

The Second Week of Ordinary Time

On the **Second Week of Ordinary Time**, John's Gospel offers us the story of the calling of the first two disciples. He asks them what they are looking for and when they ask where he lives, he invites them, "Come, and you will see."

Wednesday is the **Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbott**.

During the week we continue with the **First Book of Samuel**. We hear God's rejection of Saul as king. Then Samuel anoints the youngest of Jesse's sons, the shepherd boy David, as king. David kills the Philistine, winning victory for the people, in the name of the Lord. Saul becomes jealous of David and plans to kill him but Saul's son, Jonathan, changes his mind. David does not kill Saul when he finds him alone in a cave but lets him go. Saul is killed in a battle and David Grieves.

As we begin **Mark's Gospel** Jesus is asked why his disciples don't fast. He challenges the religious leaders to have a completely open mind and heart to his teaching because "new wine is poured into fresh wineskins." Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, bringing a new freedom. It is only chapter three in the gospel, but because Jesus heals a withered hand on the Sabbath, the Pharisees already seek to kill him. Jesus withdraws and people from the surrounding regions come to him, and even the demons know who he is. Jesus names twelve Apostles to be with him, to preach and to drive out demons. Jesus' relatives think he's "out of his mind" because so many people are coming to him that he can't even eat.

Daily Prayer

Ordinary Time is the longest Season of the Church year. This year we have seven or eight weeks of Ordinary Time before Lent begins. These weeks between the Christmas season and Lent are an important time to continue to work on our habits of focusing our desires early in the day and talking with the Lord throughout the day, in the background of our busy lives. This is how we become "contemplatives in action" and find intimacy with God without leaving the context of our real lives.

How do we do that with the hectic pace of our lives? We hear people say "I don't have time to pray." It isn't about finding more time but more focus in our day with God. With this type of focusing and active consciousness, we find ourselves surprised at the time we really do have. There are dozens of times in all of our days during which our minds are occupied with something: a song, re-playing the last event, practicing a conversation with someone, having an imaginary argument with someone, thinking through the "to do" list of the day. We can learn to fill these times with whatever we choose. If we choose to let it be about our relationship with our Lord, it transforms our lives.

It all begins with our mornings. This week, when we first get up and perhaps for a few moments in the shower or getting dressed, let's tell the Lord that what we desire today is to be more conscious of how what we do this day is responding to his call to me to be his disciple. Then, during the day, in those moments while driving or shopping or walking down the hall to a meeting, we can talk about how we are living our call in this or that activity we are engaged in. That conversation may get more detailed and specific in this or that set of events.

Each evening, for even a few moments, we can review our day's momentary conversations, recognizing the moments of real connection and grace and giving thanks for them, and resolving to take even greater advantage of these opportunities the next day.

My Dear Parishioners,

We have begun a new year and if changes are to be made, this is the time to do it. I am the Chair of the Priestly Wellness Committee. This committee strives to help priest deal with day-to-day demands of parish life. As 'pastor' we stand in the presences of the local bishop as his representative. The parish priest is responsible from 'Light bulbs to Sacraments'... that is EVERYTHING. Like so many others in society, priests are not immune trying to cope with the demands that come our way. With most parishes twinned or merged into larger units, have only increased the demands. Along with the "Priestly Wellness Committee," I am also part of the "Priest Council," "Personnel Committee" and "Sabbatical Committee." We have just come through a merger and renaming of a parish as well as survivors of the pandemic. Like so many others, the number of those attending mass has not returned to pre-pandemic numbers.

At the same time, priests are getting older. I know in myself, with ongoing stress of parish, my own family and my personal life and trying to be everywhere, often at the same time, my energy and patience has dwindled drastically and I have now found myself in a 'not-so-good' place. To say that I am grateful for Holy Spirit Parish is an understatement. This is a beautiful community with so many wonderful gifts and talents. You have risen to the challenge to help take on leadership roles in each of your respected committees. Our style of leadership at Holy Spirit is 'collaborative' and it needs to stay that way in order to grow. As well, I am grateful to Bernice who has taken on extra so that we may flourish.

This past week, I received the minutes of the Priest Council Meeting (I missed this meeting because of a funeral). It has been approved by the diocese that priests now get 2 days off instead of the previous 1. Many times priests do not get their days off because of funerals. I want to continue to serve you by giving you only my best. But in order for that to continue, I need to start caring for myself. One of the most important things that I do is the preparation of homilies for the weekend liturgies, which you know I take very seriously. This takes time, research, reading, prayer, reflection, and note taking before it is presented to you. Funeral homilies require the same amount of work but in a shorter time frame.

Therefore, **STARTING IMMEDIATELY** funerals will not be held on Saturday and I will be taking Monday and Tuesday as days off. **This means the Tuesday evening Mass will be moved to Wednesday evening at 7 pm. The Thursday at 12:10 pm will remain.** As well, I am asking those who have my cell number **to call the office first.** Most times, I too, need to check with the office to answer your question. Hopefully these proactive measures will help reduce stress and get myself back on track. Please pray for me and for all who serve you. Again, only God knows how grateful I am to be your pastor and I want to remain so but changes need to be implemented.

Fr. David

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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| Jan 17, 2024 | Wed | St. Matthews Worship Site | 7pm | Robert Elder |
| Jan 18, 2024 | Thur | St. Rose Worship Site | 12:10pm | Wallace John Willar |
| Jan 20, 2024 | Sat | St. Rose Worship Site | 4pm | Albenie Robichaud & Solange Robichaud |
| Jan 21, 2024 | Sun | St. Rose Worship Site | 9am | Jonathan O'Brian Margaret Norwood |
| Jan 21, 2024 | Sun | St. Matthews Worship Site | 11am | Parishioners |

Please remember to put your name, address and phone number on your 2024 donation envelopes, especially if you are using the envelopes for the first time. This allows me to provide you with your income tax receipt.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH 2024 CALENDARS

Thank you to everyone who ordered these calendars. We had an overwhelming response and have sold over 100; several more were given free to people whose photos were published. If you ordered a calendar on the sign-up sheets and have not picked them up, please call John Doubt at 506-738-1994. If you haven't seen these, they contain beautiful photograms taken by members of our parish and friends, during our summer photo contest. There are still a few extra for sale, they will go first-come-first-served. Please call John Doubt if you would like to purchase one.

The Women's Society would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the generous and kind parishioners who donated turkeys, turkey and chicken racks, ham bones, as well as financial support for the soup we make for Avenue B. Your thoughtfulness will go a long way to feeding the hungry.

Thank you to the Wednesday Night Crib Club for donating (\$1,400.00) their proceeds from Sep – Dec 2023 to Holy Spirit Parish

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Stephen Levenshulme (brother to Terry Levenshulme).

The Prayer Shawl Group resumes on Jan 17, 2024!!
Join us on Wednesday mornings from 10-12 at the Rectory Hall, 279 Nerepis Road, Grand Bay-Westfield. 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.

COLLECTIONS

Jan 07, 2024 – Regular - \$3,178.00 Loose - \$298.65 Initial Offering - \$745.00
 New Year's - \$430.00 eTransfer - \$60.00 Food Bank \$25.00
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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”

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jan 14, 2024

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Jan 07, 14, 21 & 28, 2024
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:

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| 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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