

**EVENING PRAYER IN CARMEL CHAPEL
SUNDAY, DEC 3, 2023 AT 6PM – 103 BURPEE AVENUE
(BEHIND CHATEAU SAINT JOHN)**

******ENTER IN SILENCE******

Daily Prayer This Week

The old and the new come together this week as we bring this liturgical year to a close and look ahead to Advent, which begins Sunday. We reflect that Jesus is our Savior and King. This means we are called to help build up the kingdom by loving Jesus in our poorest brothers and sisters. We will encounter readings about the generosity of a poor widow and the warning of the approaching end of time. This is meant to help us begin our preparations for Advent. The actual end of the world may not be at hand, but the Kingdom of God is always at hand for us. It takes focus and paying attention to notice the signs, the ways the Lord makes himself available to us in the midst of our busy days.

We prepare for Advent this week when we can begin a small, but honest prayer, “Come, Lord, Jesus. Come into this place and into the conflict in my life. Let me be attentive and open to see the places where I am restless, distracted and too busy. Come into my real situation - not the way I present myself to others. Come to me - the real me that needs you.” We need this kind of preparation. These are challenging times. Holidays stretch us and test us. Sometimes, under the stress of it all, we regress into behaviors that are bad and destructive, because they are familiar and what so many others are doing. Relationships get strained. Alcohol rarely brings cheer without at times risking bad patterns. So, praying these days - while very busy - praying out of our needs and even our pain - roots us in relationship with the One who always comes to save us.

For those of us in the U.S., we shouldn't miss reflecting on the meaning of Thanksgiving Day. It is an important time to be grateful for what we have received and to accept our responsibility for being good stewards of what we have, sharing God's gifts to us in loving service to others.

For all of us, this is a week to be grateful and to experience the beginning of Advent on Sunday. We can prepare to walk into Church more alert, more ready to explore our longing. We can take advantage of the many resources offered on the [“Praying Advent”](#) pages.

As we grow in our practice of connecting with our Lord and friend in brief moments throughout each day, we can develop the habit of giving thanks each night for what we have received.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY!!!!

Holy Spirit Parish along with other parishes in our diocese will be participating in a parish survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute! **Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online.** <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/b000c5> . A paper copy is available in the entry way of both worship sites for those who do not have access to a computer. Please return the paper copy to the office in the **sealed envelope** provided and we will mail them from the office and cover the postage. **Another option...** you can contact the office and make an appointment to come in and use the office laptop to complete the survey.

The window to complete the survey is from **Nov 21, 2023 to Dec 18, 2023** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help us grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to our parish and the diocese as a whole. It will aid our various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results next spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

~Fr. David

Our Sacred Stories

The Kingdom Near Us, With Us & Among Us:

Beginnings and endings are important. The first looks to the future, our goals, our aims our hopes and dreams. The second is about our arrivals, our fulfillment, our completions and results. In between, there is all the effort, the work, the challenges and struggles, the attempts and the failures, the twists and turns of the journey. Life is just such a journey, in fact, a host of journeys. What we may sometimes not be aware of in the picture is the way in which the Spirit journeys with us, from beginning to end.

Today we are at a time in our history that is filled with uncertainty. Perhaps this is always true of the human journey. But at the moment it seems more sharply defined. Two elements seem especially significant for us. The first element is a political one. War and division threaten millions of people around the world, even to the level of war. Most especially, we see this in both Ukraine and in the Middle East. The issues involved are complex and the impact on people around the world even beyond those directly involved is immense.

A second uncertainty is not a violent one, but it is for many, disturbing. The prospect of significant changes taking place within our Christian community or church causes confusion and anxiety for some. This is what we can experience as our Catholic community faces many issues and questions. In attempting to address these challenges, we find ourselves wrestling with how to handle the road ahead. For our church, the manner of doing this now, by way of a synod that involves all of us who are part of the baptized People of God – lay people and clergy. The Synod on Synodality involves all of us, whether we want to be or not.

In the midst of our human journey, we need to know we are not alone. We journey with the Spirit of God among us, and in company with the whole human community. With this accompaniment comes hope and with hope, a measure of peace and certainly a sense of support from God and from those with whom we are journeying.

Our sacred stories in the Scriptures present us with the good news of the Kingdom of God, hopeful news, signs of God's love and constant presence among us. Matthew's Gospel begins with telling the story of the beginning – God has come among us, taking on our humanity in Jesus, an expression of God's love (Matt 1:18-23). This is the Incarnation.

Jesus begins his mission with the great challenge to all humanity: He announced: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matt 4:17). This was the message we heard ten months ago, in January. We were called to recognize we are not alone in our life journey. “Emmanuel”, God is with us. This is the core message of Jesus, the Christ. His work among the poor and the suffering, the sick and the sinner was to heal and renew. This is Good News, the Gospel.

What is also Good News is that Jesus shared not only his message, but also shared his mission. The Reign of God has begun among us. We are Jesus present here and now. Like Jesus, in word and in action and gifted with his Spirit, we are to make God's Kingdom present and alive in our world.

Our faith is relational. It is built and expressed in how we live with one another, for we are disciples of Jesus, together called to bring the Kingdom to the world, to all humanity. In that fulfilled and completed Kingdom, Jesus the Christ will say: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (Matt 25:31-40)

Feast of Christ the King

~John Jennings

Donations for Horizon Recovery Centre will run from Nov 25 to Dec 17, 2023. The Centre would greatly appreciate receiving: Bar soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hair gel, hair brushes & combs, Toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, safety razors, shaving cream, nail clippers, Winter hats, scarves, gloves, socks, clothes hangers, Gift bags, candy, treats for stockings as well as snacks for the men's Christmas party, Playing cards, small games, board games, DVDs, art supplies, coffee mugs, kitchen dishes, cutlery
Please NO mouthwash, aftershave, cologne **Thank you for your generosity**

Women's Society Christmas Potluck Lunch: all women of both worship sites are invited!
Please bring a food item to share, as well as a wrapped Christmas-related gift (no more than \$10)
for a yankee swap gift exchange, on Friday December 1st, 12:30pm in the rectory hall, 279 Nerepis Road.

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Nov 28, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Nov 30, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Parishioners
Dec 02, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Eva Gogan Paddy & Agnus Addison
Dec 03, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Kay Connolly Leo Wallace
Dec 03, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Doris Fury Tess Sewell

PLEASE NOTE: If you want to meet with Father David please call the office and book the appointment with Bernice. Thank you for your cooperation.

Last weekend we welcomed into our 'Faith Community' through the Waters of Baptism....
Ian Fox and Isaac Fox

SAINT JOHN REGIONAL MISSION: on November 27-29, Bishop Riesbeck will preach a three-day Mission on the theme of, "The Great Commission." Diving into Jesus' call to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." This Mission will help equip people first to KNOW Jesus, to GROW with him as his disciples and in community with one another, and finally to GO to the peripheries, spreading the Good News to all we meet and inviting people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus and his Church. Evening missions will take place from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John. Each session will begin with Mass, with a reconciliation service offered on Tuesday and Commissioning and Healing Prayer on Wednesday. Refreshments and fellowship will follow each session.

The Prayer Shawl Group - Join us Wednesday mornings from 10-12. Call Jill (639-0007) or Angie (639-6582) if you're interested. New people always welcomed!! Yarn, needles, & patterns will be supplied, you can create from the comfort of your own home.

Women's Society Monthly Meeting - Tuesday November 28 at 130pm in the Rectory Hall. All women are welcome to attend.

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Nov 19, 2023 – Regular - \$2,200.00 Loose Collection - \$314.00 Missals - \$185.00
Food Bank - \$40.00 eTransfers - \$80.00 Diocesan Priest's Illness - \$534.00
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH CALENDAR 2024 CALENDAR

Thanks to everyone that participated in the 2023 Photo Contest. Over 70 photos were submitted which made for a great selection of photos for our 2024 Calendar. The calendar will be ready for sale in early December for a cost of approximately \$20 each. The calendar will include the winning photos from the contest. Winners to be announced when calendar goes on sale.

Before we place our printing order, we need an estimate of how many calendars to produce. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar, please add your name to the list located in the church foyer. It **will make a great Christmas Gift.**

OFFICE HOURS 9 am to 4 pm
SMWS – Tues & Thur – 506-738-2320 SRWS - Wed -506- 653-6850
Mon & Fri: BOTH OFFICES CLOSED
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.holyspiritparish.ca Email: holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com
Pastor – Rev. David J. Martin

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
ST. MATTHEWS & ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITES

"Where we WELCOME everyone, WORSHIP together and WITNESS to Jesus Christ"

Christ the King

November 26, 2023

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Nov 26 at St. Rose Worship Site from 1-2pm

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Holy Spirit Parish –Please contact Linda Spinney at 506-636-0677 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.
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