with him. Jesus then spends a night in prayer and calls his twelve closest followers. When people come to him from all over, he heals them. Jesus announces that the poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those hated or excluded or denounced because of him are the blessed. He warns those who are rich, filled, laughing and spoken well of, for their fates will be reversed. Jesus urges us to love our enemies. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned." He cautions not to be quick to see the splinter in someone else's eye when we do not notice the "wooden beam" in our own eyes. He says that we will be known by our fruit. It is only by building our lives upon him, as a firm foundation, can we hope to survive crises.

Daily Prayer This Week

This week's daily communion with our Lord can be about the mysteries of self-sacrifice and healing. In the back of our minds each day, we can have a desire to take time out of our busy days just as Jesus did, for prayer and speaking to his Father. We can be aware of the judgmental religious leaders of Jesus' time, who ignored the beam of wood in their own eyes to point out the splinter in someone else's eye. We can also ask for the vision to see how we might be blind to our own snap judgments of others.

If we begin each morning by praying a desire, the rest will follow for the day. *"Good morning, Lord. Thank you for this day. Help me today to bring to you the parts of myself that need your healing. Be with me as I face the poverty, hunger or tears of this day."* We can go into this prayer, in more depth or detail while we are in the shower or getting dressed. If we let these desires make their way into the background of our day, we can focus our consciousness no matter what we are doing.

Even in activities that require "our full consciousness" and attention, it is possible to shape that consciousness in the context of our desires. For example, I might be in an important meeting, that doesn't allow me to daydream. But, I can walk into that meeting room saying in my heart, *"Okay, Lord, be with me here. While I'm so tempted to be seen as a 'success' here, heal all of that focus on myself and free me to do my best and to be attentive to the needs of others. Let me focus on you and your desires for the greater good here."*

Especially when we are facing something that is quite difficult, requiring real self-sacrifice and genuine love, we can let our background conversation with the Lord release us from our "typical" response or behavior. *"Lord, I'm so full of fear sometimes. I see you boldly heal the man with the withered hand in front of the steely gaze of your critics. You healed because you knew it was the right and compassionate thing to do. Help me to be more courageous in choosing the right thing in my life today."*

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Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 2022. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Christian Riesbeck, CC, at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (91 Waterloo Street, Saint John NB). A reception at the Cathedral Rectory will follow, to celebrate the feast day of the Companions of the Cross and meet our two new Companions of the Cross priests, Fr. Dennis Hayes, CC, and Fr. Daren Bryk, CC. Our Lady, First Companion of the Cross – pray for us!

SEPTEMBER 11 – 17, 2022

Twenty-fourth Week of Ordinary Time

God's loving mercy and forgiveness to us is the central message in **Luke's Gospel** for the **Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**. Knowing that his audience includes not only the sinners but also the judgmental religious leaders, Jesus offers three parables about mercy, ending with the powerful story of the Prodigal Son. The father says to the jealous older son, "You are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom**, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Wednesday has its own readings with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**. Thursday is the **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows** and Friday the **Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian**, Bishop, Martyrs.

In our first reading, Paul's wonderful **First Letter to the Corinthians** continues to feed us with powerful messages about good community behavior, the Eucharist and the mystery of the Resurrection.

We experience more of the beauty of **Luke's Gospel** this week. Jesus heals the slave of a Roman officer, praising the officer's faith. He encounters a widow whose only son had died. "He was moved with pity" and raises the son from the dead. Jesus tells the people how inconsistent their responses are. At a dinner, Jesus encounters a weeping, sinful woman who washes his feet with her tears. "So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love." We hear that Jesus is accompanied by a group of women "who provided for them out of their resources." Jesus tells the parable of the sower to a large crowd of listeners. and breaks it open for his disciples.

Daily Prayer This Week

This is a good week to imagine how much we are like Jesus' disciples. We clearly want to be his followers, and we do follow him. The humbling reality is that we are inconsistent. At the very time that Jesus is telling us that he wants us to find ourselves by losing ourselves, we are too often being competitive and trying to be on top somehow. Fortunately, he keeps telling us about the real meaning of discipleship. Paul lays it all out in this week's first readings. The parable of the sower is quite helpful this week. How healthy and rich is the soil of our own souls? Can we feel the longing we have to make our hearts more receptive to the message of Jesus?

Each morning, as soon as we can after waking up, perhaps associated with some automatic behavior like putting on slippers or a robe or getting a cup of coffee, we begin the day in the presence of our Lord. We can get into the habit of greeting our Lord, "Good morning, Lord. Thank you for this day." Even if we didn't have a good night's sleep and we are waking up fairly tired, this habit can become part of our routine. Naming our desire for the day can become the way we begin our day with the Lord. Repeating it, with more details, as we encounter the people and responsibilities of our day, will deepen our relationship with the Lord. Brief "prayers" (which are really just conversations) sustain the connection all day.

In one circumstance this week, I might say, *"Lord, here I am being that very hard ground. Please get through to me in the part of me that is still 'receptive soil.'" Another day, I might catch myself trying to make myself look good and I can say, "Dear Jesus, your reminder helps me right here. Let me be a servant in this situation, with these people - forgiving, listening, compassion and freer."* Sometime this week we might encounter someone who needs us to be like Jesus - healing something that is broken, or even deadly and we can say, *"Lord, let me do your will, imitate your faith in God here. Thank you for being with me."*

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HOLY SPIRIT PARISH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society is collecting school supplies for students in need at Harbour View High School, until Sunday October 9, 2022. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated. The following items are needed:

Duotangs, pencils, erasers, pens, rulers, coloured pens, fine tipped markers, coloured pencils, calculators, backpacks.

THEY ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH BINDERS AND LOOSELEAF

Also helpful is nut-free cereal & nut-free snacks.

Thank you for your generosity.

****THIS BULLETIN IS FOR THE TWO WEEKS****

MASS SCHEDULE 2022

Sep 06, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Sep 08, 2022	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Sep 10, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Ralph Magee Francis McHugh
Sep 11, 2022	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Medore & Alice Arseneault Maddy Murphy
Sep 11, 2022	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	DFM William & Ida Ferguson
Sep 13, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Sep 15, 2022	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Sep 17, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Lawrence McGrath Ida Mersereau
Sep 18, 2022	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Lloyd Dickson Margaret Dickson-Hamilton
Sep 18, 2022	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Rachel Quinn Joey Bourgoin

PLEASE NOTE – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ST. ROSE PLACE (FORMER RECTORY) IS CLOSED TO THE PARISH & PUBLIC

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Aug 21, 2022 – Regular \$1,955.00 Loose - \$328.00 Food Bank - \$45.00
eTransfers - \$60.00 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$179.00
Aug 28, 2022 – Regular \$2,245.00 Loose - \$421.60 Food Bank - \$20.00
eTransfers - \$140.00 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.

“Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Dan McNeill (brother to Fr. Doug McNeill) and Matthew Trecartin.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Religious Education for 2022-23 is now open at <https://www.holyspiritreparish.ca/catechism/>
Yearly registration is necessary, and names will not be carried forward from previous years.

Details regarding scheduling will be determined as we see the numbers registered according to age/grade, and I hope to have that available by mid-September

THERE IS A NEW CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: holyspiriteducationsj@gmail.com

Thanks You - Linda Spinney - Religious Education Coordinator – Holy Spirit Parish

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.holyspiritreparish.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.

Ordinary Time – September 04 & 11, 2022

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: September 4, 11 & 18, 2022 at St. Rose Worship Site 1 – 2pm

For the Month of September the Sanctuary Light is in memory of Jacqueline Pitre

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Holy Spirit Parish –Please contact Linda Spinney at 636-0677 or email her at holyspiriteducationsj@gmail.com

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