

Easter Week

Easter Sunday, we read from the **Acts of the Apostles** to hear Peter's preaching about the Resurrection. The **Letter to the Colossians** reminds us "You have died and your lives are hidden with Christ in God." The Gospel is from **John's Gospel** and gives us the first story of that Easter morning - Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and runs to Peter and the "disciple Jesus loved" to tell them. They run to the tomb and discover for themselves that it is empty.

The first reading for Easter Week is from the **Acts of the Apostles**. We hear Peter's preaching the Good News and experience the first deeds of the Apostles, which parallel the acts of Jesus, including the conflicts he experienced and his power to heal.

The Gospels this week are all resurrection appearances. These wonderful stories contain some common elements. They appear designed to make it clear that this was not a group of disciples who dreamed up the resurrection, because they were hoping for it so much. In fact, they found it difficult to believe. The Jesus they saw and experienced was not a "ghost." Instead, he had a body.

Monday, is the story of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, as well as the "cover-up story" and pay off of the guards. Tuesday, we read of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene, through the eyes of **John's Gospel**. Jesus missions her to announce the Good News to his brothers. On Wednesday we are treated to **Luke's** marvelous story of Jesus' appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were sad, because they had hoped the story would have turned out differently. Jesus tells them why he had to first suffer and die in order to enter into his glory. As they stopped to eat, "he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." Thursday Jesus appears in the room where the disciples are gathered. "Peace be with you" he says and then eats with them and shows them his wounds. On Friday, we have the powerful appearance in **John's Gospel** at the Sea of Tiberias. Peter decided to return to fishing. Jesus appears and re-missions him. On Saturday, the week concludes with the summary of appearances in what appears to be an addition to the end of **Mark's Gospel**.

Daily Prayer This Week

We now begin a celebration of the **Resurrection of our Lord** for the next seven weeks - when we mark the **Ascension** forty days after Easter and culminating in the celebration of **Pentecost** on the fiftieth day after Easter. This week, we begin that deepening realization of, and reflection upon, the meaning of the gift of life we have received in God's raising Jesus from the dead so that we might have eternal life.

Just as it difficult for many of our cultures to face the reality of death, it is difficult to accept the reality of life after death. St. Paul invites us to live in this passing world with our hearts set on the world that will never end. This week let us try to open our hearts to a felt sense of what a difference it makes that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is alive, that he allows us to recognize him in the breaking of bread, and that he missions us to proclaim this Good News.

Each morning this week, we can pause for a moment and simply thank God for our being alive today. Even more, we can thank God for the life that Jesus won for us. Throughout the day, and at different brief moments, we can remember that this is Easter Week and ask to live more freely today, more gratefully. We can name the grace in our own terms and in the context of what we are experiencing, what gets us discouraged or what gives us life. Overall, we want to live the freedom we have been given. If death has no hold on us, so many of our fears would melt away. If we realized our ultimate home is in heaven, our spirits would be lighter and we would walk around more gratefully.

So, as we go through this week, we can let ourselves believe in the Resurrection that was won for us. "Lord, I believe in the gift of life you have given me in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus." We can say this act of faith, or sing any of the wonderful Easter songs in the back of our minds, as many times as it takes to let ourselves feel the effects of Easter.

Perhaps we had a difficult Holy Week or Easter. There might have been loneliness or family conflicts. Perhaps we are facing a chronic illness or deep struggles with a loved one, or we are grieving the loss of a loved one. These, and many other struggles can challenge our Easter hope and joy. This is the week to place our trust in the one who is now alive, so that we can live forever. We can ask for the gifts of hope renewed these days. In giving thanks, we can ask that our hearts be opened even more to receive the gift of his Spirit.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

EASTER BLESSINGS 2024

Dear Community and Friends of Holy Spirit Parish,

"The Lord has Risen Alleluia, Alleluia" We gather this weekend to remember the great love of God, who raised Jesus from the dead. We celebrate the gift that is God. What wondrous love! From the cross, Jesus offers forgiveness, and in his resurrection, he empowers us to do the same. He does not seek retribution for betrayal, denial, false accusation, or condemnation. Instead, he breathes the new life of the Spirit into the world.

Even as we gather to rejoice in the Lord, we remember places of war and violence, shootings, migrants, the homeless, the poor, all who suffer addiction, the sick, and all who grieve. Together, we are the communion of saints; many people struggle and carry heavy burdens. This feast of the Lord's compassion inspires us to greater compassion. "Journey to a Merciful Heart," from Ash Wednesday to now, hopefully has been transformative for us. May we see God's love through new eyes, ears and heart.

We are a blessed community here at Holy Spirit Parish. We are rich in diversity and talent. Graced in prayer and reconciliation. Thank you for all you bring to the community and our life together. Now we begin the 50 days of Easter that will lead to our parish feast day, Pentecost... the coming of the Holy Spirit. May we continue to promote the love for Christ and Christ's presence in all the gifts that we share, which is fundamental to the life of this church community.

Alleluia!

Happy and Blessed Easter

Fr. David

QUILT RAFFLE: the Women's Society will be selling tickets on a beautiful queen sized quilt, Bella Star pattern, the weekend of April 6/7 at all 3 masses. Proceeds are for St. Augustine's Memorial Garden. Thank you for your support.

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.

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY

We have been approved for the SEED program and will be looking for a student who will be entering post-secondary education in the fall to work primarily in our cemetery (St. Augustine's Cemetery). This position is registered in the NB SEED program. You can direct any interested candidates to the www.NBSEED.ca to apply. The job position title is Landscape Maintenance Contractor. All interested candidates must apply via the NBSEED website.

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.

Apr 24 * May 29 * June 26

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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

Apr 03, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	NO MASS
Apr 04, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	NO MASS
Apr 06, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Edmond Gaudet Noella Doucet Carol Dionne
Apr 07, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Fannie & Wilfred Comeau & Dorothy
Apr 07, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Blanche McGowan Jacqueline Barrett

Holy Spirit Parish Spring 2024 Alpha Program

You are invited to be our guest! Come and bring a friend!

Guests who attended Alpha in 2023 encouraged us to run the program again. We are excited to offer it starting Apr 4th, 6:30pm-8:15pm for a duration of 11 weeks at St. Matthews Worship Site. Supper is included at no cost to you.

Alpha is a proven international Program for all Christians worldwide. Hundreds of Alphas were run in Canadian Catholic Churches, schools, communities, and through collaborative Diocesan initiatives. Bishop Riesbeck has personally taken Alpha and through his experience has encouraged all of us to “check it out”. Here is the link to his story - Bishop Riesbeck’s story of Transformation through Alpha – <https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/alpha>

To register email alphaholyspiritparish@gmail.com, or call Roberta Crawford 506-977-1307, John & Caroline Doubt – 506-738-1994, Debbie Farren 506-757-8009, or register through parish Faithbook - <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritRCParish>.

To help us with meal planning we would prefer you to preregister; however, it is not mandatory, and it is OK that you just “show up”. Everyone is welcome.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families Greta MacKereth and Allan ‘Jomie’ Logan

COLLECTIONS – MAR 24, 2024

**Regular - \$2,615.00 Loose - \$389.75 Dev & Peace - \$55.00
Food Bank - \$70.00 Donation - \$101.40 eTransfer - \$15.00
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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

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.holyspiritrcparish.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”

Easter Sunday – Mar 31, 2024

“He has Risen Alleluia, Alleluia”

**Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Mar 31, 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