

## Twenty-First Week of Ordinary Time

Keys are central to readings for the **Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The first reading from **Isaiah** offers the story of the faithful servant Eliakim, who will be given the keys for his master's palace. Paul's brief reading from the **Letter to the Romans** is a moving prayer filled with awe at the depth and unknowing ways of our Lord. In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus asks his followers what people are saying about him. Then he asks the real question, "Who do *you* say I am?" Peter's direct answer, "You are the Christ" prompts Jesus' reply that Peter would be given the keys to the kingdom of heaven and would be the rock upon which his church would be built.

This week we have the **Memorial of St. Augustine** and the **Memorial of the Passion of John the Baptist**.

The first readings this week are from Paul's **First Letter to the Thessalonians**, the oldest book in the New Testament. The letters are affectionate and frank reminders of the humiliation and challenges that Paul met in preaching to this community he loved so much. These readings are a wonderful reminder that the letters of Paul were just that - letters to teach, encourage and support early communities of Christians.

**Matthew's Gospel** this week includes stories of Jesus strongly challenging the Pharisees. He saw how they made people's lives so difficult by their insistence on the rules and appearances while neglecting mercy and good faith. He chides them for paying attention to the extraneous and not the message: "Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!" His criticism grows stronger: "On the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evil-doing." Jesus teaches about preparation: Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." In the parable of the ten maidens who go out to meet the bridegroom, many of the women did not prepare for the meeting and do not have enough oil for their lamps and Jesus says again, "Stay awake." Saturday's gospel is the dramatic story of the three servants who are given resources by their master and rewarded or punished for what they did with the resources they had.

### Daily Prayer This Week

The old Baltimore Catechism defined Prayer as "raising the mind and heart to God." It reminds us that prayer is not simply saying words to God, or even thinking over religious things in our heads. Real prayer becomes a matter of the heart. We understand prayer best when we think of it as a relationship. Growing in prayer is to grow in love, in intimacy, in a type of communication that is "heart to heart." So, on the human level, if we have a difficult time receiving love or in surrendering our self-absorption and giving love or if we just haven't had much experience of being intimate and vulnerable with another human being, then it will be difficult for us to do that with God. Conversely, anything we can do to develop our relationship skills, to de-selfish ourselves and practice accepting love and loving generously will help us grow in our relationship with God. Praying can often become easier, more personal and intimate.

This week, we can go from hearing these wonderful readings to listening to Jesus with our hearts. It is great to begin this week asking for the grace to reflect throughout the day on how we will enter "the narrow gate", by how we go about our day, interact with people, or return home from work. Then we can reflect on how we can humble ourselves and what that means for our day to day choices.

We could ask for the grace to go deeper than the externals and rules and get to the heart of our faith - loving others with the same compassion and love that Jesus shows us. For some of us, it might be extremely helpful this week to take the word "awake" and to carry it all day long. "Help me stay awake, Lord: to be alert and attentive, focused and reflective today. It will be busy, but I ask that you help me be consciously aware that you will be with me all day." We may want to ask, "Lord, let me be conscious of the many gifts and blessings you have given me. Let me reflect upon how I use each gift gratefully and for others. Let me really see today if there are gifts that I am neglecting, squandering, or simply are afraid to use. Then, give me the courage to give you thanks and to be a good steward of your gifts."

As we prepare for Sunday, we can begin to reflect upon giving up the honors in our lives. We can begin each day praying, "Lord, help me humble myself today, put myself last in caring for my family, in doing my job with a more selfless sense of service. Help me forgive people who aren't performing well or behaving well. Help me see the way you give me life in this surrender, in this freedom to spend brief moments today in talking with you, friend-to-friend, in heart-felt connection with you, for others."

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

## Holy Spirit Parish Welcome 2023 - 2024 Party

On Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 am Mass we are having a party at St. Matthews Worship Site, and everyone is invited! Starting at 12:00 noon there will be food and music followed by games and prizes! Transportation will be provided for West Saint John parishioners @11:45am from St. Rose Worship Site to St. Matthews Worship Site with a departure time of 2:30PM.

Tom Paisley has volunteered to be the Event Coordinator and planning has started with a small group of volunteers. To roll out the plans made thus far we need help with hospitality including food and beverage, greeters, games for children, our youth and games for adults, donations for prizes, venue set-up/clean-up. Please email [special.events@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:special.events@holyspiritparish.ca) and let us know if you can help. Your energy and support are greatly needed.

We also need your help in another way. Because we are missing some of our parishioners, that may be known to you such as family and friends, and who do not attend Mass regularly and do not see the bulletin and you think they might appreciate an invitation to the celebration please pass on their names. Either email [special.events@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:special.events@holyspiritparish.ca) or write their names on a piece of paper and drop it into the box in the foyer at the church.

**The Women's Society will be resuming their monthly meetings beginning on Tuesday August 29 at 130pm in the hall of the rectory. All women of both worship sites are welcome!**

## RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

**What is RCIA? (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) RCIA is a journey through which adults become members of the Roman Catholic Church. This consists of steps, periods, and rites that make up the model of Christian Initiation as restored in the second Vatican Council.**

**Invitation to participate? Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home? Have you been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic? Statistics show that most people respond to a personal invitation. So this is that personal invitation and a challenge to all of you who might know someone who fits the categories above invite that person.**

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

*Harper Marie Watson & Connie Elaine Benson*

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

Aug 13, 2023 – Regular - \$2,099.00 Loose Collection - \$325.00 Food Bank - \$65.00  
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00

Aug 20, 2023 – Regular - \$2,100.00 Loose Collection - \$395.00  
Food Bank - \$180.00 eTransfers – \$60.00

PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

**Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Edward Ackerson, Susanne Robichaud and Harold (Hal) Arbeau**

**MASS SCHEDULE 2023**

Aug 29, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Aug 31, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Sep 02, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Jeannine Brideau Reginald Thibodeau
Sep 03, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Lino Pascon
Sep 03, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Jeannette Comeau Ron Dorcas

**Please pray for the priests this week as they attend 'Study Days' at the Villa Madonna**

**SUMMER FUN – HOLY SPIRIT PARISH IS HOSTING A PHOTO CONTEST**

The photos submitted will be used to create a Parish Calendar for 2024

Send your photos to [Special.Events@holyspiritrcparish.ca](mailto:Special.Events@holyspiritrcparish.ca)

- *Contest Theme! You are on a Treasure Hunt and the treasure to find are photos that match the 12 scriptures which will be used for each calendar month.*
- *The scriptures and contest rules are listed on our inside bulletin boards, on Faithbook (Facebook) [www.facebook.com/HolySpiritRCParish](http://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritRCParish) and our Website [www.holyspiritrcparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritrcparish.ca)*
- *Contest is open to everyone – not just parish members - your friends and neighbours and strangers can participate. Open to ages 6 to 106.*
- *Send in photos new and old. Please identify the scripture that your photo aligns with.*
- *There will be cool prizes for First, Second and Third, as well as winners for the photo for each of the 12 scriptures. Winners will be announced later in the fall when the calendar will be available.*
- *Any questions or if you require the list of scriptures – send inquires to [Special.Events@holyspiritrcparish.ca](mailto:Special.Events@holyspiritrcparish.ca)*
- *Contest ends September 30th, 2023.*
- *Happy Hunting – have fun! Lots of treasure to be found!*

**SENIOR CITIZENS – 50 PLUS**

The president for the NB Senior Citizens Federation (NBSCF) are hosting an information session on the benefits of this membership

Where: Assumption Center (721 Chapel St.)

When: September 09, 2023 @ 2pm

Speakers: Percy Huntington & Robea Cormier

Bienvenue to all!

**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**

"Your Faith Family loves to celebrate your special moments with you in church, so why not share them through the Faithbook page or the Parish Website online? Please, if you celebrate a baptism, wedding, anniversary, milestone birthday, reunion, or other special occasion, send a photo you'd like to share, with the pertinent information, to [special.events@holyspiritrcparish.ca](mailto:special.events@holyspiritrcparish.ca)"

**OFFICE HOURS**

9 am to 4 pm  
SMWS – Tues & Thur - 738-2320  
SRWS - Wed - 653-6850  
Mon & Fri: 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  
Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive

St. Rose of Lima Worship Site (SRWS)  
(506)653-6850  
Civic Address: 541 Milford Road

WEBSITE: [www.holyspiritrcparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritrcparish.ca)

**HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**

**ST. MATTHEWS & ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITES**

Where we WELCOME, WORSHIP together and WITNESS

**21st Sunday of Ordinary Time - Aug 27, 2023**

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration:** August 27, 2023 @ St. Rose Worship Site 1 – 2 pm

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

**Sanctuary Light at St. Matthews Worship Site for August is in memory  
Rose Anna Pitre**

**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 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.  
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/>  
Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001