

UP AND COMING CELEBRATIONS

Reconciliation Service

On **December 7 at 7 PM** a **Reconciliation Service** in preparation for Advent and Christmas will be held at **St. Matthew's Worship Site**. You are invited to come join with others as we acknowledge our need for healing and reconciliation. Please mark your calendars!

Saint John High School Choir

Once again, under the direction of Trish Gallagher, the Students from SJHS will come and perform for us all the classics of the season, including some of their own selections. This has become a beautiful tradition at **St. Rose Worship Site, Thursday, December 15 at 6:30pm**. A free will offering will be taken.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Society bake sale was a big success, we made \$751.10. We would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone who helped, from set up to clean up, those who worked behind the tables, those who baked and donated, and of course those who purchased all the delicious food items. Our success is due to everyone's kindness & generosity. Thank you!

The Women's Society is hosting a Christmas pot luck lunch, the first one since 2019! We are hoping to see lots of women from both worship sites. Please bring a food item of your choice to share. We will be having a Yankee gift swap, the gift is to be of no more than a \$10 value. We guarantee an afternoon of good fun. Please join us on Friday December 9 at 12:30pm in the Rectory Hall.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY!! The Women's Society is selling tickets on 2 beautiful hand stitched quilts. The quilts and tickets will be available at all 3 masses Saturday and Sunday. The draw is planned for December 9, so get your tickets while you can!!

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Nov 27, 2022 Regular \$3,072.00 Loose - \$279.00 Food Bank - \$20.00 Missals - \$86.00
eTransfers - \$100.00 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.

Cribbage Games at St. Matthews Hall Wednesday evenings at 7pm. All Welcome!!

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Blanche McGowan

2023 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The 2023 collection envelopes just arrived this week. I will be working on them in the next couple of weeks – please be patient as I need to attach labels to each box with the owners name. Thank you for your patience!
Bernice Martin

MASS SCHEDULE 2022

Dec 06, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Delcia Brideau
Dec 08, 2022	Thur	Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	6:30pm	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Dec 10, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Ned Morrissey Stanley Gaudet Rachel Butler
Dec 11, 2022	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Kay Connolly
Dec 11, 2022	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Doris Fury

HORIZON RECOVERY CENTRE (LONEWATER FARM)

The Women's Society is coordinating donations for Horizon's Recovery Centre. Donations will be gratefully accepted on the altar of both worship sites up to and including Sunday December 11, 2022. If you have any questions please contact Jill at 639-0007.

PLEASE NO mouthwash, aftershave or cologne as they often contain alcohol.

Suggested items are:

Shampoo, conditioner, other hair products, combs, hair brushes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, floss, safety razors, shaving cream, deodorant/antiperspirant, face cloths, nail clippers, winter hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, socks, gift bags, candy or any type of treats for stockings, board games, DVDs, small gift cards for prizes. Also appreciated is goodies, snacks, or restaurant takeout gift cards that the boys could enjoy at our little party!

Any extra items are used throughout the year as many of our clients arrive with little to nothing in the way of possessions and are commonly in need of basic toiletries.

SAINT JOHN CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE 2022

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.

Fr. David Martin

VIRTUAL ADVENT MISSION: on December 5-7, Bishop Riesbeck will preach a three-day Advent Mission on the theme of, "The Great Commission." Diving into Jesus' call to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations," this Mission will help equip people first to **know** Jesus, to **grow** with him as his disciples and in community with one another, and finally to **go** to the peripheries, spreading the Good News to all we meet and inviting people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus and his Church. The mission will be broadcast live each evening between 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm from St. Mary's Church (St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish) in the Miramichi Region. To foster fraternity and enter into this Advent mission in a spirit of prayer and community, please consider organizing in groups and watching together. To join the mission virtually email nmazerolle@dioceseofsaintjohn.org to register. (In light of Bishop's suggestion to organize a group to watch together, you can attend a group session via zoom in the Boardroom Diocese of Saint John, 1 Bayard Drive. Doors will open at 6:00 pm.)

Second Week of Advent

In the **Second Sunday of Advent** we hear **Isaiah** write of peace and prosperity that will come when the “root of Jesse” blossoms. “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.” **Matthew's Gospel** brings us the famous Advent reading of John the Baptist serving as a voice of one crying out in the desert, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

Wednesday is the **Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church**. Thursday is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** with its own special readings.

We focus on the first readings from the Prophet **Isaiah** this week. With the Babylonian Captivity, the temple was destroyed, the leaders of the people were taken away to Babylon and a remnant was left behind. A life-threatening desert separated the people. In this context, Isaiah proclaims God's vindication of the people in exile. The desert will be reborn. A highway will bring their liberation. And the signs will be that there is healing and peace. “Comfort, give comfort to my people,” says the Lord. The valleys will be filled in, the mountains leveled - every obstacle will be overcome - to build a highway for our God to come and save us. The people can hardly believe the good news. They are weak and weary of their captivity. Isaiah proclaims, “They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles’ wings.” He offers support: “I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’” The people have been at a distance from the Lord for some time and were not obeying the commandments. The Lord says, “I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go.” The final first reading this week is a piece from the book of **Sirach** in which the prophet Elijah is praised. Elijah, who was destined to come again to restore order before the day of the Lord, is seen in the reading from **Matthew's Gospel** to be John the Baptist.

The gospels this week, taken from various evangelists, show Jesus as the fulfillment of the liberation promised. Jesus heals the paralytic. He tends to the lost sheep of his flock. He comforts us who labor and are burdened. Jesus teaches a true wisdom.

Daily Prayer This Week

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our busy lives begins with getting in touch with our own desires. Advent is a wonderful time to ask myself, “What am I looking for? What do I desire? What longing can I recognize in my heart?” The answers to those questions will be our best guide for daily prayer. The readings this week offer some possible ways to talk with the Lord about our desires.

We can begin by trying to get in touch with a part of my heart that is divided, perhaps with a desert separating the two parts. For example, is there a disconnect between my primary commitments and the amount of time and attention that I give to them? Is there a distance between who I say I am and who I actually am? Do I experience something missing between what I believe and how I live those beliefs? We all have these contradictions and inconsistencies within us. These are the places into which we can let our Advent desiring grow. This week, we can imagine the prophet saying, “There will be a path between what is separate or divided or at a distance in your life!” or “What is desert, barren, dry and life-less in you will come to life!” We can hear, “You will find freedom and comfort, where you have been finding yourself in a captivity to pattern and routine, where you have felt weak and weary.” “Learn from the Lord and learn real wisdom.”

When one or more of these desires really strikes a chord in our hearts, Advent begins for us. Each morning this week, we can turn to our God, when we first wake up, while in the shower or getting dressed, and simply ask: “Come, Lord. Come into this place, into this embarrassing place of need in my life.” We may be able to be specific and ask, “Please, Lord, come and be with me and bring life and hope into my morning as I face this meeting.” As we go to work or do laundry or shop, or head home from work, we might ask even more specifically for the grace to love - to take the liberating journey across the desert and let the Lord bring us home to a place of comfort, healing and peace.

Advent is about our coming to a felt sense of our need for a Savior and letting our Savior into our hearts to save us. Advent comes alive for us as we identify our desires and let them be expressed as longing and expectant hope. Into this space our Lord comes with good news, healing and a peace the world can't give. As we taste our desires and longing grow, we can give thanks each evening before we go to bed, to acknowledge we are being given a great grace of a growing intimacy with our God, right in the midst of our very busy days.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

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.

Second Sunday of Advent –December 04, 2022

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Dec 04 & 11, 2022 at St. Rose Worship Site 1 – 2pm

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

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