

Tenth Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday is the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**. This week is a great preparation for our journey with Jesus more deeply into the mystery of self-giving love. "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."

This week we celebrate the **Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church**. Friday is the **Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** and Saturday is the **Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

The first reading this week is from Paul's **Second Letter to the Corinthians**. Paul is defending himself. He tells the people of Corinth and us not to receive the grace of God in vain. Paul reminds them about generosity and cheerful giving. He begs the community not to dismiss him because of his poor speaking abilities saying, "Even if I am untrained in speaking, I am not so in knowledge." He boasts about his weakness, which he had at first begged to be freed from by the Lord, who said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

We have ended our readings from Mark for this Liturgical Year and take up the **Gospel of Matthew**, which will be part of our readings for the rest of the year. In the **Sermon on the Mount** Jesus calls us beyond simply being moral. His message is not an "eye for an eye," but turning the other cheek, loving our enemies and praying for them. Jesus warns us about performing good deeds for others to see. He teaches us to pray simply, because our Father knows what we need. "Do not store up for you treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal... For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." Focus on God, not the world: "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and mammon."

Daily Prayer This Week

This week of prayer can be very blessed. Just as Jesus looked out on that crowd of followers and saw the spiritually poor, who were mourning and stripped of all success, looking for justice, yet themselves merciful and seeking to make peace with others, Jesus looks upon us this week. His words to us remain the same, "Rejoice and be glad." All week, we can ask for the grace to understand and embrace the blessedness of poverty, of our grief, of our seeking for justice, of how difficult it is to be merciful and be a peacemaker. We are blessed in this place, because Jesus promises we will be comforted, we will be shown mercy, we will be God's children, because the Kingdom of Heaven is ours.

So, the first movement for the week is to let Jesus change our perspective on things. We can practice all week seeing things from Jesus' point of view. When we get so angry with someone, we might be tempted to scream at them or worse, instead we can let Jesus speak to our hearts and help us with the grace to forgive that person and actually love, as Jesus loves. If our eye causes us to sin, we can hear Jesus reminding us that we'd be better without that precious gift of our sight, than suffering the deadly effects of what is happening to us, through our fantasies.

This type of daily prayer, that finds intimacy with God throughout our very busy days, can only work if we keep focusing on what we desire each day. And that can only work if we begin each day, naming our desires. Keeping the desires simple: for example, "Lord, today, please help me see the grace you are offering me in the poverty I feel in this situation." It can take only seconds to say that in the morning when I get up, or while I'm showering or getting dressed. But, by saying it "out loud," in our head, we give shape to a background place of conversation with the Lord all day. With some focused moments throughout the day, our desires will interact with the events our day.

"It is here, Lord, that you are asking me to surrender my anger. Mercy is so hard, but it is the way to life you are offering me. I know you desire mercy more than sacrifice. I so much want to know the blessedness of being a loving person. I feel more peaceful just knowing you are with me as I try to respond to this person with more compassion and forgiveness."

Each evening, our daily prayer comes to closure. We briefly look back through our day and remember those moments of "connection" and thank the Lord for the graces given. It takes practice, but the rewards are what we truly desire.

Signs of God with us, among us and imbedded in Creation

Perhaps one of the most significant and at the same time, the aspect most taken for granted in our Catholic Christian faith is our sacraments. We use them so often that we pay little attention to why they are significant for us. They define who we are, yet they often are so routine that we hardly think about them. The sacraments that are part of our Catholic Christian tradition are a proclamation, calling us, in the ordinary elements of our lives and declaring that God is with us and ever active among us.

Our faith tradition as Christians holds that God has a dream. The dream is to share God's love outward beyond God's own self. Our faith tells us that God may well be beyond us, but at the same time there is a closeness of our God which touches all of creation. One of the ways in which we speak of this closeness of God to us is by way of *sacrament*. It is basic to the Christian understanding of our relationship with God. In our Catholic tradition *sacrament* acknowledges that God is ever close to us, reaching out into the life of creation, all of creation.

Theologian, Thomas Groome of Boston College, points out that central to our Catholic faith is the principle of sacramentality. As he puts it: "The sacramental principle means that God is present to humanity and we respond to God's grace through the ordinary and every day of life in the world" (Groome. *What Makes Us Catholic*, New York HarperCollins, 2002 84).

This broad sacramentality allows us to see that God is experienced in the "stuff" of our human lives and in creation all around us. In fact, we human beings can only experience God as "embodied". Think of a time when you sensed the presence of God. It was probably a moment when some place, or some experience so moved you that you became aware that there was something beyond, some divine presence that you were encountering. What happened was that you were sensing God in the midst of our human and created reality. To embody is to allow God to be recognized in such a human, created experience.

In the Christian tradition, there are three principal expressions of this embodiment of God among us. We use the idea of *sacrament* to speak of these expressions of God's presence. The fundamental *sacrament* or expression of God's presence is the person of Jesus. In the Incarnation, Jesus becomes that tangible and visible presence of God with us. In himself he reveals the loving and liberating God and shows forth God's dream for all creation.

This Jesus, who is the first and fundamental *sacrament* of God, shared this role with his friends and disciples. In the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, his disciples were drawn into this role of *sacrament*. The followers of Jesus are members of the Body of Christ, called to be, themselves the embodiment of the presence of God in the world. In short, the church, the followers of Jesus, is the second level of *sacrament*, in our Christian tradition. We embody the presence of God, when we like Jesus, live the love and freedom to which we are called as images of God. When we live as that community of disciples, with a love open to all, then we are the *sacrament* we are called to be.

The sacraments such as Eucharist which this community of disciples share are the third level of *sacrament* in our tradition. They are an expression of a community of disciples who live for God and others. Sacraments as we celebrate them with the ordinary elements of creation and life (water, bread, oil, wine) are celebrations of the presence of God active among. They express the love of God for all.

John Jennings

Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord



GOD CREATED A BEAUTIFUL AND DIVERSE UNIVERSE

As June is Pride Month we take this time to recognize and support all the diversity within the human family. This includes not only LGBTQ2 Plus community but also our indigenous brothers and sisters, those living in poverty and all people whose voices are not heard and rights not fully upheld. Let us pray that all their human rights are upheld and respected in our society, and in the world.

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Jun 13, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Jun 15, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Jun 17, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Elizabeth Robichaud Alyer Brideau Bruce Melanson
Jun 18, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Jeanette Cosgrove Alvetta Keary
Jun 18, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Jerry Osborne

****PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO WEEK DAY MASSES DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE****

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Jun 04, 2023 – Regular - \$2,766.00 Loose Collection \$214.85
 Food Bank - \$60.00 Building Fund - \$918.00
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Mass for Those Living with Cancer at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, June 26, at 7 pm. Anointing of the sick will be offered.

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

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord... Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of J. Murray Legere and Mary 'Clara' McKinney

St. Augustine's Memorial Garden - How to make a donation: if you would like to financially support the garden, simply put your donation in a clearly marked envelope with your name & envelope number (if you have one), & drop it in the collection basket any time. Or contact the office for other options such as e-transfer.
Cheques to be made out to St. Augustine's Cemetery

The **Women's Society's Quilt Raffle** was a great success, bringing in \$1,047.55!! The quilts were drawn on June 2. The smaller quilt, donated by Diane Cleveland, was won by our own Amanda Muise. The bigger quilt, donated by Robin Naish, was won by Caroline Burke, formerly of Grand Bay-Westfield, now living in Nova Scotia. Congratulations! We are very grateful for everyone's support in the fundraiser, as well as for the generosity of the quilt donors.
All money raised is going to St. Augustine's Memorial Garden.

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)

10th Sunday of Ordinary Time - June 11, 2023

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

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: June 11, 18, and 25 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 199 Chesley Drive, Saint John 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.
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