

Easter Week

Easter Sunday, we read from the **Acts of the Apostles** to hear Peter's preaching about the Resurrection. The **Letter to the Colossians** reminds us "You have died and your lives are hidden with Christ in God." The Gospel is from **John's Gospel** and gives us the first story of that Easter morning - Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and runs to Peter and the "disciple Jesus loved" to tell them. They run to the tomb and discover for themselves that it is empty.

The first reading for Easter Week is from the **Acts of the Apostles**. We hear Peter's preaching the Good News and experience the first deeds of the Apostles, which parallel the acts of Jesus, including the conflicts he experienced and his power to heal.

The Gospels this week are all resurrection appearances. These wonderful stories contain some common elements. They appear designed to make it clear that this was not a group of disciples who dreamed up the resurrection, because they were hoping for it so much. In fact, they found it difficult to believe. The Jesus they saw and experienced was not a "ghost." Instead, he had a body.

Monday, is the story of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, as well as the "cover-up story" and pay off of the guards. Tuesday, we read of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene, through the eyes of **John's Gospel**. Jesus missions her to announce the Good News to his brothers. On Wednesday we are treated to **Luke's** marvelous story of Jesus' appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were sad, because they had hoped the story would have turned out differently. Jesus tells them why he had to first suffer and die in order to enter into his glory. As they stopped to eat, "he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." Thursday Jesus appears in the room where the disciples are gathered. "Peace be with you" he says and then eats with them and shows them his wounds. On Friday, we have the powerful appearance in **John's Gospel** at the Sea of Tiberias. Peter decided to return to fishing. Jesus appears and re-missions him. On Saturday, the week concludes with the summary of appearances in what appears to be an addition to the end of **Mark's Gospel**.

Daily Prayer This Week

We now begin a celebration of the **Resurrection of our Lord** for the next seven weeks - when we mark the **Ascension** forty days after Easter and culminating in the celebration of **Pentecost** on the fiftieth day after Easter. This week, we begin that deepening realization of, and reflection upon, the meaning of the gift of life we have received in God's raising Jesus from the dead so that we might have eternal life.

Just as it difficult for many of our cultures to face the reality of death, it is difficult to accept the reality of life after death. St. Paul invites us to live in this passing world with our hearts set on the world that will never end. This week let us try to open our hearts to a felt sense of what a difference it makes that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is alive, that he allows us to recognize him in the breaking of bread, and that he missions us to proclaim this Good News.

Each morning this week, we can pause for a moment and simply thank God for our being alive today. Even more, we can thank God for the life that Jesus won for us. Throughout the day, and at different brief moments, we can remember that this is Easter Week and ask to live more freely today, more gratefully. We can name the grace in our own terms and in the context of what we are experiencing, what gets us discouraged or what gives us life. Overall, we want to live the freedom we have been given. If death has no hold on us, so many of our fears would melt away. If we realized our ultimate home is in heaven, our spirits would be lighter and we would walk around more gratefully.

So, as we go through this week, we can let ourselves believe in the Resurrection that was won for us. "Lord, I believe in the gift of life you have given me in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus." We can say this act of faith, or sing any of the wonderful Easter songs in the back of our minds, as many times as it takes to let ourselves feel the effects of Easter.

Perhaps we had a difficult Holy Week or Easter. There might have been loneliness or family conflicts. Perhaps we are facing a chronic illness or deep struggles with a loved one, or we are grieving the loss of a loved one. These, and many other struggles can challenge our Easter hope and joy. This is the week to place our trust in the one who is now alive, so that we can live forever. We can ask for the gifts of hope renewed these days. In giving thanks, we can ask that our hearts be opened even more to receive the gift of his Spirit.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

EASTER BLESSINGS 2023

Dear Community and Friends of Holy Spirit Parish, Alleluia!

May the Risen Lord give you peace. We gather this weekend to remember the great love of God, who raised Jesus from the dead. We celebrate the gift that is God. What wondrous love! From the cross, Jesus offers forgiveness, and in his resurrection, he empowers us to do the same. He does not seek retribution for betrayal, denial, false accusation, or condemnation. Instead, he breathes the new life of the Spirit into the world. Alleluia!

Please come to join us each weekend as we celebrate the great love of God together. I remember how painful it was three years ago when we could not gather as communities to rejoice in the gift of resurrection. God has raised us with Christ! Please invite family and friends; there is plenty of room for all. Everyone was welcomed by Jesus. People from many ways of life and unusual paths encountered him and discovered themselves. No matter where your life's path has led you, the feast of God's love is prepared for us all.

Even as we gather to rejoice in the Lord, we remember places of war and violence, shootings, migrants, the homeless, the poor, all who suffer addiction, the sick, and all who grieve. Together, we are the communion of saints; many people struggle and carry heavy burdens. This feast of the Lord's compassion inspires us to greater compassion. Our journey, 'Enlarging the Space of our Tent' from Ash Wednesday to today has been transformative for us. We are more open to receiving the gift of God's goodness.

We are a blessed community here at Holy Spirit Parish. We are rich in diversity and talent. Graced in prayer and reconciliation. Thank you for all you bring to the community and our life together. Now we begin the 50 days of Easter that will lead to our parish feast day, Pentecost... the coming of the Holy Spirit. May we continue to promote the love for Christ and Christ's presence in all the gifts that we share, which is fundamental to the life of this church community.

Alleluia! Thanks!

Happy and Blessed Easter

Fr. David

FEBRUARY EXPENSESCAN YOU HELP?

Once again, we are appealing to your generosity. February expenses for electricity & snow removal at both worship sites is \$11,083.08. Whatever monies you donate will be credited to your 2023 income tax receipt. Thank You!

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

**Apr 02, 2023 - Regular - \$2,570.00 Loose Collection \$330.55 Development & Peace - \$55.00
Snow Removal - \$740.00 Food Bank - \$70.00 eTransfer - \$60.00 Building Fund - \$854.00
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.

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Apr 11, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Apr 13, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Apr 15, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Jean Hughes Barbara Blanchard
Apr 16, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Terry Connolly
Apr 16, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Blanche McGowan Norbert Mittelholtz

Prayer shawls will be blessed at the 4pm Mass at St. Rose Worship Site on Saturday April 15th

THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION FOR SNOW REMOVAL

We are pleased to announce that your generosity has allowed us to issue a cheque to the West Side Food Bank for \$2,755.00. Donations received from Jan – Dec 2022.

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

WE ARE 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.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Anita Albert

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
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)

Easter Sunday - April 09, 2023

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

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: 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