

Third Week of Easter

On the **Third Sunday of Easter, Luke's Gospel** has the very human story of Jesus' appearing to the disciples after the Resurrection, inviting them to touch his hands and feet to see that he is real. He ate with them and "he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

In our first readings from **Acts of the Apostles** this week, we read of one of the earliest martyrs, Stephen and of Philip converting an Ethiopian slave along the road. Also this week is the story of Saul, persecutor of Christians being blinded and then healed by Ananias in the name of Jesus. The week ends with Peter traveling the region and healing.

The gospel for this week is from Chapter 6 of **John's Gospel** on Jesus as the "Bread of Life." Like so many stories in this gospel, Jesus teaches from one layer of understanding to another, taking us deeper into understanding his gift of himself to us in the Eucharist. Jesus says, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life." "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world." "Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him." This marvelous dialogue ends with this exchange with his disciples: "Jesus then said to the Twelve, 'Do you also want to leave?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.'"

Daily Prayer This Week

This can be a very good week to grow in a sense of and practice with the notion of being a "contemplative in the midst of action." We have practically a whole week of gospels about Jesus' gift of himself to us as the "Bread of Life." This gives us the opportunity to let that mystery be in the background of our consciousness every day this week, as we go about our everyday tasks. What makes it "contemplative" is that we will be asking for graces each morning, and we will let our desires and our activities interact.

We can begin reflecting upon how often we "work for food that perishes." The pay-off, the success, the accomplishment, the reward we receive for what we do is often quite passing and unsatisfying. It would be important to be able to sense anything that appears to be food that doesn't last and name it as such this week. The real food, the life-giving nourishment that our Lord offers us is himself.

If we can't celebrate the Eucharist daily this week, we can make what we used to call a "spiritual communion" simply by opening our hearts and desiring to receive our Lord, so that he remains in us and we remain in him. We can practice consciously choosing union with Jesus, our Risen Lord and only Savior, and experiencing how that would affect the choices we need to make throughout our day. If we begin each day, asking for the grace of this union, and renew the desire at brief moments we have at various times in the day, our focus and attention begins to change. We will experience a peace and a gifted lack of hunger and thirst for so many of the things that draw us away from him, from loving, from mercy, from consciousness on those in need.

If the background focus of each day this week is to desire to be fed by a closeness with my Lord, it doesn't matter how busy I am, or how many conflicts I have to face or what suffering I or my loved ones must endure. His flesh and blood are real food and drink because they are the real sacrifice that takes away the power of sin and death itself. United with his surrender to the Father, we are set free from whatever can take away the life he gained for us. For this gift, for this faith, we can give thanks for every night, as we review our union with our Lord each night.

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

On Saturday, April 20, 2024 during the 4 pm Mass at St. Rose Worship Site and on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the 11am St. Matthews Worship Site we will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Communion.

Please keep our young companions in your prayers as they complete their final preparations.

Connor MacKinnon

Jackson Morand

Emily MacKinnon

Sawyer King

Grace Joyce

Eli Mason

Emma Flanagan

Serenity Extell

A'ssani Harrigan

Kyle Manguilimotan

Cecilia Acebedo

Delilah LeBreton

There will be refreshments provided following Mass at both of these celebrations with our younger companions.

AASEA RETREATS – Silent Directed Retreats are being offered with directors from the Saint John Local AASEA (Association of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate) at the Villa Madonna Retreat House in June. A 5 – Day Silent Directed Retreat takes place from Mon. June 10, 2024, to Fri. June 14, 2024, with a registration cost of \$130.00 and \$570.00 due upon arrival. A 4– Day option is also available from Tue. June 11, 2024 to Fri. June 14, 2024 with a registration cost of \$130.00 and \$400.00 due upon arrival. Pre-retreat installment payment may be arranged – Contact: Bob McDermott (mcdermot@nbnet.nb.ca). These retreats are for those seeking an atmosphere of silence. They include daily meetings with a director and daily Eucharist.

The next monthly **Mass for Those Living with Cancer**, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will be celebrated on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 pm. The Anointing of the Sick will be offered.

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.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..." Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Joe Flynn and Donald Cyr

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.

Monthly Breakfast at the Assumption Center on 721 Chapel Street

The next K of C breakfast is Sunday, April 21, 9:00am til 1:00pm. The cost is \$10 per person and \$4 for children under 12 years of age.

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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

Apr 17, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Leo Wallace Catria Jackson
Apr 18, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Kathleen Jennings
Apr 20, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Parishioners
Apr 21, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Monique Pineau Anita Bares Timothy Smith
Apr 21, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Mary MacDougall DFM of Muise & Savoie Families

COLLECTIONS – Apr 07, 2024

Regular - \$2,630.00 Loose - \$383.00 Easter Sunday - \$95.00
 Food Bank - \$35.00 eTransfer - \$20.00
 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

Variety Show Update: The show is shaping up to be spectacular! We have some remarkable entertainment in store for you. Here's a sample of what's to come: The Sea Belles, Voices of Fundy, Urban Dance, Ukas 4 You, Beyond the Mast, and much, much more. May 25, 2pm. Tickets will go on sale at the end of April, available at both parish offices and Home Hardware. 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”

3rd Sunday of Easter – Apr 14, 2024

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Apr 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