

The Fifth Week of Lent

The **Fifth Sunday of Lent** brings us closer toward the Passion and death of Jesus. This is the third and final week of [Scrutinies](#) in our parishes for those in the RCIA program. In **John's Gospel**, we hear the story of the raising of Lazarus. Jesus was not there when his dear friend, Lazarus died, but after meeting with Lazarus' grief-stricken sisters and weeping himself, he stood at the door of the tomb and called, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

The first readings prepare for the gospels. We begin with the long, but wonderful story of Susanna, who trusted in God. The bronze serpent on a pole reminds us of Jesus' saving cross. Three young men refuse to commit idolatry and show us how God protects "the servants who trusted in him." God enters a covenant with Abraham. Despite his persecution, Jeremiah praises God, "For he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!" God promises the people of Israel "a covenant of peace."

Our gospels are again from the **John's Gospel**, also known as the **Fourth Gospel**. On Monday, Jesus is presented with a woman caught in adultery. Reminding us of the bronze serpent and his death, Jesus says, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM." To the children of Abraham and to us Jesus declares, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." "Whoever keeps my word will never see death.... Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM." They heard what they thought was blasphemy and tried to stone him. Jesus simply told the truth, because, "the Father is in me and I am in the Father." After the raising of Lazarus, the plans were set to destroy Jesus. The high priest says the prophetic words, "it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish"

Daily Prayer This Week

This is the last full week of Lent. We can feel the conflict and struggle developing in the readings. As we read about the drama that surrounded Jesus' last days on earth and reflect upon its meaning, we experience how the drama that is going on in our own hearts is more intense the closer we get to the end of Lent.

The Spirit of the Lord is really trying to help us be more open and more free, to receive the graces our Lord wants to offer us. There is another spirit that is fighting just as hard to distract us, discourage us, and prevent us from being open and attentive to God's gifts. The closer we get to the mystery of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection for us, the more we can experience struggle. If I experience myself somewhat "at war" with myself, then these are very important days to keep deliberately asking our Lord to help me.

It is also a great time to begin to prepare to renew the baptismal promises at Easter. We can reject the unloving choices we've made, all that is unjust, dishonest, disrespectful and violent. We want to refuse to be mastered by empty promises. Declaring our desire for freedom is a great preparation to receive this great gift. If we are celebrating the Scrutinies with the RCIA candidates and catechumens, this is a wonderful time to pray for them as well, for their protection from the evil one in the last days of their journey.

If we have developed the habit of naming a desire the first thing each morning, and carrying on a conversation with our Lord in the brief background moments of the day, we are already comfortable with letting the Word or the Season interact with the concrete events of the week. This way of finding intimacy with our Lord, through our daily interaction - even in a very busy life - is so appropriate for the Fifth Week of Lent. We can discover areas that are still resistant to God's grace. We can ask for help to practice new ways of being free, or new ways of loving. We can find ways to make financial sacrifices to give to the poor this week.

Each night this week, we can give thanks. The closer we get to celebrating Holy Week and the events that brought us our salvation, each of us can express our gratitude, realizing this was all for me.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

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

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:

April 4: Chrism Mass Cathedral Immaculate Conception 6:30pm

Have a Holy and Blessed Lent!
Fr. David

PLEASE NOTE: LEGION OF MARY GATHERING FOR ACIES CONSECRATION CEREMONY HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR MARCH 26, 2023 AND WILL BE RESCHDULED TO SOMETIME AFTER EASTER – STAY TUNED

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**

Holy Spirit Parish Women's Society - The monthly meeting of the Women's Society will be held on Tuesday March 28th at 130pm at the Rectory Hall. All women of both worship sites are welcome.

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

Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinic Church of the Resurrection 20 Mcdonald Ave
Free basic Tax only Every Saturday from 10 to 2 until April 29, 2023
For more info call 506 647 6532

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Mar 28, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Gary Mittelholtz
Mar 30, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Dianna Blizzard Marie Jeanne Haché
Apr 01, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site PALM SUNDAY	4pm	Edmund Gaudet Carol Dionne
Apr 02, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site PALM SUNDAY	9am	Eldon (Oupie) Roberts
Apr 02, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site PALM SUNDAY	11am	Gerry Abbott

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Mar 19, 2023 - Regular - \$2,025.00 Loose Collection \$283.00 Snow Removal - \$550.00
 Food Bank - \$70.00 eTransfer - \$40.00 Building Fund - \$215.00
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,794.00 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.

SNOW REMOVAL EXPENSESCAN YOU HELP?

Once again, we are appealing to your generosity. As you can see below both December and January have been costly months for snow removal. Whatever monies you donate will be credited to your 2023 income tax receipt. Thank You!

Here are the totals for December & January for both worship sites. Snow Removal - \$10,006.72

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED!!!

2022 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

It is that time of year again when I ask you to submit a report from your respective committees so we can prepare our Accountability Report for the parish.

Please submit your Report to the office via email by March 31, 2021.

WE RE RUNNING ALPHA! IT IS A "GO" AND WE ARE EXCITED!

To date we have enough registered guests to run our in-house Alpha Program starting April 13th, 6:30pm-8:30pm. There is room for more guests – there is still time – there is room for you - and bring a friend. We told you there will be delicious food and the meal planning is well underway.

We do need more help with hospitality and cooking. We are hopeful that the Lord will provide us with cooking teams.

Please contact Patti Blake at Pattiblake07@outlook.com, H- 506-738-8264 C – 506-609-1318, if you can help in any way.

To register: Email: AlphaHolySpiritParish@gmail.com, call 506-738-1994, or through Facebook – Holy Spirit Faithbook.

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

“THOSE WHO LOVE MORE CAN DO MORE” (St. Gregory the Great)

Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 26, 2023

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION HAS RESUMED AT ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITE BEGINNING AT 3:15PM PRIOR TO THE 4PM SATURDAY MASS

For the month of March the Sanctuary light at St. Matthews Worship Site is in memory of Jacqueline Pitre

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Apr 02 & Apr 09, 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