

The Third Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday is the **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**. The readings include the wonderful story from **Mark's Gospel** repeated from last week's weekday readings: Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James and John. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Monday is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Wednesday is the **Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**. Thursday is the **Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, the Apostle**. Friday we remember **Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, bishops**.

This is the third week of readings from Samuel, this week from the **Second Book of Samuel**. A young David is anointed King of Israel and with his army, captures the city of Zion. In the festivities that followed, Samuel offers the delightful image of a joyful David at the Ark of the Covenant, "dancing before the LORD with abandon ... with shouts of joy and to the sound of the horn." The Lord tells David, "I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his Kingdom firm." David sees Bathsheba, the beautiful wife of Uriah the Hittite and after having relations with her, he orders Uriah to the front of a battle where he is killed. Nathan the prophet confronts David, who repents.

In **Mark's Gospel** this week, we have many familiar stories. The scribes, hearing of his many healings, accuse Jesus of being possessed by Satan. He replies that a house is divided against itself cannot stand. Mary and other relatives arrive at a home where Jesus is teaching, but Jesus does not go to them, saying, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." He tells the parable of the sower and the seeds which fall on fertile ground and rocky soil. "Those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." He encourages his disciples not to hide their light "under a bushel basket" and tells the story of the mustard seed, the tiniest seed which grows into one of the largest bushes. In Saturday's gospel the apostles are frightened on a boat in a storm until Jesus awakens to calm the wind and seas.

Daily Prayer

This is a week where Jesus speaks of seeds being planted and of growing. We are still at the beginning of a new year, and this is a good time to answer the call in our hearts to spend more time with Jesus, in prayer.

"I'm not very good at prayer," we might say. "I don't have the time to pray." Jesus is not waiting for us to be perfect before we talk to him - he is simply waiting, right now, for us to come to him in our own humanity. This week we are invited to uncover the light of our faith, the light that warms the longing we feel in our souls for something different or deeper in our relationship with God. At this beginning of the year, we might step back and examine the ways we talk with Jesus - and the ways we hold him at arm's length.

We are being called into a relationship, a friendship, with someone who delights in us and waits for us to release our fears and come out of hiding. Where do we start? With the desire?

It can be so simple to take the empty moments of our day and just tell the same Jesus who healed and loved on earth, what is in our hearts. In the early morning moments before we get out of bed, while in the shower or traveling to work, cooking or walking the dog - we can stop and open our hearts. "Jesus, you know what is in my heart. You know what my needs are. Help me to be more open to the way you are calling me in my life."

Our prayer can be as simple as opening our hands on our lap for a moment and saying in our own words, "Show me how to come out of hiding. Give me the courage to let go of my fears and bring myself to you in honesty. Let me drop the many defenses I carry that keep me from feeling how deeply you love and accept me."

There is no right or wrong way to approach Jesus - the only right thing is that we come with an open heart and our own desire for something deeper.

Every evening as we end our day, we can sit at the edge of our bed with our hands open and say, "Thank you." We can reflect on the many ways we felt the love of God in our lives that day. What tiny seed was planted in my life to bloom? Where did I shine the light of my own faith on someone?

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Brian Robichaud

Our Sacred Stories

God's Reign for Humanity and All Creation

Some ten years ago, a movie with the title, *Warhorse* came out in theaters. It was a movie that presented a striking approach to the portrayal of World War I. Normally, we view war and its impact from a human perspective. We see nation pitted against nation, people fighting people, army against army. This film is in a way that takes us wider. While the battle at the front plays a significant role, the destruction, dislocation and impact presented in *Warhorse* helps us to see that war reaches much further. It has its impact on the countryside, the animals, people who are combatants and non-combatants - war is truly a universal tragedy affecting humanity and all of creation.

Counter to this image of war and violence is the image of the kingdom or the reign of God that we hear Jesus proclaim as he begins his ministry. Mark presents this proclamation:

Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said "and the reign of God is close at hand." (Mark 1:14-15)

What is this reign of God all about? What does Jesus proclaim through his message and his mission to the world?

The idea of the reign of God finds its roots in the Old Testament. The Jewish People recognized that their God was personally present and active among them as a People. The God of Israel intervened and acted in their story, their history. Perhaps the best example of this, one which they often recalled, was the Exodus event. They saw this liberation from slavery as a work of God among them through Moses. In addition, the Jewish Scriptures acknowledge that God is also present in all of creation around them. At the very beginning of the Old Testament, this sense of God's presence acting in all creation appears in the stories of creation in the Book of Genesis.

Jesus' proclamation that the reign of God is close at hand grows out of this way of seeing God as present in our history, our present, our future and in all of creation. As Jesus begins his ministry he announces that God is about to break into our world in a new and powerful way. He will announce this reign time and again in his words and he will reveal it in his actions of healing, reconciling and bringing people together in peace. It will be this completed, fulfilled reign of God that will bring peace and harmony to humanity and healing and wholeness to creation.

Our call as disciples of Jesus is to be part of building this reign. We are to cooperate with God to make this reign more fully present in our midst. We cooperate by our outreach those in need and our care for the creation we share. In God's own time this reign will reach its fullness. Dermot Lane expresses this future promise of the reign of God:

The future reign of God is about the gathering up by God into a condition of fulfilment and transformation of all the human efforts in this life which are directed towards the creation of peace and justice in the world around us.... The reign of God is ultimately about re-establishing right relationships between God and humanity, between humanity and the individual, between humanity and the whole of creation. (Lane. Christ at the Centre 21)

~John Jennings

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.

Cribbage is held on Wednesday Evenings at St. Matthews Church Hall beginning at 7pm.

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

(Due to unforeseen circumstances pre-booked Masses may have to be rescheduled)

Jan 24, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Leo Wallace
Jan 25, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Jan 27, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Parishioners
Jan 28, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Donald Melanson Gerald & Mary Reid
Jan 28, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Don Drew

BOBBY’S HOSPICE MAJOR FUNDRAISER TICKETS

On Feb 10, 2024 Bobby’s Hospice will be hosting their Hospice Gala 2024 at the Trade & Convention Centre. This includes a silent auction with concert style entertainment by the famous Donny & The Monarchs. I have 8 tickets available on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested please contact the office.
~Fr. David

Evening Prayer in Carmel Chapel, 103 Burpee Avenue, last Wednesday of each month: Jan-June, 2024
Instrumental music by a local musician at 6:00 pm; Ritual begins at 6:30 pm. PARKING: Both sides of Burpee Ave. and Rocmaura lot off Park Street. Contact Info: 634-4970 weekdays.

Jan 31 * Feb 28 * Mar 27 * Apr 24 * May 29 * June 26

2023 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

It is that time of year where we ask you to submit a report from your respective committees so we can prepare our Accountability Report for the parish.

Please submit your Report to the office via email by February 29, 2024.

****PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE DONATION ENVELOPES FOR THE BULDING FUND – IT IS NOW A WHITE ENVELOPE****

Holy Spirit Women's Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan 30 at 1:30pm in the Rectory Hall, 279 Nerepis Road. All women of the parish are welcome!

The Prayer Shawl Group

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 14, 2024

Regular - \$1,970.00 Loose - \$189.55 Init. Offering - \$55.00 Christmas - \$1,200.00
New Year’s - \$35.00 eTransfer - \$15.00 Food Bank \$20.00 Building Fund - \$120.00
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”

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jan 21, 2024

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Jan 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:

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