

The Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

On the **Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time** Mark's Gospel brings us the story of Jesus driving out unclean spirits from a man in the synagogue. The people are impressed because he taught with authority in ways the scribes did not and they marveled that even the unclean spirits obey him.

Wednesday is the **Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest**. Friday is the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**.

The story of David we have been following for the past two weeks will end with his death as we conclude the readings from the **Book of Samuel**. As the narrative moves to the **Book of Kings**, David's son Solomon, has succeeded him on the throne and for the next week, the tale of notable leaders of Israel's history continues to unfold.

In **Mark's Gospel** this week, Jesus continues to heal and teach. A man in the Gerasenes is healed of unclean spirits and wants to stay with Jesus, but Jesus tells the man, "Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you." The young daughter of a synagogue official is sick and on the way to heal her, as Jesus stood in a crowd, he felt the power go out of him as a woman with a hemorrhage touched his cloak. "Your faith has saved you," he reassures her. To the father he says, "Do not be afraid; just have faith" and heals the daughter. He teaches in the synagogue in his hometown "and they took offense at him." He was not able to perform miracles there, because of their lack of faith. Jesus sends his disciples out to preach and heal, telling them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick. Though the demons know who Jesus is, Herod thinks he is John the Baptist, whom Herod had beheaded. Jesus encourages his busy disciples, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." But as they tried to get away "and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."

Daily Prayer

This is a wonderful week to use the brief background times of our lives to talk with the Lord about our need for healing. We can begin each day by naming some desire we have for healing and deeper wholeness and peace. Putting these desires into words, early each day, as soon as we get up or while in the shower or while dressing, helps us give focus to our relationship with the Lord that day. "Lord, thank you for this day. Be with me as I face the challenges before me today. I especially need patience and more compassion, Lord. Heal the anger I feel, and give me peace, so that I can love the way I know you want me to." Each of us can make this 30 second prayer specific to what we need to do each day, and what graces we need to do it. Getting in the habit of naming what I need and asking for it will shape how we spend the day, confidently aware of our God's presence with us.

Throughout the day, we can continue our simple conversation with our Lord, speaking friend to friend. We may encounter some spirits within ourselves that aren't very clean. Anger or resentment, fear or paralysis, jealousy or pride, lust or greed, self-pity or judging of others are all spirits that distort our ability to love others the way we are loved by our God. When we encounter them, we can ask the Lord to heal us, to drive these spirits from our hearts. Each experience of our need for a Savior can deepen our desire, and our ability to name them each morning.

The healing stories in the gospels make it clear that faith is key to the healing. When the people in Jesus' home town say, "Isn't this just the carpenter's son?" their lack of faith is saying, "He can't heal us." In our own struggle with letting Jesus be our Savior, two things can get in the way. First of all, we need to know we need healing. Secondly, we need to *want* to be healed. If I cling to being angry or have become comfortable being afraid, I will first need to acknowledge what a difference freedom would mean in my life and come to desire healing. Then, I need to believe our Lord can heal me. The rest is easy. This honest dialogue with our Lord, throughout our days, no matter what we are doing, can help us grow in faith in the One who wants nothing more than to keep freeing us to know his love for us and to share it generously with others.

The integrating element of this daily prayer is the gratitude we express each evening before we sleep, giving thanks for the grace to be able to connect with our Savior throughout this busy day.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Out Sacred Stories

The Reign of God and Crossing Boundaries

Mark, in his Gospel, describes Jesus coming into a synagogue (sacred space) on a Sabbath day (a sacred time). While teaching in this place, he encounters a man with an unclean spirit. In Israel such a person was ritually unclean and thus to be avoided. A person was deemed to be holy to the degree they kept away from the unholy, the unclean. Sometimes this was certain foods, certain action or on occasion, certain people. The man possessed of an unclean spirit was one of these last.

Jesus knows of this demand for avoidance. He does not allow himself to be bound. Rather he crosses the boundary for the sake of the Kingdom, for the sake of the Reign of God. Jesus recognizes that, far from being limited by the ritual purity law his mission is to cross over to bring life to those in need. In doing so, he brings the Reign, its liberation and its healing to the man with the unclean spirit.

The result of this encounter of the man with the unclean spirit is healing. Jesus expels the unclean spirit and restores the unfortunate person to wholeness and freedom from the bonds of the unclean spirit. By crossing the boundaries that limited others, Jesus was able to make present the active Reign of God. To enter the Reign of God means crossing such boundaries. It often means taking actions and holding positions that others shy from. Ultimately, it means reaching out to bring others the wholeness and the liberation for which we all long. All of this is the basis of Catholic Social Teaching. This teaching developed in the Catholic community over the past two hundred years, beginning in the late 19th century when the Industrial Revolution began to impact our world. The event produced massive changes in world economies, social structures and political life. There was a need to read the Gospel in a way that relates to these changes.

Out of this new reading came Catholic Social Teaching. The Church began to reflect on the basic elements of economic and social structures in the light of Jesus' message and mission. The teaching that comes out of this ongoing reflection continues today and its fundamentals affect the manner in which we view our own global society and its economic, social and political realities.

A number of basic principles form the foundation of Catholic Social Teaching. Such teaching calls for respect for the dignity of the human person, all persons. It is further founded on the priority of the common good in all decision making, political, economic and social. From this foundation flows the Church's call and advocacy for justice, peace and global respect in our world. Our Canadian Church expresses this in many ways, globally through The Canadian Organization for Development and Peace and its programs of aid and advocacy for justice, peace and the respect for equality of all.

The Reign of God knows no boundaries – it respects, heals and reconciles all of Creation.

John Jennings

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Rita Hooley, Jim Cormier and Rod Brose

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 31, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Pat Chaisson
Feb 01, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Leo Wallace
Feb 03, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Parishioners
Feb 04, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Douglas Beale
Feb 04, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Rachel Quinn Pat Chaisson

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 10 tickets available on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested please contact the office.
~Fr. David

Evening Prayer at 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 NOT A BLUE ONE****

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 21, 2024

Regular - \$2,605.00 Loose - \$364.55 Initial Offering - \$70.00

New Year’s - \$40.00 eTransfer - \$100.00 Food Bank \$45.00

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”

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jan 28, 2024

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Jan 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

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<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling>
services/

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