

Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday is the **Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time**. Jesus tells us not to be afraid and to trust in his love and care for us.

We remember **St. Ireneaus** this week and celebrate the **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul** and the **Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist**.

We begin reading from the **Book of Genesis** for the next four weeks. We begin with the promise to Abram,

In the gospels this week we read the last part of the **Sermon on the Mount** in **Matthew**. In the same way he has before, Jesus calls us deeper. We are not to judge so that we ourselves won't be judged. We are to be fair in treating others if we want to be treated fairly. We have to get the freedom to recognize our own faults before we try to remove others'. We are to care for others, as we would wish to be cared for. Our security will come from building our lives on the solid rock of God's promises to us, rather than on the shifting sands of what the world might promise us. Jesus teaches us how to pray to our common Father.

Daily Prayer This Week

This is a great week to reflect on several wonderful elements of the Word and to let them interact with genuine desires in our hearts - desires that carry over from previous weeks or desires that are just coming to our awareness. We can reflect upon our call - the vocation we find ourselves in, the ways we live it and are faithful to it. We can be comforted by Jesus telling us that fear is what gets in the way of our freedom to be a witness of the Good News for others.

Fear comes in so many forms. Sometimes, when we are angry a lot, or finding ourselves to be more and more defensive, we can trace the anxiety or insecurity back to a particular fear or a general fear. How liberating it can be for us to pray for the grace to be fear-less, especially in the concrete ways that will come to us in our everyday life this week.

And it is good to recognize the traps that sabotage us in our everyday relationships and daily choices. Judging others is an easy trap for people trying to be good. It is so easy for me to notice when you aren't as good as I'm trying to be. The end result is I'm trapped, and fail to recognize my own ways of failing to love. If only we could love others, at least in the same way we crave to be loved! The culture we live in, the way Jesus describes it to us is clearly entering through the "narrow" gate. And, when I don't sort through my various and sometimes conflicting desires, it feels like my life is built upon sand. When the going gets tough, I have nothing to fall back upon. The week ends with a picture of Jesus, the healer.

Perhaps by the end of the week, the brief conversations we have with Jesus, in the midst of our daily life, will reveal desires for healing. Jesus always wants to show us how he can make us whole. He always wants us to be able to receive gifts, which we in turn can share with others. All of us can find grace in some part of the Abraham and Sarah story. Who among us doesn't feel that we are unable, too old, not religious enough, not strong enough, not ready, held back in some way from bringing forth life or fulfilling our vocation? This week is a good reminder that "nothing is impossible with God." Each night this week, we can recall what we've talked about, asked for and received, and we can give thanks.

Our Sacred Stories

Confidence in God: A Relationship of Trust and Never-failing Love

(John Jennings - 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time)

There are times when watching or listening to the news is a recipe for disappointment and even despair. Conflicts and threats in Ukraine, Sudan, the Middle East, south East Asia and elsewhere have an impact on the rest of the world. Wild fires in Canada and elsewhere affect areas well beyond the flames themselves. In many places, political life seems rife with populism, anger, hatred and extreme views. Addressing the challenge of climate change seem beyond our ability as a global community. The pain of refugees fleeing the threats at home to places often unwilling to welcome them leaves a scar on our world. Is this really part of God's plan for creation? Are we destined to live in constant peril and fear?

Fear can be debilitating. It can enchain us in a way that we lose our freedom and capacity to act. It freezes us. Many years ago, while cycling with a friend, he remarked that he did not like snakes and he hoped we would not see any along the way. Well, we did. My friend literally froze, could not move at all. The snake in fact was not a threat. It would not harm us. But that is not the point. Snakes were feared by my friend, harmless or not. And that is the point, fear takes away our freedom and restricts us.

The Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah found himself threatened as he sought to speak God's message to Israel (Jer.20:10-13). Even his close friends were rejecting the message he bore and in doing so, they were rejecting him. He cried out: "Terror is all around." In the midst of this "terror", however the prophet recognized that he did not stand alone. With him stood the Lord, the God whose message he was proclaiming. In the midst of his rejection and fear, Jeremiah knew he could rely on the Lord, who was a God of "steadfast love". (Ps.69)

At the core of the gospels is the story of the growing relationship between Jesus and his followers. As they journey together through Galilee, the bond between the teacher and disciples grows. They become friends. John's Gospel describes this relationship of love as it grows: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.... I do not call you servants any longer... but I have called you friends. (Jn.15:12-15)"

This loving bond between Jesus and his disciples is what we see in Matthew's Gospel as Jesus instructs his followers in the Sermon on Mount (Matt.5-7). The bond that was built among them then led Jesus to pass his mission on them. He called them to become apostles of the good news he had given them. It was not their private preserve. Like all good news, it deserved to be shared with others.

Good news it was. But for some whom they met it seemed a threat. So, the mission the disciples were to undertake was not an easy one, just like Jeremiah. As Jesus sends the disciples out, however, he offers them encouragement, much as Jeremiah found it.

Matthew's early Christian community faced rejection and levels of persecution and shunning by their local communities. After calling them to share his mission, Jesus urged them not be afraid. He would never leave them alone, rather he would be with them even to his Father in heaven (Matt.10:32). Matthew will have Jesus reasserting this commitment in the final words he says to them: "Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time (Matt.28:20). In John's Gospel, as Jesus enters the Passion, Jesus reassures his friends, promising the Spirit and telling them: "I will not leave you orphaned (Jn.14:18)." The relationship is unbreakable and marked by never-failing love.

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Jun 27, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Jun 29, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Jul 01, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Filippo Rocca
Jul 02, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Steve Patterson
Jul 02, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	David Goddard

EFFECTIVE JUL 01, 2023 THE OFFICE HOURS WILL BE TUES – THUR 9AM – 4PM – BULLETINS WILL BE BI-WEEKLY FOR JULY & AUGUST

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Jun 18, 2023 – Regular - \$2,122.00 Loose Collection \$365.00 Food Bank - \$60.00
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The Prayer Shawl Group is done for the summer – see you in the Fall!!

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

**Evening Prayer, Wednesday, June 28, 2023 in the Carmel Chapel,
 103 Burpee Avenue @ 7pm**

Enter the Silence together in this new season
Being the Prayer and Song of All present

The next monthly Mass for Those Living with Cancer, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will be celebrated on Monday, June 26, at 7:00 pm.

Anointing of the sick will be offered.

(Please note that this Mass is being celebrated on the 4th Monday of the month – June



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.

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
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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)

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time - June 25, 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 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)

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