

Third Week of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent offers us more of the promise. The words used by the prophet **Isaiah** to describe God's vindication are the ones Jesus points to as describing his own mission: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God."

We continue to focus on the first readings in this first part of Advent. From the Book of Numbers, we have the proclamation that "a star shall advance from Jacob..." Zephaniah is the prophet of impending doom, if the people don't abandon their idolatry. But this week we read about consoling healing, "on that day," when the Lord comes. Isaiah's message is full of promise: "Turn to me and be safe ... for I am God; there is no other!" God promises us, "with great tenderness I will take you back," and "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

On Sunday, we reach the **December 17th** and in these last eight days of Advent the focus returns to the gospels with stories from Jesus' family in the time before he was born. In Matthew's genealogy, we see the ancestors of Jesus.

Daily Prayer This Week

This third week of Advent, begins with *Gaudete* (rejoice!) Sunday. Our daily prayer continues to allow us to become much more concrete about naming our desires and preparing the way for the Lord. We begin this week with joy, knowing that our celebration of all the ways our Lord comes to us is getting nearer.

In these familiar readings is an invitation to us to ask again for help, perhaps especially in dealing with our fears. On Tuesday we hear God's message to us Isaiah: "Fear not. You shall not be put to shame." Fear can stop us from asking God for the very help we need in our lives.

In the midst of what our culture tells us should be a picture-perfect holiday season, we can step back and get in touch with our fears and ask God to help us deal with the relationships we are afraid of, the family tensions that make us apprehensive and the stress that can take us out of the spirit of Advent reflection. If we pause for just a minute, we can feel in our hearts that Jesus is saying gently to us each day: "Do not be afraid."

These very busy days can still be a time for us to focus our desires, perhaps each morning at the side of our bed, while in the shower or while going about our daily errands. We can ask God to remind us again that what we are doing in our daily lives is touched by the sacred because God is present in even the most mundane tasks.

"Lord, let me place my trust in you. I get so independent and think I need to fix everything myself. Let me remember not to be afraid of so much and to ask you for the healing that my heart needs so badly. Give me the patience this week to deal with the relationships in my life that need mending and the forgiveness that I can give others and that I need so badly myself. Be with me through the darkness so that I can see the light that you bring to us and the joy with which you want to fill our hearts."

We are moving toward the end of our Advent journey. Even if we don't feel like we have "started" on Advent yet, we can begin today. We are being invited: "Do not be afraid!"

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

The Women's Society is in need of turkeys or chickens to make soup for Avenue B. Turkeys are terribly expensive these days, so if anyone is going across the border & would be able to bring back turkeys, we would really appreciate it. We would reimburse you. As well, we would love to have your turkey & chicken carcasses if you don't plan to use them. Please call Jill (639-0007) or Angie (639-6582) if you can help. Thanks!

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...!

This past week I met with the various ministers in the Grand Bay-Westfield area. It was suggested that we begin a NEW tradition: Why not start the New Year by sharing a meal together? Therefore, 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

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Mary Fletcher, Suzanne MacFarlane and Joan Munn

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

SO FAR ONLY 14% FROM OUR PARISH HAS COMPLETED THE SURVEY ONLINE.

~Fr. David

MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Dec 19, 2023	Tue	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Frank Duff & DFM of Legion of Mary
Dec 21, 2023	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Charles Homer & Laurette Moyer Charles & Wanda Moyer
Dec 23, 2023	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Reg Johnston
Dec 24, 2023 Christmas Eve	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	3pm	John White Jayne Cormier Leonard & Eldora Martin
Dec 24, 2023 Christmas Eve	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	6pm	William Fox Kay & Harold Holding
Dec 25, 2023 Christmas Day	Mon	Ruth Ross Manor	10am	Sisters of Charity

CONGRATUALIONS TO HANNAH BREZENSKY WHO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION THIS WEEKEND!!

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

COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!

Dec 10, 2023 – Regular - \$1,900.00 Loose Collection - \$350.00 Missals - \$148.00
Pro-Life - \$120.00 Christmas Exchange Recovery - \$2,450.00
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH 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 is now available for those who have already signed up to receive a calendar(s). The cost is \$18 each, payable with cash or by eTransfer (holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com). If you have not requested one, but are interested in purchasing a calendar, please add your name to the list located in the church foyer. **More will be printed as required.**

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”

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Dec 17, 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

Facebook: Gentle Path Counselling Services
<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling>
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