

## Easter Week

On the **Second Sunday of Easter**, we get a picture of how the early community gathered around as “Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.” **John's Gospel** gives us two post-resurrection stories that feature Thomas, the doubting apostle. “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

The **Acts of the Apostles** all this week offers us the challenges the apostles faced from the earliest communities and from the Jewish authorities.

For the remaining five weeks of the Easter season, our readings will be from the **Acts of the Apostles** and from **John's Gospel**, with stories of Jesus' ministry not heard during the Ordinary Time of the liturgical year.

The weekday readings begin with the frightened Pharisee, Nicodemus, coming at night to speak to Jesus, asking how anyone can be “born again.” Jesus says we must be born of water and Spirit. The gospel offers a poetic look at light and darkness, good and evil: “the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light...But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” John writes, “For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God.” After Jesus' disciples tell him to send 5,000 people away, he shows them how to feed them all. He walks across the sea to meet his apostles in their boat, saying, “It is I. Do not be afraid.”

And, all this week prepares us for the **Third Sunday of Easter** on which we will reflect on the Resurrection story about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. We are prepared to encounter the same pattern: they don't recognize Jesus, but he opens their eyes in the “breaking of bread.”

## Daily Prayer This Week

This is a wonderful week to pray in joy at God's merciful love for us, and for the unending forgiveness we are offered. We know we have done nothing to deserve that forgiveness and that we cannot earn it, and yet it is ours, if only we can accept it.

Over and over this week, we are invited to place our trust in God. The ever-human disciples didn't always put aside their fears, and neither do we. We can imagine the terrified followers of Jesus hiding behind locked doors until he appears in their midst, inviting them not to be afraid.

This might be a good week to spend time with Jesus looking at the fears in our own lives which keep us locked up away from others. We can ask Jesus for the courage to trust in him. What would it cost us to let go of the fears that smother our lives? What would it mean for our lives and for the relationships in our lives if we were willing to let go of “the way we have always done things” and to beg Jesus for help? Our lives can change. We have a standing offer from our Lord to fall into his forgiving embrace.

*Dear Lord, it feels impossible to believe that my life can change, that I can move out of this rut I am in. I know I don't always live my life feeling your love and being my best self. Help me to trust in you, to drop my defenses and to feel how deeply I am loved and forgiven by you. Give me the courage to feel it in my heart when you say, “Don't be afraid” and “Peace be with you.” I so long for that peace in my life but it feels so far away sometimes. Help me to believe in you, to drive away the doubts and unbelief that harden my heart.*

*I know my life can change, if only I can say with all my heart, “I trust in you, Lord. I believe in your mercy and I know that with your help, my life can be healed.”*

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

**The Women's Society is holding a raffle of 2 beautiful quilts, at both worship sites, all 3 masses, on the weekends of April 22-23 and May 13-14. The winning tickets will be drawn on June 2nd. Proceeds from the raffle are going to the St. Augustine Memorial Garden. Thank you for your support.**

**Knights of Columbus 17984 Breakfast: Sunday, Apr 16, 2023 from 9am – 1pm at the Assumption Centre. Adults - \$10, children (12 years and under) - \$4.**

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH LENT AND EASTER 2023 THANK YOU!!!

Usually I wait until Pentecost Sunday, the close of the Easter Season, to convey out “thanks” to all those who worked so diligently to make our journey from Lent to Easter Sunday such a holy and sacred experience. However, with time moving so quickly, some people head for cottages or vacations by the end of May. So here we go... As you can see below, many people were involved and generous with their time, gifts and experiences. So on your behalf, I wish to extend a blessed **Thank you...**

- to those who attended and prayed with and for our celebrations.
- to those who provided music and song for our celebrations; our cantors and organists who worked so attentively, dedicating themselves to enhance our liturgies.
- to our “Liturgy Committee” who helped plan and implement our Lenten Theme, “**Enlarge the Space our Your Tent.**” As well I want to thank this committee who helped prepare liturgies, clean, decorated, and maintain our worship spaces, again enhancing our prayer. Well done!
- to Doug Hubbard, our Liturgy team and for the priests who helped celebrate a spiritually rich beautiful Reconciliation Service.
- Stephen Parker and Liturgy Team members who led Evening Prayer... again, aiding us on our Lenten Journey.
- to those who kept our entrances shoveled and sanded.
- to our Religious Ed Coordinator, Linda Spinney and those who help form our young people in the faith.
- to our Revitalization, Building & Maintenance and Finance Committee's for your hard work and ongoing support and encouragement.
- to our Alpha Group who continue to work so hard in bringing this gift to our parish. It is my hope that many will experience this faith-filled opportunity... !
- to Paul Harrison who continues to do a great job in managing our Parish Sign.
- to those who do so much “behind the scenes” with little or no recognition.
- to those of you who continue to say “yes” putting so much of yourselves into the Lenten and Easter celebrations.
- to those who prepared Committee Reports for the “Annual Year End Accountability Report”
- to Bernice Martin for her dedication to our parish. Once again, we are grateful to have Bernice as part of our team to help our parish both function and flourish. Well done Bernice!
- to anyone I may have inadvertently not mentioned.
- finally, on a personal note, during these challenging times, I would like to again thank all of you for making this Lent and Easter seasons such a wonderful experience. Your prayers, Easter wishes, gifts, chocolate and words of encouragement and affirmation were greatly appreciated and always remembered!

As we continue to live out His Resurrection in our daily lives, may God continue to bless all of you with peace, love and joy!

Father David

**MASS SCHEDULE 2023**

Apr 18, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Laurel Sullivan-Doiron
Apr 20, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Larry Joudry
Apr 22, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Kim Melanson Murdoch, Melba & Donald King
Apr 23, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Leo Dignard Anita Barnes Godin & Levenshulme DFM
Apr 23, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Gordon Henwood John White

**CONGRATUALIONS**

*On April 07, 2023 Barb & Terry Levenshulme celebrated 50 years of marriage. Please join us in wishing them many blessings on their Golden Anniversary*

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

Apr 09, 2023 –Regular - \$2,540.00 Loose Collection \$586.50  
 Good Friday - \$1,644.50 Easter Sunday - \$3,175.00  
 Snow Removal - \$320.00 Food Bank - \$200.00 eTransfer - \$40.00  
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,794.00 PAD BLDG - \$179.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

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

The Revitalization Committee needs to create a Communications Team. You will be a point of contact for all ministries to create and share content across our various social media platforms. You will also help create written and spoken messages as not everyone is active on social media. A willingness to occasionally take photos would be an asset. Please contact Patti Blake at 506 738-8264

**This weekend we welcome into our Faith Community through the Waters of Baptism...**

*Leonard Samuel Parlee Cohen James Butler Emeric Marc Thomas Frigault  
 Della Mae Frigault Logan David MacNeil*

**Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Laurel Sullivan-Doiron, Sr. Margaret Rose Nickerson SCIC and Joseph Landry**

**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**

**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)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter - April 16, 2023**

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

**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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