

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU 2022 !!!!**

Dear Parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish,

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany, which draws to close the Christmas Season. I would like to thank each and every parishioner for your ongoing participation and generosity during our Christmas season and including the past year; not only in monetary support, but also in your gift of faith and service, sharing your God-given talents to help bring alive our parish community. As well, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all of you who remembered me with your prayers, cards with supporting sentiments, beautiful gifts, and food, during this holy season. We continue to be a parish of gratitude for all that God has blessed us with. Therefore, I want to acknowledge and ‘thank’ the following:

- to our musicians and cantors, Mary Rose Daigle and Trish Gallagher. As well as students from Saint John High School who joined Trish to enhance our 6 pm Christmas Eve Mass.
- to those on our Liturgy Committee, including the Art and Environment committee who helped parishioners decorate our worship spaces.
- to those who keep our sign at St. Matthew’s Worship Site up-to-date... even in the worse weather.
- to those who made monetary donations to our Christmas Baskets Fund.
- to those who offered ‘generous response’ to **Lonewater Farm**. Truly what you donated was phenomenal!!
- to those who continue to make and donate soup for **Avenue B** and offered food and monetary donations for those in need.
- to our Secretary, Bernice Martin, for her ongoing commitment to our parish and it’s administrative demands!
- to anyone or ministry I may have inadvertently failed to mention and those of you who have contributed “silently” in any way toward making this a truly blessed and joyful Christmas celebration, I thank you. These “gifts from the heart” are great signs of the love you have for your faith community.

In his poem, **“When Christmas Begins”**, Michael Doughy tells us that once the ‘visible’ Christmas is put away... the ‘real Christmas begins...

*When the Carols have been stilled;  
when the star-topped tree is taken down;  
when family and friends are gone home  
when we are back to our schedules;  
the Work of Christmas begins:  
to welcome the refugees,  
to heal the broken planet,*

*to feed the hungry,  
to build the bridges of trust,  
not wall of fear or anger.  
To share our gifts,  
to seek justice and peace for all people,  
to bring the Light of Christ  
into the World.*

**Finally, I would like to wish you and those your loved ones every good blessing for 2023!**

**Fr. David**

*Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of  
Mary Ann Patterson and Maurice Gallant*

**COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!**

**Dec 25, 2022 - Regular - \$2,905.00 Food Bank - \$140.00 Christmas Exchange - \$20.00  
SJHS Choir Donation - \$400.00 eTransfer - \$90.00 Christmas Day - \$5,509.20  
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,694.00 PAD BLDG - \$179.00**

**Jan 01, 2023 - Regular - \$1,635.00 Loose Collection \$179.00 Initial Offering - \$191.00  
Christmas Exchange - \$100.00 Christmas Day - \$870.00 New Year’s Day - \$615.00 eTransfer - \$350.00**

**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.**

**MASS SCHEDULE 2023**

|                     |             |                                  |                |                                       |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Jan 10, 2023</b> | <b>Tue</b>  | <b>St. Matthews Worship Site</b> | <b>7pm</b>     | <b>John &amp; Peter Leger</b>         |
| <b>Jan 12, 2023</b> | <b>Thur</b> | <b>St. Rose Worship Site</b>     | <b>12:10pm</b> | <b>Stephen Doyle</b>                  |
| <b>Jan 14, 2023</b> | <b>Sat</b>  | <b>St. Rose Worship Site</b>     | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Ralph Magee<br/>Bruce Melanson</b> |
| <b>Jan 15, 2023</b> | <b>Sun</b>  | <b>St. Rose Worship Site</b>     | <b>9am</b>     | <b>Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI</b>     |
| <b>Jan 15, 2023</b> | <b>Sun</b>  | <b>St. Matthews Worship Site</b> | <b>11am</b>    | <b>Norbert Mittelholtz</b>            |

**The 2023 envelopes are available in the entrance of each workshop site. Your name & address will be on the 2023 boxes. Please check for accuracy and let me know of any changes.**

***Thank you!!!!***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your Christmas Blessings, kind words and your thoughtful gifts. I am proud to be your Parish Secretary. I want to wish you all the best for 2023.

***Bernice Martin – Parish Secretary***

**The Women's Society is holding a food drive for HVHS, until February 12, 2023**

**Requested items are:**

Canned sandwich meat (chicken, ham, tuna, etc), Canned milk, Creamed corn and canned corn (already have lots of canned peas and beans), Mayonnaise, **NUT FREE** healthy cereals and granola bars, oatmeal. Pasta (already have lots of KD). Rice, red lentils, barley (already have lots of kidney beans).

**Soups (canned or dried):** Chicken noodle, vegetable, cream of mushroom (already have lots of tomato soup), boxed soup broths.

HVHS regularly distributes food and gift cards for groceries to students and their families in need, as well as winter wear, footwear, and personal items. They would gladly take donations of winter outerwear, are always in need of men’s footwear, as well as personal items, such as deodorant, tampons, and laundry soap.

**Thank You from Harbour View High School:**

**Just prior to Christmas a lovely card of gratitude was received from HVHS and is posted on the bulletin board in the entrance of SMWS**

***"Dear Holy Spirit Parish,  
Thank you for your continued support of HVHS students in need. We appreciate the ingredients parishioners have provided for healthy breakfasts, and lunches, we are extremely grateful for the donated hats, mittens, and the large amount of school supplies that have been distributed to classrooms throughout the school."***

The Prayer Shawl group resumes on Wednesday, January 11, 2024 at the Rectory Hall. We meet weekly from 10am to 12pm. We provide all the materials as well as lots of fun. **New people are always welcome!** Prayer shawls, hats, and mittens can also be made from the comfort of your own home. Please contact Jill if interested: 639-0007.

**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.

## The Epiphany of the Lord

**In the U.S. Sunday is the Epiphany.** It is the time for us to celebrate that our Lord's coming was revealed to and was really for the whole world.

Sunday is the **Baptism of the Lord in most of the world. It is celebrated on Monday in the U.S.** We hear the Lord say in the first reading from **Isaiah**, "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit." That is echoed in **Luke's Gospel**, after Jesus' baptism: "And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the **Christmas season. We begin Ordinary Time** this week on the Church calendar which will continue until **Ash Wednesday**.

During this first week in Ordinary Time, we begin a four week cycle of weekday readings from the **Letter to the Hebrews**. This is the longest letter to any community in the New Testament. It seems to be a discouraged community that receives encouragement in this letter.

For the next eight weeks, until the beginning of Lent, the weekday gospels are from **Mark's Gospel**. Mark offers us a look this week at the beginning of Jesus public ministry. He drives out evil spirits, heals the sick and forgives sins, to the skepticism of the scribes. He hears the cry of the leper: "If you wish, you can make me clean," and Jesus, "moved with pity" heals him. Friends lower a paralytic from a roof down into the crowd in front of Jesus, who heals him and says, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Jesus extends an invitation to the despised tax collector, Levi: "Follow me."

### Daily Prayer This Week

In this first week of Ordinary Time, we might find ourselves feeling a little let-down after the Christmas season, especially in parts of the world where it seems cold and dark most days. This is where we can ask for the grace to let the stories of the gospels come alive in our hearts.

The vivid narratives of this week's gospel are packed with stories of Jesus' entering into the lives of real people and touching them in extraordinary ways. These are not far away stories, but ones that have a real meaning for us. This is a week of invitation from Jesus to us, with two invitations for us to ponder in our hearts this week.

Jesus encounters Levi, a Jewish tax collector. Because of his profession, he was probably wealthy but he had humiliated his family and made himself a pariah to most of those around him. Jesus' response to this "outcast" was to invite him to be one of his closest disciples - and to dine at his house.

In our own lives we may find a loneliness or separation from people in our family or others in our lives. We have parts of our lives that are dark and embarrassing and seem unchangeable. It is into this very darkness and discomfort that Jesus extends the same invitation to us - "Follow me." This clear and personal call to us is from Jesus who already knows us and our failings and yet asks us to be with him. We can hear this invitation more clearly if we can be touched with awareness of our own failings and understand more deeply how much we need a savior in our lives. It is then that our hearts open to accept this invitation.

This week Jesus invites us to follow him, as friends and disciples. This is a good week for us to contemplate with Jesus, what we are looking for and how much we want to turn and follow him. We can pray to Jesus for the strength to leave the patterns and habits of our lives that so often turn us away from him and ask for the grace to make a new beginning in our lives. If we can sit with our hands open in humility, we can accept that we can't do this on our own, but know in our hearts that with the help of God, nothing is impossible.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

**Knights of Columbus 17984 Breakfast: Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9am – 1pm at the Assumption Centre. Adults - \$10, children (12 years and under) - \$4.**

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

**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](mailto: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](http://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.*

### *The Epiphany of the Lord - January 08, 2023*

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

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR FINANCIAL DONATIONS FOR 2022 IS JAN 12 ,2023**

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Jan 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](mailto: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](http://www.gentlepathsj.com)**

**Facebook: Gentle Path Counselling Services**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling>**  
**services/**  
**Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001**