

Fifth Week of Easter

“I am the vine. You are the branches.” On the **Fifth Sunday of Easter** we have the wonderful reading from **John's gospel** about Jesus as the vine. We are the branches that are pruned to bear more fruit. The powerful invitation is to remain connected with Jesus, that we might make our home in him, and bear much fruit.

Monday is the **Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles**, with its own special readings.

In the continuing weekday readings from the **Acts of the Apostles**, we see Paul and Barnabas preaching to the Gentiles. They encounter some who want to make them gods; others who want to stone them. A major discussion is held about whether a Gentile had to become a Jew before becoming a Christian. Peter declared that God granted Gentiles “the Holy Spirit just as he did us” and urged them not to burden Gentiles with the difficult Jewish laws. The group turned to the Holy Spirit and prayed for guidance and decided that Gentiles did not have to adhere to all Jewish laws. Paul followed the Spirit to expand his travels, ending with his decision to go to Macedonia.

John's Gospel continues the “Last Discourse” of Jesus, taking chapters 14 and 15 of the Fourth Gospel during the weekdays. These gospels offer a layered and poetic look at the kind of inseparable love we share with God. “Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” He promises the Holy Spirit who “will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.” He offers us peace and encourages us “not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.” He tells his followers, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.” Saturday, Jesus reminds us that if the world didn't like his announcing and living of this good news, then it won't like our announcing and living it either.

Daily Prayer This Week

We can hold the words of Jesus in our hearts all week. As we do, we will discover their attractiveness and invitation. We will also encounter resistance in ourselves and in others.

It takes practice to stay focused in the background of our daily life. We all have years of habit to overcome. However, we can practice letting this consoling message of Jesus find a place in our conscious awareness at various points in our day, whether it is in the shower, while getting dressed, or simply whenever we are on our way from one place to another. Sometimes it will take a conscious effort to let these thoughts replace the thoughts that are there already. In the background of our day is where our worries reside. It's where we carry anxiety and stress. Sometimes it is where we carry on imaginary conversations with others or “replay” past conversations. Often a song or piece of music just replays over and over.

This is a great week to get in touch with our deepening desires and to let my conversations with Jesus grow in friendship. The easiest way to do this is to simply say simple ordinary things -- the very way I would say them to a close friend. Some examples might offer words that will inspire our own conversation with the Lord who loves us.

“Jesus, every time I hear you say I don't have to let my heart be troubled, I pause. I sense you are pointing to the 'troubles' I'm working through today. You're asking me to let go of them, aren't you? I'd like to, Jesus, but some of this is big stuff. It scares me. I know some of what I need to do, but I put it off. I know what I'm avoiding. It helps to focus on your love for me this week. I guess what I really need to ask you for today is that you let me trust you more completely. It is really nice these days to feel that you are so close to me, and that I'm not alone today.”

“I haven't been very connected to you, Jesus. This conversation is difficult because it reminds me of the embarrassing stuff I keep doing - even though right now I'm ashamed to talk about it with you in your presence. Please forgive me. Some of this I want to bring to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that I can be re-connected with you again. I need a 'turning point,' Jesus. Thank you for being there.”

“Good night, Jesus. Thank you for today. Let me put everything aside tonight. I know you will be with me all day tomorrow.”

[Creighton U Online Ministries](#)

Monthly Breakfast at the Assumption Center on 721 Chapel Street

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

SNOW REMOVAL & SALT/SANDING EXPENSESCAN YOU HELP?

We are appealing to your generosity. Although we didn't have a lot of snow this winter we did have an abundance of ice where we had to provide salt/sanding for everyone's safety. Whatever monies you donate will be credited to your 2024 income tax receipt. Thank You!

Here are the totals from January - Present for both worship sites.

Snow Removal & Salt/Sanding - \$17,270.00

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.

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Holy Spirit Parish is looking for someone to manage police checks for our various ministry volunteers. In this age of service and ministry we are required to insure people have appropriate vetting which requires the volunteer to provide the parish with a police check. If you are a volunteer in any organization then you know what this means. These police checks have to be renewed every five years. For the past number of years Helen Parker has volunteered her time and energy to this particular Ministry. We are grateful to her and for her dedicated time and energy. Thank you Helen!!! Helen has decided it is time to step down and will be finished at the end of June 2024. Therefore, we need someone to replace her. If you are interested or want more information on this unique ministry please contact the office.

Good News, our new website is nearing completion.....

The communications team is actively working to update our Holy Spirit website. We hope it will be ready to launch in the coming weeks. We'd appreciate your help by submitting any photos you would like included for the gallery section. We are including sections on St Augustine's , St Brendan, St Rose and St Matthews. We are looking for photos of the church, church artifacts, celebrations, group photos etc. This is an opportunity to pay tribute to our rich history. If you have any digitized photos, please send to pattiblake07@outlook.com. If you have any hardcopy photos, we will scan them and return them to you. Please drop an envelope with your photos, name and phone number with the Parish Office. It would also be helpful to write on the back of the photo what/who we see in the photo and approximate date.

Sometime in May, we will be looking for volunteers to help us test. This is to test that the content can be seen, links work etc. on a variety of devices.

Audité **SPRING** Retreat at Villa Madonna...

4-day Retreat... Mon., May 27th begins with Supper at 5pm; ends 31st at 2:00 pm (\$479.00)

2-day Retreat... Mon., May 27th begins with Supper at 5pm; ends 29th at 2:00 pm (\$237.50)

Team of Audité and four invited Facilitators, in atmosphere of welcoming Silence.

Persons first time for this Audité retreat, may request half-price registration.

Email: audite119@bellaliant.net

MASS SCHEDULE 2024

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

May 01, 2024	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	7pm	Marjorie Gatien Clara Robichaud
Mar 02, 2024	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	12:10pm	Kathleen Jennings
May 04, 2024	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Leo Paul & Gerry LeBlanc Patricia Wallace
May 05, 2024	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Parishioners
May 05, 2024	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Pat Chaisson Catria Jackson

Join us in a guided 1 hour discussion on reading the scripture with deeper discernment. Sr. Doreen McGuire (Adutie Centre) will lead us thru this hour providing helpful guidance in our journey to personal relationship with scripture. All are welcome May 7th - 6:30pm - 7:30pm St Matthews Worship Site.

COLLECTIONS – Apr 21, 2024
 Regular - \$2,271.00 Loose - \$426.10 Snow Removal - \$100.00
 Food Bank - \$40.00 eTransfer - \$35.00
 PAD Weekly Average - \$1,713.00 PAD BLDG - \$148.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Marcos McLean, Anne McCaig and Cathy Wallace

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.

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. 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, Ukes 4 You, Beyond the Mast, and much, much more. May 25, 2pm. **Tickets are now on sale**, available at both parish offices, in the office at Home Hardware (cash only), or from Patti or Jill. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, so get yours now!! Any questions, contact Jill at (506) 639-0007 or jillrobillard5@gmail.com or Patti (506) 609-1318 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”

5th Sunday of Easter – Apr 28, 2024

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: Apr 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