

Holy Spirit parish is pleased to announce our Lenten theme for 2023 is “Enlarging the space of your tent,” (Isaiah 54:2). This theme title is taken from our global Synod. I want to thank the Liturgical Committee for their input and support. ~Fr. David

### The First Week of Lent

On the **First Sunday of Lent**, we begin our Lenten journey, remembering how God re-established the covenant, after the flood, and we reflect on how Jesus began his public ministry with a retreat of forty days - led to the desert by the Spirit.

After last week's first four days, the next three weeks of Lent represent a period of instruction, originally designed for the Catechumens (those preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil). We can read these readings as a catechism of renewal for us all.

The first weekday reading of week one is the great giving of the Commandments: “Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” Jesus gives the great parable about the last judgment - separating the charitable from the uncharitable: “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Then, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. He says that it is an evil generation that looks for “signs.” He is the sign - a call to repentance. On Thursday, when we hear the desperate but faith-filled prayer of **Esther**, Jesus tells us to pray confidently. And he sums up the whole law and the prophets for us: “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.” Jesus says our holiness has to go beyond the letter-of-the-law holiness; it must touch our anger, our judgments of others, and be reconciled with those we've wronged. The holiness Jesus proposes for us calls us to love our enemies, even to pray for those who persecute us. We are called to love the way God does.

### Daily Prayer This Week

This first week of Lent is the time we are given to begin our Lenten patterns, to re-align our priorities, and to make use of more reflective time each day. It is a time to fast and abstain from those things that hinder our relationship with the Lord, and to consider being more generous to the poor.

As we make this beginning, we are offered some beautiful instruction about what is expected of us. These readings describe a very Jesus-like love. We can examine our care for the hungry, thirsty, naked, the stranger, sick or imprisoned. We can reflect upon who in our lives needs us and whether we love them as we want to be loved. And we can look at the deeper things, like our anger or how we treat others, and our response to those who are our “enemies.” What is most important this first week, beyond a sharper examination of our consciences, is to see this as a time for God's grace to work in us. So, it is a time to ask for the graces we are starting to see we need.

Each morning this week we can ask our Lord to help us focus this day on the neediest people around us. We can ask to begin new patterns this week by practicing special charity and love, where I haven't been so generous or kind before. The key is to ask and to be very specific. Then, throughout the day, we can keep talking with our Lord, in the background, about these graces we ask for and the concrete circumstances we find ourselves in. It is in the particular events of our day that we will become attentive to our need for our Lord's presence and grace, as well as our need to choose a new pattern. Each evening, we can briefly review the day and recognize some missed opportunities to connect with the Lord or take advantage of a situation here or there, but most of all, we can thank the Lord for the moments of connection that have begun our Lenten journey.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

*Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Viola (Vi) Legere*

The Prayer Shawl Group meets Wednesdays at the Rectory 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**

### LENT 2023

#### “Enlarging the Space of Your Tent”

This Lent, as we had done in previous years (before the pandemic) we have decided to have a theme to help us in our Lenten season. Hopefully, you have noticed the ‘Large Tent’ in each worship site, to help us to focus on our “journey together”. This quote from Isaiah 54:2 which is the translation of the word “SYNOD”. Based on the document from the Vatican, “**Enlarging the Space of Your Tent,**” informing us on the survey that the whole world was invited to take. This report is providing valuable feedback to the People of God (Church) regarding the survey. It was decided that this would not only be a great theme for our Lent, but also keep us connected to the Synodal process that will end in 2024. Below are some things that you’re invited to keep in mind and to put in your calendar for the beautiful season of Lent.

- Each week, emphasis will be placed on one of 5 themes that have come from the Synod Document: Week 1, **Listening**; Week 2, **Mission**; Week 3, **Dignity**; Week 4, **Communion**; and Week 5, **Liturgy**. All designed to expand our understanding of what it means to be “Church”. While at the same time, bringing us closer to God and one another.
- Each Weekend Mass will begin with the announcement of our theme followed by a 2-3 sentence reflection, to help focus us for the Liturgy.
- For the next 40 days, emphasis will be placed on **SILENCE**. We are invited to save our conversations for after Mass (tough one for me!!).
- You are invited to use the whole church space for prayer... a lot of time and effort has gone into preparing our worship sites for our Lenten Season, look at the tent... bring our younger companions! Please, take advantage of it to help us in our Lenten journey!
- Be sure to see the beautiful sign made by our Religious Education Program: some very thought-provoking tidbits can be found here!!
- Some dates to keep in mind:
  - March 15: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm at St. Matthew's WS
  - March 22: Reconciliation Service 7:00 pm St. Rose WS
  - April 4: Chrism Mass Cathedral Immaculate Conception

Have a Holy and Blessed Lent!

Fr. David

#### WE ARE LOOKIN FOR.....

**It has become apparent that we are in need of a Technology Committee. We'd prefer a little diversity with a couple of adults and a couple of youth. We need some experience with IT as well as people with an aptitude and desire to learn. Editing and photo editing skills would be helpful. This team will be led by Matthew Tingley, a member of the Revitalization Committee. This subcommittee will work closely with a soon to be established Communications Committee. Duties will include:**

- **Maintenance of our website ( learning and implementing the technology)**
- **Setting and delivering on a social media presence**
- **Implementation, utilization and upkeep of audio-visual tools**

Interested parties, please contact the office – 506-738-2320 or 506-653-6850

#### ALSO

Wanted 1-4 volunteers for a one-time project. To build our sense of community, we are looking for an outreach program where many people can get involved. Rather than re-invent the wheel, we are looking for a group that already has infrastructure, a mandate etc. The plan is to gather information on projects that already exist within faith and community groups in Saint John West and Grand-Bay Westfield. A short list will be presented for voting to understand what our Parish Community is excited to embrace. For input, ideas and to volunteer, contact Patti Blake at [pattiblake07@outlook.com](mailto:pattiblake07@outlook.com) or 738-8264

## MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Feb 28, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Parishioners
Mar 02, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Mr. & Mrs Harry Reicker
Mar 04, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Kay Morrissey
Mar 05, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	John (Jack) Murphy
Mar 05, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Gerry Abbott

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: IF SCHOOL IS CANCELLED SO IS THE WEEKDAY MASS FOR THAT DAY\*\***

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

Feb 19, 2023 - Regular - \$2,115.00 Loose Collection \$242.60

Food Bank - \$40.00 eTransfer - \$80.00

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.**

CCCB video series *Journey through Lent* will be available once again on the CCCB website. This year's Lenten reflections are delivered by His Eminence Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, and the Most Reverend Brian Joseph Dunn, Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth.

Videos for **Ash Wednesday** and for the **First Sunday of Lent** will be posted on the CCCB website

In English: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent-2023/>

In French: <https://www.cecc.ca/evangelisation-catechese-et-education/ressources-video/cheminer-ensemble-durant-le-temps-du-careme-2023/>

Every Monday throughout Lent, a video will continue to be posted on the CCCB website in English and in French for the following Sunday's eucharistic celebration. Also on that Monday, in a memo, I will provide you with the links to the videos, which you will be invited to include on your diocesan website and to share with parishes and pastoral offices.

Originally proposed by the Executive Committee, this video series, featuring reflections on the gospel reading for each Sunday of Lent, is a joint project of the *Office national de liturgie*, the *National Liturgy Office*, and the *Office for Evangelization and Catechesis* (English Sector). It is hoped that this video series will provide you and the faithful in your dioceses with additional opportunity to prepare for the Church's celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday.

**The Women's Society's monthly meeting will be on Tuesday February 28 at 130pm in the Rectory Hall. All women of both worship sites are welcome.**

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Knights of Columbus Council 17984** is offering one \$300 bursary to any parishioner who is presently attending a Post-Secondary institution. All that is required is to write a letter or email with information about your present Educational situation to: Knights of Columbus Council 17984, PO Box 27067 RPO Lancaster, Saint John, NB, E2M 5S8 OR email [fncurrie@live.ca](mailto:fncurrie@live.ca)

### 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.*

**First Sunday of Lent - Feb 26, 2023**

**“THOSE WHO LOVE MORE CAN DO MORE”**

~St. Gregory the Great

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Mar 05, 12 & 19, 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