

Second Week of Easter

On the **Second Sunday of Easter**, we get a picture into how the early community lived their life of faith by sharing everything in common. In John's Gospel, Jesus appears to the Apostles, hiding in fear, and gives them the gift of his Spirit, calling them to forgive sins. We are reminded that the gospel is written, that we might come to believe in our Lord and have life in his name.

The **Acts of the Apostles** all this week offers us the challenges the apostles faced from the earliest communities and from the Jewish authorities.

For the remaining five weeks of the Easter season, our readings will be from the **Acts of the Apostles** and from **John's Gospel**, which offers stories of Jesus' ministry not heard during the Ordinary Time of the liturgical year.

The weekday readings begin with the frightened Pharisee, Nicodemus, coming at night to speak to Jesus, asking how anyone can be "born again." Jesus says we must be born of water and Spirit. The gospel offers a poetic look at light and darkness, good and evil: "the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light...But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. John writes, "For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God." Jesus feeds the 5,000 people. Alone in a storm, the disciples are afraid -- but more fearful when Jesus walks across the water toward them. "It is I. Do not be afraid," Jesus tells them.

Daily Prayer This Week

This is a wonderful week to pray in joy at God's merciful love for us, and for the unending forgiveness we are offered. We know we have done nothing to deserve that forgiveness and that we cannot earn it, and yet it is ours, if only we can accept it.

Over and over this week, we are invited to place our trust in God. The ever-human disciples didn't always put aside their fears, and neither do we. We can imagine the terrified followers of Jesus hiding behind locked doors until he appears in their midst, inviting them not to be afraid.

This might be a good week to spend time with Jesus looking at the fears in our own lives which keep us locked up away from others. We can ask Jesus for the courage to trust in him. What would it cost us to let go of the fears that smother our lives? What would it mean for our lives and for the relationships in our lives if we were willing to let go of "the way we have always done things" and to beg Jesus for help? Our lives can change. We have a standing offer from our Lord to fall into his forgiving embrace.

Dear Lord, it feels impossible to believe that my life can change, that I can move out of this rut I am in. I know I don't always live my life feeling your love and being my best self. Help me to trust in you, to drop my defenses and to feel how deeply I am loved and forgiven by you. Give me the courage to feel it in my heart when you say, "Don't be afraid" and "Peace be with you." I so long for that peace in my life but it feels so far away sometimes. Help me to believe in you, to drive away the doubts and unbelief that harden my heart.

I know my life can change, if only I can say with all my heart, "I trust in you, Lord. I believe in your mercy and I know that with your help, my life can be healed."

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

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.

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.

"HOLY SPIRIT PARISH LENT AND EASTER 2024 THANK YOU!"

Usually I wait until Pentecost Sunday, the close of the Easter Season, to convey out "thanks" to all those who worked so diligently to make our journey from Lent to Easter Sunday such a holy and sacred experience. As you can see below, many people were involved and generous with their time, gifts and experiences. So on your behalf, I wish to extend a blessed **Thank you...**

- to those who attended and prayed with and for our celebrations.
- to those who provided music and song for our celebrations; our cantors and organists who worked so attentively, dedicating themselves to enhance our liturgies.
- to our "Liturgy Committee" who helped plan and implement our Lenten Theme, "**Journey to a Merciful Heart.**" As well I want to thank this committee who helped prepare liturgies, clean, decorated, and maintain our worship spaces, again enhancing our prayer. Well done!
- to Amanda Muise and Doug Hubbard, our Liturgy team and for the priests who helped celebrate a spiritually rich beautiful Reconciliation Service.
- to Linda Spinney and those who help form our young people in the faith and for her beautiful photos for our faithbook page.
- to our Revitalization, Building and Maintenance and Finance Committee's for your hard work and ongoing support and encouragement.
- to our Alpha Group who continue to work so hard in bringing this gift to our parish. It is my hope that many will experience this faith-filled opportunity... !
- to those who manage our Parish Sign.
- to those who do so much "behind the scenes" with little or no recognition.
- to those of you who continue to say "yes" putting so much of yourselves into the Lenten and Easter celebrations.
- to those who prepared Committee Reports for the "Annual Year End Accountability Report."
- to Bernice Martin for her dedication to our parish. Once again, we are grateful to have Bernice as part of our team to help our parish both function and flourish. Well done Bernice!
- to anyone I may have inadvertently not mentioned.
- finally, on a personal note, I would like to again thank all of you for making this Lent (and the Easter Season to come) such a wonderful experience. As well as your prayers and support while I was sick. I want to thank Fr. Tom Fowler and Fr. Dennis Hayes for presiding at Mass when I was unable. As well, a special thank you to our Lay-Leaders: Amanda Muise, Stephen Parker and Doug Hubbard for leading the Good Friday Services. Once again, I am proud of your 'spiritual maturity' to embrace communally and prayerfully and to understand the vital role that we all share... ministering to one another.
- Thank you for your prayers, food, Easter wishes, gifts, chocolate and words of encouragement and affirmation were greatly appreciated and always remembered! As we continue to live out His Resurrection in our daily lives, may God continue to bless all of you with peace, love and joy!

Father David

**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.**

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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

Apr 10, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Parishioners
Apr 11, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Anita Barnes
Apr 13, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Barbara Blanchard Susan Hickey Leo & Yvonne David
Apr 14, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Terry Connolly
Apr 14, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Susan & Allan Roberts Pat Chaisson Gerry Abbott

COLLECTIONS – MAR 31, 2024

Regular - \$2,680.00 Loose - \$397.00 Upkeep of Holy Land - \$2,016.80
 Easter Sunday - \$3,282.75 eTransfer - \$400.00
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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 11th, 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.

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

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.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”

2nd Sunday of Easter – Apr 07, 2024

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Apr 07, 14 & 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