

## The First Week of Lent

On the **First Sunday of Lent**, as we begin our Lenten journey, remembering how God re-established the covenant after the flood, and we reflect on how Jesus began his public ministry with a retreat of forty days - driven to the desert by the Spirit.

After last week's first four days, the next three weeks of Lent represent a period of instruction, originally designed for the Catechumens (those preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil). We can read these readings as a catechism of renewal for us all.

The first weekday reading of week one is the great giving of the Commandments: "Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy." Jesus gives the great parable about the last judgment - separating the charitable from the uncharitable: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Then, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. He says that it is an evil generation that looks for "signs." He's the sign - a call to repentance. On the day we hear the desperate but faith-filled prayer of **Esther**, Jesus tells us to pray confidently. And he sums up the whole law and the prophets for us: "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you." Jesus says our holiness has to go beyond the letter-of-the-law holiness; it must touch our anger, our judgments of others, and be reconciled with those we've wronged. The holiness Jesus proposes for us calls us to love our enemies, even to pray for those who persecute us. We are called to love the way God does.

Thursday is the **Feast of the Chair of St. Peter**.

### Daily Prayer

This first week of Lent is the time we are given to begin our Lenten patterns, to re-align our priorities, and to make use of more reflective time each day. It is a time to fast and abstain from those things that hinder our relationship with the Lord, and to consider being more generous to the poor.

As we make this beginning, we are offered some beautiful instruction about what is expected of us. These readings describe a very Jesus-like love. We can examine our care for the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick or imprisoned. We can reflect upon who in our lives needs us and whether we love them as we want to be loved. And we can look at the deeper things, like our anger or how we treat others, and our response to those who are our "enemies." What is most important this first week, beyond a sharper examination of our consciences, is to see this as a time for God's grace to work in us. So, it is a time to ask for the graces we are starting to see we need.

Each morning this week we can ask our Lord to help us focus this day on the neediest people around us. We can ask to begin new patterns this week by practicing special charity and love, where I haven't been so generous or kind before. The key is to ask and to be very specific. Then, throughout the day, we can keep talking with our Lord, in the background about these graces we ask for and the concrete circumstances we find ourselves in. It is in the particular events of our day that we will become attentive to our need for our Lord's presence and grace, as well as our need to choose a new pattern. Each evening, we can briefly review the day and recognize some missed opportunities to connect with the Lord or take advantage of a situation here or there, but most of all, we can thank the Lord for the moments of connection that have begun our Lenten journey

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

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

## LENT 2024

### "JOURNEY TO A MERCIFUL HEART"

**What is a merciful heart?**

**a heart on fire for the whole of creation, humanity, the birds, for the animals, the demons, and for all that exists.**

**By the recollection of them  
the eyes of a merciful person  
pour forth tears in abundance.**

**By the strong and vehement mercy that  
grips such a person's heart, and by such  
great compassion, the heart is humbled  
and one cannot bear to hear or see any  
injury or slight sorrow in any of creation.**

**For this reason, such a person  
offers up tearful prayer continually even  
for irrational beasts, for the enemies of the  
truth, and for those who harm him, that  
they be protected and receive  
mercy...because of the great compassion  
that burns without measure in a heart that  
is in ...the likeness of God.**

**– St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 81**

**Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Catherine Keenan, Theresa Perry and Catria Jackson**

### 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.**

### TALENT SHOW FUNDRAISER

**Do you have a talent?? A talent show is planned for the afternoon of Saturday May 25 at St. Matthew's worship site, as a fundraiser for St. Augustine's Memorial Garden, & we are looking for talent. Do you juggle, are you a mime, do you sing or dance or practice a martial art? What about a monologue, stand up comedy, or is acting your passion? Are you a ventriloquist, are you in a hand bell group, or are you a yo-yo pro? If you have a talent that you would like to perform at our talent show, please contact Jill at (506) 639-0007 or [jillrobillard5@gmail.com](mailto:jillrobillard5@gmail.com) or Patti (506) 738-8264 or [pattiblake07@outlook.com](mailto:pattiblake07@outlook.com)**

**MASS SCHEDULE 2024**

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

Feb 21, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Edith Parker Wayne Stymiest
Feb 22, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Paula Woodworth
Feb 24, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Debra Gogan Wayne Guitard
Feb 25, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Special Intentions
Feb 25, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Paul Daigle Sr. Pam Whelpley Roger Gionet Pat Chaisson

**\*\*INCOME TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2023 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ENTRY WAY\*\***

K of C council 17984 will be having their monthly rosary and adoration service on Thursday, Feb. 22, 6:30 pm, at St. Rose Worship Site. Our theme for this month is praying for the sick. All are welcome.

The Women's Society is looking for someone with carpentry skills willing to donate their time to build some shelves in the rectory hall. We will cover the cost of material. Please contact Jill if you can help: 506-639-0007 or [jillrobillard5@gmail.com](mailto:jillrobillard5@gmail.com)

The Women's Society is looking for someone to deliver the monthly soup to Ave B. If you are interested or have questions please contact Jill at 506-639-0007 or [jillrobillard5@gmail.com](mailto:jillrobillard5@gmail.com)

**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.

Feb 28 \* Mar 27 \* Apr 24 \* May 29 \* June 26

**The Prayer Shawl Group - 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 – Feb 11, 2024**

Regular - \$2,145.00 Loose - \$482.00 Initial Offering - \$10.00  
Food Bank - \$10.00 eTransfer - \$20.00 Building Fund - \$531.10  
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](http://www.holyspiritparish.ca) Email: [holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com](mailto: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”*

**First Sunday of Lent – Feb 18, 2024**

**“Journey to a Merciful Heart”**

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Feb 25, 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](mailto: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](http://www.gentlepathsj.com)

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

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