

The Third Week of Easter

The **Third Week of Easter** begins with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize him until the breaking of the bread. The gospels all week are about his being broken and given for us as Bread that Gives Life.

In our first readings from **Acts of the Apostles** this week, we read of Stephen, one of the earliest martyrs, and of Philip converting an Ethiopian slave along the road. Next is the story of Saul, persecutor of Christians being blinded and then healed by Ananias in the name of Jesus. The week ends with Peter traveling the region and healing.

The Gospel for this week is from Chapter 6 of **John's Gospel** on Jesus as the "Bread of Life." Like so many stories in this Gospel, Jesus teaches from one layer of understanding to another, taking us deeper into understanding his gift of himself to us in the Eucharist. Jesus says, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life." "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world." "Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him." This marvelous dialogue ends with this exchange with his disciples: "Jesus then said to the Twelve, 'Do you also want to leave?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.'"

Daily Prayer This Week

This can be a very good week to grow in a sense of and practice with the notion of being a "contemplative in the midst of action." We have practically a whole week of gospels about Jesus' gift of himself to us as the "Bread of Life." This gives us the opportunity to let that mystery be in the background of our consciousness every day this week, as we go about our everyday tasks. What makes it "contemplative" is that we will be asking for graces each morning, and we will let our desires and our activity interact.

We can begin reflecting upon how often we "work for food that perishes." The pay-off, the success, the accomplishment, the reward we receive for what we do is often quite passing and unsatisfying. It would be important to be able to sense anything that appears to be food that doesn't last and name it as such this week. The real food, the life-giving nourishment that our Lord offers us is himself.

If we can't celebrate the Eucharist daily this week, we can make what we used to call a "spiritual communion" simply by opening our hearts and desiring to receive our Lord, so that he remain in us and we remain in him. We can practice consciously choosing union with Jesus, our Risen Lord and only Savior, and experiencing how that would affect the choices we need to make throughout our day. If we begin each day, asking for the grace of this union, and renew the desire at brief moments we have at various times in the day, our focus and attention begins to change. We will experience a peace and a gifted lack of hunger and thirst for so many of the things that draw us away from him, from loving, from mercy, from consciousness on those in need.

If the background focus of each day this week is to desire to be fed by a closeness with my Lord, it doesn't matter how busy I am, or how many conflicts I have to face, or what suffering I or my loved ones must endure. His flesh and blood are real food and drink because they are the real sacrifice that takes away the power of sin and death itself. United with his surrender to the Father, we set free from whatever can take away the life he gained for us. For this gift, for this faith, we can give thanks for every night, as we review our union with our Lord each night.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

This weekend we welcome through the 'Waters of Baptism'.....

Christian Avila Rivas

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 25, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Laurel Sullivan-Doiron
Apr 27, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS (Priests Meeting)
Apr 29, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Hermel Desjardins
Apr 30, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Anita Barnes
Apr 30, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Duncan Keenan

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING IS APRIL 25, 2023 AT 1PM AT THE RECTORY – ALL WOMEN FROM BOTH WORSHIP SITES IS WELCOME!!

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Apr 16, 2023 – Regular - \$1,990.00 Loose Collection \$299.00
Easter Sunday - \$35.00 Food Bank - \$50.00 eTransfer - \$80.00

PAD Weekly Average - \$1,794.00 PAD BLDG - \$179.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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

The monthly K of C Rosary and Adoration service will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, April 27th, at St Rose Worship site. Our theme for April is Faith Renewal. All 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**

28 beautiful Prayer Shawls were blessed last Saturday at St. Rose Worship Site. The shawls are available for anyone in need of spiritual comfort, at no charge. They are found in the entry way at St. Matthew's Worship Site, and at the front of St. Rose Worship Site, to the left of the altar.

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**

Focus on Life: Saint John Chapter NBRL is hosting Fr. Tom Lynch, President of Priest for Life, on Sunday May 7th at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Saint John. He will be presiding and preaching at the 10:00 AM and 11:45 AM Masses. There will also be an Ecumenical Celebration 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome!

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)

3rd Sunday of Easter - April 23, 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

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling-services/>
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