

The Second Week of Lent

For the **Second Sunday of Lent** we read of how God tested Abraham's faith. In the gospel we witness how Jesus showed his disciples his glory, to prepare them for what is to come. A voice from a cloud said, "This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him." All we need to do for the journey ahead is to listen to him.

Each day the first reading is chosen to prepare for the gospel and the theme of both readings is complementary.

The second week begins with Jesus telling us: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." All week we will be taught by Jesus about the simple lessons of being his followers. "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Jesus predicts his passion again. Again, they misunderstand, and so he says, "whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant." Jesus tells the Pharisees a parable about a poor man and a rich man. The rich man asks Abraham to warn his brothers about the consequences of this behavior. Abraham answers: "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." Then Jesus tells the scribes and religious leaders the parable about the farmer whose servants were abused by his tenants. Finally, they killed his own son. Jesus concludes, "the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." While tax collectors and sinners are being drawn to Jesus the Pharisees complain, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus tells them the wonderful parable of the Prodigal Son.

Daily Prayer

During this second week of Lent we continue to try to make use of more reflective time each day. We are using all the resources available to us to practice new habits and patterns. We are still in the beginning stages of that process, so we shouldn't be discouraged if it takes more practice.

It is good to begin by being reminded that God is rich in mercy to us and that we should therefore be merciful to others. It is great to remember that exalting ourselves is dangerous and that there will be consequences for our mistreatment of the poor. We are like tenants of our Father's gifts to us. We can ask ourselves if we use them gratefully and return the fruits that our Lord desires, or do we reject the prophetic words that come to us? Do we reject Jesus himself?

This can all be part of the background of our busy, daily life. Each morning, when our feet hit the floor, if only for a few moments, we can ask for a simple grace. At first, it might only be, "Dear Lord, help me today." As we brush our teeth, wash and get dressed we might specify our prayer more: "Dear Lord, give me the grace to recognize my impatience, anger and judgment today. Help to soften my heart to hear your love. I need your healing, Lord." Or we might get even more concrete, "Lord, Pat is such a struggle for me. Help me to remember how much you love me when I see Pat today. And, when I'm tempted to be impatient or angry, just help me pause and give that over to you, in gratitude for your love."

Each of us will be able to grow in our ability to have brief conversations with our Lord. Whether driving or shopping, doing laundry or paying bills, working in our office or walking down the hall to the bathroom, we can use brief "background" moments to connect with our Lord. These moments of "contemplation in action" will give a character and shape to our day. Lent becomes a living reality for us when our days are spent with the Lord, listening to his love for us, calling us to gratitude and freedom.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Mark Brown (Trish Boyle's Brother)

LENT 2024

"JOURNEY TO A MERCIFUL HEART"

Prayer: As We Enter Unstable Terrain

God of ancient mercy,

Guide us in the heat of Lenten days.

Help us sort through our regrets of the past.

May our uphill struggles become a level path to you.

Shield our hearts when anguish races within us.

Open us to your healing love when shame halts us.

Clear away our heart's resistance along our walkway.

Shepherd us when we are lost in the burning sun.

Help us speak the truth of our sin and misfortune.

Show us how to voice the complexities of our lives.

Offer us words of love and miracles of reconciliation.

Raise up the volume of our praise for you this Lent.

May every ache of our heart be known to you alone.

May we not fear our journey across barren shame.

May your generous grace heal every division within us.

May baptismal waters break and we be birthed again.

May pardon and peace flourish within your people.

May your grace become overflowing love.

Amen

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.

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

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 or Patti (506) 738-8264 or pattiblake07@outlook.com

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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

Feb 28, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Parishioners
Feb 29, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Leo Wallace
Mar 02, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Katherine (Kay) Morrisey Harold (Hal) Arbeau
Mar 03, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Parishioners
Mar 03, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Mary MacDougall Pat Chaisson Fran Metcalfe

2023 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ENTRY WAY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE RECTORY HALL IS CLOSED TO EVERYONE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE! WATER DAMAGE TO THE CEILING HAS BEEN DISCOVERED AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE PROFESSIONAL ATTENTION.

Women's Society monthly meeting is Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 1:30pm
PLEASE CHECK THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE FOR LOCATION DUE TO HALL BEING TEMPORARILY CLOSED

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

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 18, 2024

Regular - \$2,489.00 Loose - \$281.00 Catholic Missions Cda - \$1,578.90
Food Bank - \$190.00 eTransfer - \$80.00 Building Fund - \$180.00
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”

Second Sunday of Lent – Feb 25, 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

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