

## The Fourth Week of Lent

The **Fourth Sunday of Lent** brings the story of the man born blind from **John's Gospel**. His disciples ask, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus heals the man who now sees more clearly than the Pharisees the true identity of Jesus. "I do believe, Lord."

The first readings this week can be read as powerful messages to us from our God about our Lenten journey. They also seem to be chosen with an eye to the persecution Jesus will experience.

Our gospels this week are all from the **Fourth Gospel**. After two days of healing stories, the opposition against Jesus builds. In Cana, in Galilee, Jesus heals the son of a royal official. Back down in Jerusalem, he heals a man who was sick for 38 years, incurring the wrath of his enemies because he did it on the sabbath. Because of this, and because he called God his Father, they now plot a way to kill him. Jesus says his opponents do not want to come to him for life. Unafraid of them, Jesus goes to Jerusalem for a feast and openly tells people that he has come from God. They did not arrest him then, "because his hour had not yet come." Divisions occur when the chief priests and Pharisees argue that Jesus cannot be a prophet because he is from Galilee. The guards respond, "Never before has anyone spoken like this man."

## Daily Prayer This Week

The readings this week make it very clear that Jesus faced opposition that couldn't accept who he is. We see that Jesus comes to lay down his life that we might live. So, this week of Lent is an important time for us to ask ourselves if there are any parts of our hearts, any of our patterns, which oppose Jesus and his desire to give us life. This kind of honesty can transform our lives. It can allow the grace of God to bring reconciliation and healing we might not have imagined.

Even if it hasn't been easy to get really engaged with Lent so far, we can still make a beginning, even now. The key is openness and desire. If we can feel any attraction, any sign that the Lord is possibly drawing us closer, then the Lord can work with us - no matter what resistance or fear we might also be experiencing. All we have to do is act out of these desires and simply ask the Lord for the grace to help us be more honest and more open to what he is offering us. For example, we can ask for the grace to examine our consciences more thoroughly. We could try a different approach to facing any resistance we might have to the Lord's working in us. We might not commit the big sins, but we may not have examined what we fail to do. Who am I failing to love, to forgive, to be generous to? With whom am I withholding affection, care, reconciliation? Where can I live more honestly, with more integrity? How might I proactively change patterns of escape with patterns of care for others?

It is a time of grace when we can experience moments of "recognition," or self-understanding. It isn't grace to "beat up on" ourselves. It is grace to feel grateful to the Lord for showing us obstacles to the life he is offering us. It is grace to feel our spirits lighten as we feel drawn to greater freedom and peace. It is incredible grace when we are drawn to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This week, let us give thanks to the Lord who deeply desires our greater freedom and joy. As we go to bed each night, let us thank the Lord for what we saw that day and renew our desires for the next day of grace.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

## LEGION OF MARY GATHERS FOR ACIES CONSECRATION CEREMONY

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization in the Catholic Church with a twofold purpose of the spiritual development of its members and the advancement of the reign of Christ through the Virgin Mary. Fr. Daren Bryk CC, the diocesan spiritual director of the Legion of Mary will celebrate the Acies service and speak on the importance of Marian Consecration for the turbulent times in which we live. All are invited to come out and join the Legion of Mary members to consecrate and renew their consecration to Jesus through Mary. This celebration will take place at St. Matthews Worship Site on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 2pm. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

**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**

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:

**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

## LISTENING SESSIONS: SAINT JOHN REGION

Join us at one of our Saint John region listening sessions to give your thoughts about a potential diocesan capital campaign to support:

- Cathedral Restoration
- Endowment for Parish Evangelization Efforts
- Individual Parish Needs

### We want to hear from you!

- March 19: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 2:00pm
- March 23: Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 7:00pm

**Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Bishop J. E. Troy, Anita Barnes, Filippo Rocca and Lino Pascon**

**MASS SCHEDULE 2023**

Mar 21, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Mar 23, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Mar 25, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Margarite Robichaud Jinitte Comeau
Mar 26, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Medore & Alice Arsenault
Mar 26, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Blanche McGowan

**WE ARE IN NEED OF MASS INTENTIONS – ESPECIALLY WEEKDAY!!!!**

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

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

Mar 05, 2023 - Regular - \$2,245.00 Loose Collection \$166.00 Snow Removal - \$130.00  
 Food Bank - \$40.00 eTransfer - \$10.00 Catholic Missions in Canada - \$25.00  
 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.

K of C Council 17894 will be holding their monthly Rosary and Adoration service at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 23, at St. Rose Worship Site. Our theme this month is Praying for Peace. All are welcome.

Knights of Columbus 17984 Breakfast: Sunday, Mar 19, 2023 from 9am – 1pm at the Assumption Centre. Adults - \$10, children (12 years and under) - \$4.

**SNOW REMOVAL EXPENSES ....CAN 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

**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.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A GUEST AT THE HOLY SPIRIT ALPHA PROGRAM**

**When:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 **Duration:** Every Thursday Evening for 11 weeks:

**Where:** St. Matthews Worship Site, Holy Spirit Parish – 45 Dollard Drive **For whom:** Everyone and bring a friend!!

**To register of if you have questions:** email [alphaholyspiritparish@gmail.com](mailto:alphaholyspiritparish@gmail.com) or call 506-738-1994

**LET US DREAM - THE PATH TO A BETTER FUTURE**

Francis of Rome in conversation with Austen Ivereigh  
 Sunday – March 19 or March 26 from 2 to 4 at Villa Madonna  
 Session facilitated by Muriel Jarvis of Chamcook  
 To register and receive book: call:506-642-3152 (Doreen/weekdays)

**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**

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

*Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 19, 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: Mar 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/>

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