

Daily Prayer This Week (December 24, 2023)

There is a very quick transition after Sunday. Christmas is upon us. It can be difficult to stay focused on Christmas eve and Christmas day - even though the mystery before us is so powerful. We can wake each morning with a brief prayer to remind ourselves that Our Lord came in history - for me. We can remind ourselves of our Advent prayers that he come to us now. The nativity stories can remind us of how he comes, in poverty, in rejection, into the lowliest of places, so that I'll believe now, this year, that he can and desires to come into my place, my heart, my life. It is a time of deep gratitude, not matter how busy we are with many things.

The feasts take us into parts of Jesus' public life, almost completely passing over the hidden life years. The disciples are finding the empty tomb. It helps to recognize this and let ourselves enter this part of the mystery of the Incarnation. We are living in the flesh each day of our lives. He came to enter this life and be with us in it. After Christmas, we have these few days to let the blessings of Christmas settle in.

Each one of us can begin our post-Christmas time by staying in touch with ourselves in the flesh - as people touched by Jesus' coming. We can turn to our Lord throughout each day and have real conversations with our Savior. Over the kitchen sink, by the dishwasher, in front of the washing machine. While going to work, walking, going to a meeting, returning from one.

During our preparation for Christmas we were asking the Lord to open our hearts, to let us wait with patient trust, and to come to us. This week we experienced joy and the mixed challenges of Christmas. We have the opportunity to have ordinary conversations with our God who came to be with us.

Thank you so much, Lord, for becoming flesh for me. And, thank you for being with me now, in the midst of each day's joys and sorrows. I ask you to increase my trust in you, my desire for closeness with you and my commitment to turn to you all day long. Continue to be with me when I have to make difficult decisions, when I need extra patience and care when in challenging situations. Continue to let my heart experience the joy of Christmas all week as I see signs of your presence with me.

When these words take on our own voice and our details, it will feel very personal. And, when we speak about our fears, our needs, when we express our gratitude and our deep desires, we are living an intimate relationship with the one who became flesh that we might never need feel alone again.

Daily Prayer This Week (December 31, 2023)

This second week of the Christmas Season can be a great help for our daily connections with our Lord. We begin the week with the full and wonderful Solemnity in honor of Mary, in her role as "Mother of God." We can ask her to be our guide all week as we desire to grow closer to her Son. We can read the Holy Father's words for the World Day of Prayer for Peace and chew them from time to time this week.

As we go through our daily and often very busy lives, in this time after Christmas, we can continue a sense of this brief season by continuing to ask that our Lord come to us in the ways we still need light and healing and peace. For some of us, this will be an easy prayer this week. Waiting faithfully can continue throughout the Christmas Season.

A special grace to ask for this week would be the gift of celebrating our Lord's presence with us. We can ask for it every morning, as we get going and we can enter into brief conversations with our Lord, in the background, as we encounter some of the places in our life in which we can see more hope, more of an opportunity for peace. This week, we might hold up each member of our family, close friends and neighbors, and those we might work with, seeing and celebrating how our Lord is manifest in them. For some of us, there may be real epiphany moments, when we see what we haven't been seeing, feel what we haven't been feeling or experience a call we haven't felt before. Being watchful for and open to these special post-Christmas moments of grace is very important.

The Baptism of the Lord ends this Christmas Season and reminds us of the rest of our lives. As Jesus fully enters our world, by becoming one with us in the waters of baptism, we can ask for a renewed sense of our union with him in baptism - for our salvation and for our mission in this world.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

DEC 23, 2023 – 4PM – ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITE (4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS)

CHRISTMAS EVE - DEC 24, 2023 – 3PM – ST. MATTHEWS WORSHIP SITE

CHRISTMAS EVE - DEC 24, 2023 – 6PM – ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITE

CHRISTMAS DAY - DEC 25, 2023 – 10AM – SISTERS OF CHARITY – RUTH ROSS RESIDENCE

DEC 30/31, 2023 - REGULAR MASS TIMES (4PM, 9AM & 11AM)

NEW YEARS DAY - JAN 01, 2024 – 10AM – ST. MATTHEWS WORSHIP SITE

SOMETHING NEW AS WE BEGIN 2024 TOGETHER...!

On Sunday, Dec 31, 2023 following the 11am Mass at St. Matthews Worship Site we will be hosting a potluck meal at 12 noon. With brothers and sisters, along with their leadership, from the different faith traditions we will enjoy food and song together. What a great way to start the New Year by extending our hospitality to those in our Grand Bay-Westfield area and beyond. Of course this includes **all our** parishioners from Holy Spirit Parish. Why not bring a friend, your favorite dish (and musical instrument??) for a time of food and song. **Thank you to those who volunteered to help with this important ecumenical project.**

Fr. David

Dear Parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish,

May God bless your family with love and joy that will last generations.

May you all remember the true meaning of Christmas this season and join in the celebration Jesus came to give you! May His name be glorified in your family, this Christmas! Christmas Blessings to you and yours!

Father David

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Dec 17, 2023 – Regular - \$3,015.00 Loose Collection - \$479.00 Missals - \$21.00

Food Bank - \$120.00 Christmas Exchange Recovery - \$100.00

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The Prayer Shawl Group is finished for 2023 – will return January 2024.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Pam Whelpley

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Dec 26, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Dec 28, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Dec 30, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Parishioners
Dec 31, 2023	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Raymond Sweet
Dec 31, 2023	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Doreen McGovern
Jan 01, 2024 <i>New Year's Day</i>	Mon	St. Matthews Worship Site	10am	Parishioners
Jan 02, 2024	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Jan 04, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10	NO MASS
Jan 06, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Rheal Gurette Bruce Melanson
Jan 07, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Special Intentions
Jan 07, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Parishioners

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS – REOPEN ON JAN 03, 2024!!!

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 has been extended to Dec 31, 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!

SO FAR ONLY 19% FROM OUR PARISH HAS COMPLETED THE SURVEY ONLINE.

~Fr. David

SAINT JOHN CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE 2023

This year we have sponsored 29 families for the Christmas Exchange. We issued a total of \$5,000.00 in the form of a gift card from No Frills for the family to purchase food/necessities to help get them through the holidays. Any assistance from you to help defray the costs would be greatly appreciated. Just drop it in an envelope into the weekly collection with your envelope number and this will be included in your yearly tax receipt. Thank you to those who have already donated!! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!! Many Thanks!!!

Fr. David Martin

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”

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas

December 24 & 31, 2023

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Dec 31, 2023 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

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