

WHAT AN ADVENT... 2022!!!

This year we were privileged to have had 4 full weeks of Advent to help us prepare for the great feast of Christmas. Below is a list of opportunities and avenues that were offered to our parish... to take advantage of the time of preparation... to 'make straight his highway... to fill in valleys and to level mountains.' Isaiah. To review:

- Reflection Booklets, "This will be A Sign For You" Henry Nouwen
- Collecting for Men's Addiction Centre (Formerly Lone Water Farm)
- Blankets (and ongoing Soup) for Avenue B
- Evening Prayer with Celebration of Light
- Reconciliation Service
- Masses
- Art and Environment
- SJHS Choir
- Funerals
- Baptisms
- Confirmation



In all of these 'encounters' with the risen Lord, hopefully, we are able to make spiritual resolutions to draw us deeper into relationship with "Emmanuel," God-With-Us. First and foremost, I want to thank on your behalf our **Liturgy Committee** who always work so hard to make our 'encounter with Jesus' the most fruit-filled in ways of preparing, organizing and implementing the many Liturgical options given to us. None of these things happen by themselves! Thank you to our Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Sacristans and anyone else who helps prepare for our celebrations. A special note of thanks to those who have gone through our **Lay Formation Program**. You know who you are. Without your gifts and talents our parish communities lack richness in many liturgical celebrations, including our **Advent Candle Light Evening Prayer**. As well as the **Women's Group** who are always on the forefront of serving our parish. They are a 'power house' of putting the Gospel into action. I would encourage other women to get involved with them and enjoy the work and gratitude of serving others in and beyond our parish boundaries. **Art and Environment** need no explanation for what they do speaks for itself. However I speak words of thanks and gratitude to them on the many silent ways they lead us deeper into prayer. I speak words of gratitude for our **Catechists** who continue to help prepare our younger companions in ways of the faith. Both First Reconciliation and Confirmations were great celebrations for our community. As well, I want to thank **Bernice** our Parish Secretary. Without her gifts of laughter, humour, sound judgement, presence to those who come to our office via in person or phone, the scheduling, prep work for meetings, and everything else that she does to make our parish what it is! Thank you!!

And to all of you who 'step up to the plate' when there is a parish need, such as to serve funerals, paint or co-ordinate electricians and carpenters when needed. It is your gift of service, who have an interest in our parish and continue to give of yourselves and of your resources. Thank You! For anyone who many still wonder 'what is evangelization?' Re-read, just 're-read' this reflection. You're doing it...!! And I pray... that you Keep doing it!!!

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*Every time a hand reaches out to help another...
that is Christmas.*

*Every time someone puts conflict aside
and strives for understanding...
that is Christmas.*

*Every time people forget their differences
and realize their love for each other...
that is Christmas.*

*May this Christmas bring our world closer
to a spirit of caring, closer to the blessing of peace!*

**Merry Christmas to You and Yours,
Fr. David**

MASS SCHEDULE 2022 / 2023

Dec 27, 2022	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Dec 29, 2022	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Dec 31, 2022	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Patricia McIntyre Yvonne & Leo David Brian LeBlanc Millie Kingston
Jan 01, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Raymond Sweet
Jan 01, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	DFM of the Garnett Family Susan & Allan Roberts
Jan 03, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Jan 05, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Jan 07, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Eric Vautour Donald Rousselle
Jan 08, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Joan Theall
Jan 08, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Joan Bourque Victor McGowen

****OFFICE IS CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS****

The 2023 envelopes will be available Dec 31/Jan01 in the entrance of each workshop site. I apologize for not having them available earlier. If you presently have 2022 envelopes your number WILL NOT change. Your name & address will be on the 2023 boxes. Please check for accuracy and let me know of any changes.

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Dec 18, 2022 Regular \$1,421.00 Loose - \$100.00 Food Bank - \$40.00 Christmas Exchange - \$1,480.00
eTransfer - \$110.00 Sanctuary Light/Bulletin-Wine-Hosts - \$250.00
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.

On behalf of the parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and to thank the Knights of Columbus 9176 who recently disband. Their long history of ministry among us will not be forgotten. As well for their kind donation of \$1,000.00 for our new projector. Fr. David

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Louise Long, Sharon Lyons, Doreen Williams, Paul Phillips & Stephanie Kingston

Looking for someone to shovel the Rectory & St. Matthews Worship Site Entrances – please call the office

Diocesan Census Mid-December 2022 through Mid-January 2023

All parishes across the diocese are participating in the "I Know My Sheep" census over the next month, when there is typically increased Mass attendance. The goal of the census is to update each parish database with current and accurate contact information for our parish families, to update the diocesan database, and to prepare for a planning study to test a potential diocesan wide capital campaign in 2023. Having updated information will also give our parishes a better idea of who is in our parish and hopefully improve communication. This weekend, and every weekend through to January 15, there will be census cards made available. We are asking each family to take just a couple minutes to complete a card. These can be returned by placing them in the offertory basket, dropping them off at the parish office or sending them by mail. Thank you for your cooperation in this important effort.

Daily Prayer – Dec 25 – 31, 2022

This can be a wonderful week to stay in the Christmas spirit. This past weekend may have been quite full for many of us. Others of us may be alone, except from the faith community we will join on Christmas, perhaps daily this week. We are entering into the Christmas season, with its special graces.

Whether this week is full or slow, it is a treasure filled opportunity for reflection. Using the same means we've been using, we can let the richness of this week's readings and feasts fill the background of each day. Even on Christmas day we can wake up, surrendering anxiety by letting the anxiety of these days take us to the scene of our Lord's birth. We can imagine the anxiety that filled the experience of Mary and Joseph. We can keep in our consciousness their trust in God. The Christmas music on the radio or at our church services and liturgies can bring the faith of these hymns and songs into our hearts. And, once it is there, these songs of faith will remain in the background all day long. When we are tempted to worry or complain, to be hurt or angry, to be frustrated or exhausted, the hymns will draw our hearts to rejoicing and gratitude.

Thinking about Stephen the Martyr or John, the apostle of love. Or, the martyrdom of the innocents, with a little desire and focus, can guide our hearts to reflect on the meaning of Christmas - the gift of self-giving love. We can ask ourselves, what generosity can come from the gratitude I have in my heart after celebrating the gift of redemption? Who in my world needs more love? What happens in me when I think about the people in the world who need my support? Who is being martyred today? Who is witnessing our world's rejection?

All of us can imagine Jesus, Mary and Joseph going home. We can imagine their daily life. We can ask for the grace to live in God's presence, just as they must have done, and for the grace to be sensitive to each other and care for each other as they must have. We can ask that we might imitate their busy lives, trusting and dependant on God. Looking on their hidden life together, we can grow in a desire to be more humble, in a peace with greater simplicity, in courage to let God take care of us. Whether we experience the poverty of that holy stable or the ordinary simplicity of daily routine, we can enjoy this week as a special opportunity to be drawn to a greater closeness with Jesus. On New Year's Day we can ask Mary to place us with her son.

Daily Prayer – Jan 01 – 07, 2023

This second week of the Christmas Season can be a great help for our daily connections with our Lord. We have the full and wonderful Solemnity in honor of Mary, in her role as "Mother of God." We can ask her to be our guide all week as we desire to grow closer to her Son. We can read Pope Francis' words for the World Day of Prayer for Peace and ponder them from time to time this week.

As we go through our daily and often very busy lives in these days after Christmas, we can continue a sense of this brief season by continuing to ask that our Lord come to us in the ways we still need light and healing and peace. For some of us, this will be an easy prayer this week, waiting faithfully can continue into the Christmas Season.

A special grace to ask for this week would be the gift of celebrating our Lord's presence with us. We can ask for it every morning, as we get going and we can enter into brief conversations with our Lord, in the background, as we encounter some of the places in our life in which we can see more hope, more of an opportunity for peace. This week, we might hold up each member of our family, close friends and neighbors, and those we might work with, seeing and celebrating how our Lord is manifest in them. For some of us, there may be real epiphany moments, when we see what we haven't been seeing, feel what we haven't been feeling or experience a call we haven't felt before. Being watchful for and open to these special post-Christmas moments of grace is very important.

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, these days are short and darkness comes early. Perhaps we can light a candle every evening this week at dinner just to celebrate the Light of Jesus that comes into the darkness of our lives. In the Southern Hemisphere, there is so much light, we can rejoice with it.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Avenue 'B' are looking for clean, gently used, blankets and/or sleeping bags. If you have any to donate you can drop them off at either Worship Site office, Tue/Wed SMWS Office or Thur/Fri at SRWS Office or you can bring them with you to Mass. We will ensure they are given to Avenue 'B'. Thanking you in advance! God Bless!!

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.

December 25, 2022 & January 01, 2023

For the month of January 2023 the Sanctuary Light at St. Matthews Worship is in memory of Elizee Robichaud from his wife Carmelle.

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Jan 01, 15 & 22, 2023 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

Facebook: Gentle Path Counselling Services
<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling>
services/

Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001