

2023
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT



“WHERE WE WELCOME...
WE WORSHIP...
AND WE WITNESS...”

CREATING THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

A prayer by Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back
and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
It is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds
already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that. This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen.

Dear Parishioners,

“After rising from the dead, Jesus, appeared to the disciples telling them, ‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation’” Mark (16:15)

This challenge given to those early disciples is the same challenge given to us at our Baptism to go and proclaim the Good News. Once again, I am pleased to offer you our 2023 Parish Accountability Report. This report shows the many ways we have proclaimed the Good News. One word that comes to the forefront as I write this opening reflection is “AMAZING!” Hopefully, like me, these yearly reports leave you amazed at God’s presence in our lives and how God uses our ordinary gifts and our repeated efforts to be with us at prayer, enter into the weekend celebrations of the Eucharist, participate in the various committees and councils and organizations to bring such hope, healing and care into the lives of so many. In addition to what happens on our Church properties, I see God’s presence so evident in your lives and greater community.

As always, I strongly encourage you to “**read**” and to “**pray**” this report as it gives us a ‘snapshot’ of Holy Spirit Parish and just some of the facets that help build and strengthen our faith. Within these pages, you will see up close, the amount of work that has gone into our parish since last year’s report. Each committee and or group has submitted this report for three reasons: 1. To introduce their particular ministry that continues to support our parish. 2. Both current and future goals and objectives that has been completed or will be completed. 3. An opportunity for you to join and support one of these active committees, offering your own God-given gifts and talents to enhance our faith community. From actual committee work and to those who pray with us each week, I speak with ‘gratitude’ when I see the amount of work and dedication that is offered by Holy Spirit Parish.

We all cannot participate in every parish ministry or activity, but hopefully as you read (and pray) about it, it will give you a deeper sense of how all of us here have in a variety of ways responded to God’s call for the sake of the life of our parish community and our mission to proclaim the “Good News to the Whole of Creation”. We also know that participating in these various activities is a great blessing to the rest of us as well.

The following comments capture this for us:

- “I am so uplifted by the music and singing at all the masses offered in this parish.”
- “I look forward every week to be with a praying and active faith community.”
- “Finally, I am getting to know the others parishioners.”
- “St. Matthew’s and St. Rose Worship Sites are so beautifully decorated...it helps me to pray better.”
- “We are very fortunate to have trained, Lay Ministers, ready to lead us when, you Fr. David, are not able to be here.”

- “It is wonderful to see so many youth involved in our liturgies.”

To say that I am humbled and grateful to receive these comments is an understatement. It takes so much time, effort and dedication by so many active people to bring all of this about. Let us now look at our committees who continue to keep our parish moving forward:

Revitalization Committee is the committee that oversees and encourages parish life, previously known as ‘Parish Council’ now meet in person on a regular basis. Early in his pontificate Pope Francis challenged us to go forth and to “Rebuild the Church”. In other words, to revitalize it, thus we are now known as the Revitalization Committee. We have a new leader at our helm: Tom Paisley. Tom has been leading this vital committee since last fall with his own style offering ‘stellar’ leadership.

Tom picks up from where Patti Blake has brought us thus far. We are grateful to Patti and now Tom and the rest of the team who are ‘visionaries.’ Following the vision of Vatican II, we continue to look forward at different opportunities to build on our faith while at the same time meeting the current needs in our parish. We continue to extract the gifts of our community, bring to life our parish to its fullest potential. Without the input and support of the various ministries that serve us, we would not be able to do this.

With our mission statement solidified, we continue to concentrate on three distinct areas of concentration: **WELCOME, WORSHIP and WITNESS**. You will learn more about this from our Revitalization Report. These three components are vital to any parish community. We are so blessed to have people from across Canada including those from Syro-Malabar Rite and Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church moving into our parish and have found a home with us. They have certainly enriched our parish with their various contributions to our community!

Building and Maintenance Committee continue to gift us with their time and talent. Much time, effort and financial resources have been spent on St. Rose Worship Site. The meeting room that was under construction is now finished. As well, the entire exterior of the church has been repaired and painted. A new ‘pitch’ roof is being added to the entrance to divert water and given proper drainage. The original roof was ‘flat’ and was causing serious leakage and decay. Unfortunately, John Hickey who was overseeing the project died suddenly this past year. We are grateful to John for his expertise and generous heart. New ‘outside’ LED lighting and landscaping will finish off this project. We will be turning our attention to St. Matthew’s Worship Site which is in need of updating the interior with new paint and chairs.

In regards to the former St. Rose Rectory, we continue to enter into a one year contract with AEI (Atlantic Educational International). They pay for heating this building, plus share in the lawn care and plowing expenses.

Our **Finance Committee** continues to serve us with their financial gifts. I am grateful to Bob Gaudet and the other members of this committee who continue to share their financial abilities, recommendations and counsel. They have included an impressive report showing us our investments and profit and losses. I fully understand that we are living in brutally expensive times with rising costs of everything. However, if everyone increased their contributions, we would not have to draw on our investments which are affecting our total savings in a negative way. Fundraising for our parish is now a necessity... not an option.

As a 'new committee,' our **Communications and Technology Committee** continue to work on a Facebook page. Included in this project will be the various histories... articles and photos... of key moments in the life of our former parishes and mission, while at the same time, providing space for current and ongoing activities. They have done extraordinary work and I am excited to see the final page which will put our parish 'out there' for others to enjoy and participate in.

Also the **Holy Spirit Women's Group** continue to serve our community both in the forefront and behind the scenes. They have spearheaded a 3 year monument project on the property where the former St. Augustine's Church sat. This summer we will be placing a monument where the former St. Brendan's Mission Church sat. Jim Gatién continues to serve us with his dedicated work at St. Augustine's Cemetery. I receive many compliments regarding how well maintained our cemetery is. We have Jim to thank for that!

Some of our Opportunities listed in last year's report were set in motions: Established a **Communications and Technology Committee** who are doing great work! Our **Welcome Back Sunday** last fall was a huge success! Well attended with a delicious BBQ, games, karaoke and so on. As well the **Ecumenical New Year's Potluck** brought so many of our neighbours from other faith traditions. Great food and entertainment was enjoyed by all. The Ministerial Group that meets wants to keep this going. And our **Photo contest and Church calendar** was very successful as well.

One area where I feel that we have fallen short is the ongoing **Synod**. Besides my own personal reading and attending some workshops, I feel that as a parish we are still on the 'outside looking in' rather than being an integral part of the process. The Synod is a monumental action in the greater church that will hopefully have ongoing positive influence at the local parish level and in the lives of the worshipping community.

Once again, I am grateful for all the help from the many committees and individuals who continue to make our parish what it is and to have the 'vision' to see what it can become. I am so thankful for Fr. Tom Fowler who is always there for our parish. And I am thankful for our **Liturgical Team** who can lead 'Lay-lead Services' when no priest is available. Thank you to

both Mary Rose and Trish Gallagher who continue to nourish our faith with their gift of music and song... and to our dedicated choir and the students from Saint John High School (Trish's choir who bring so much to our liturgical celebrations). I would be amiss not to mention the ongoing and dedicated service of Bernice Martin to our parish community. She continues to serve us with her administrative gifts and certainly for her sense of humour that aids in making our parish a 'welcoming' community.

Within these pages you will find other ministries which are vitally important such as the Alpha program and how they continue to navigate our parish forward so that 'we can be the best we can be.' On another note, so many people do so many things without acknowledgement. We are indebted to them for their 'quiet offering.' However, without the ongoing participation of the whole community, we would fail to exist. You, the parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish... The People of God... are the ones who support our endeavours, who contribute to parish coffers and above all, the ones who pray with us on a regular basis. Without your presence we are incomplete. As we continue to move forward, may we embrace any or all opportunities that the Holy Spirit sends us!

Many thanks and Blessings!

Fr. David

Holy Spirit Parish Statistics:

	2023	2022	2021
Number of Active Parishioners	550	500	600
Number of Baptisms	22	22	10
Number of Deaths	45	32	35
1st Communion	13	6	9
First Reconciliation	7	11	11
Confirmation	1	11	0
Marriages	4	0	0

Goals for 2024-2025:

More Social Gatherings

Establish a 'Fundraising' Committee

Youth Alpha Program

Attention to our shut-ins

Revitalization Accountability Report

Purpose of our Committee

Our purpose is to breathe new life into our parish. The committee was established after a major restructuring of the diocese in Saint John a few years ago. This restructuring resulted in the closure of St Augustine's worship site and the combining of two worship sites, St Mathews and St Rose of Lima, into one new renamed parish called Holy Spirit Parish.

This restructuring event led to the formation of the Revitalization Committee. It was felt we needed to establish a working group of parishioners to bring the people of the new parish together to form a cohesive, spiritual community in the wake of this major change.

Our committee was chaired at this time by Patti Blake. She was supported by a small group of committed parishioners to take on this challenging role. They immediately had a very positive effect on the new parish by among other things, generating new ideas, creating new events and most importantly, welcoming the people the two former parishes to worship as one spiritual community. This effort had just begun when the COVID pandemic essentially shut down most of our parish activities including the work of this committee. With Patti's able leadership, the group managed to continue to function and progress their mission despite this major disruption. They, with the help and support of a large working group of parishioners, were able to simplify the Diocese Five Part vision of Revitalization to three key principles to describe our parish.

“Welcome... Worship... Witness...”

Our parish logo is as follows:

“Inspired by our faith in Jesus Christ, and rooted in the seven gifts of the Spirit, we actively **welcome** all people. We **worship** God through prayerful and inspiring liturgies, the celebration of the sacraments, and the devotional life of the church. We **witness** to our faith by ministering to everyone, especially the poor, alienated, and the oppressed.”

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we to continue work to breathe new life into our parish. That same working group of parishioners who developed the Welcome, Worship, Witness theme, also generated a long list of new ideas to move our parish forward. We have implemented many of these initiatives, some large and some small, over the past two years.

Some recent ideas implemented include:

- Welcome Back Picnic in September
- New Year's Eve Multifaith Pot Luck Supper event
- Two very successful Alpha sessions

In the coming year, we want to create a closer Christian community within our parish. We will organize an event each quarter of the coming year that will foster closer Christian relationships with each other in the church setting and demonstrate our commitment to our parish logo. We now have a focused list of initiatives that we would like to implement this coming year.

Priorities for 2024 include:

- Hold the Parish picnic once again
- A new Alpha session
- A parish cleanup initiative at both worship sites
- Celebrations of Pentecost and Christmas
- Hold a Parish breakfast
- Establish an outreach initiative
- Stations of the Cross Worship event

If you have any ideas please share with any of the committee members.

Yours in Christ,
Tom Paisley, Committee Chair

Committee Members for 2024:

Father David Martin, Stephen Parker, Linda Spinney, John and Caroline Doubt, Roberta Crawford, Tom Paisley

Finance Committee Accountability Report

Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to present to you our 2023 Financial Report for Holy Spirit Parish. Our committee was active again last year in performing our due diligence duties regarding the stewardship and execution of financial matters in consultation with our parish pastor Rev. David Martin.

Activity Summary:

- J.K. Whittaker & Associates was again hired to review & reconcile the various accounts of our parish. Their review was favorable.
- Leased St. Rose Place with AEI (Atlantic Education International) for another year contract ending August 2024.
- SEI investments – transferred our fixed income portfolio into a Money Market Fund which represents approximately 64% of our portfolio. The current money market account (\$752,190.00) was paying 5.7% annual return. This resulted in a one-time realized loss of \$76,293.00.
- Received a government grant to hire one summer student to work at St. Augustine's Cemetery.
- Approved financing for Building & Maintenance Committee projects totalling \$167,062.00.

Our more conservative stance on our SEI Investments and our necessary building and maintenance repairs resulted in our loss of \$120,936.00 for the year. Going forward we should see a more positive financial statement.

Yours in faith,

Bob Gaudet

Finance Committee Chair – Holy Spirit Parish

Finance Committee Members:

Bob Gaudet – Finance Committee Chair
Anita LeBlanc – Finance Committee Secretary
Bernice Martin – Parish Secretary

Chris Thompson
Roxanne Fairweather
Rev. David Martin - Pastor

Holy Spirit Parish
Profit and Loss
Year Ending December 31, 2023

Income	2023	2022
Offertory Collection	243,961	223,243
School Rent	128,820	128,820
Bequests and donations	5,710	31,081
Special collections	6,340	6,904
Building fund	27,840	24,676
Other	68,194	27,483
Total Income	* 480,864	442,207
Expenses		
Church	** 258,767	94,919
Salaries and benefits	138,041	137,518
Rectory	33,316	18,192
Diocesan assessment	32,531	33,247
Office	15,566	18,860
Hall	8,040	5,564
Special collections remitted	5,038	6,431
Other	54,355	59,343
Total Expenses	545,653	374,075
Net surplus before other items	- 64,789	68,132
Other Income		
IPLF interest	19,362	23,277
SEI Investments	- 76,293	45,522
Bank Interest	783	228
Government Grants & Rebates	-	10,140
Total Other Income	- 56,147	79,167
Net surplus (loss) for the year	- 120,936	147,299

* Income up \$40,000.00

** Major renovations

Holy Spirit Parish
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

Cash and Cash Equivalent	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Bank of Montreal	13,250	10,232
Holy Spirit Building Fund	387	20,350
St Augustine Cemetery Account	17,523	3,432
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	31,160	34,013
 Taxes Recoverable	 6,322	 2,591
 IPLF - Deposits		
St. Rose School Rent Fund	904,492	775,672
St. Rose Building Fund	85,836	252,898
St. Brennen Cemetery	14,353	14,115
St. Rose Community Housing	29,189	28,707
St. Augustine Cemetery	67,132	75,890
In Trust - Riley Manor	45,898	45,139
SEI Investments	1,157,610	1,233,902
Total IPLF - Deposits	2,304,509	2,426,324
 Land & Building	 89,779	 89,779
 Total Assets	 2,431,771	 2,552,707
<hr/>		
Total Liabilities		
 Equity		
IPLF - (Loan)/Deposit Activity	71,000	71,000
Opening Bal Equity	2,481,707	2,334,408
Retained Earnings	-	-
Profit for the year	- 120,936	147,299
Total Equity	2,431,771	2,552,707
 Total Liabilities and Equity	 2,431,771	 2,552,707
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Holy Spirit Women's Society

The mission of the Holy Spirit Women's Society is to undertake projects that support our parish, its outreach, and enrich our community, while developing fellowship and friendship.

The Women's Society is based in Grand Bay-Westfield, however all the women of Holy Spirit Parish from both worship sites are welcome. We generally meet monthly, September to November and again January to May, the last Tuesday of the month, in the Rectory Hall.

- **Avenue B Soup Ministry:**

Hearty homemade soup was made 12 months of the year, portioned in 500ml containers, frozen, and delivered to Avenue B. Biscuits were also prepared and delivered with the soup.

- This past year produced 564 containers of ham/turkey/pea/hamburger soups, or chili, as well as 109 dozen biscuits.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:**

This ministry meets in the Rectory Hall every Wednesday, 10am to 1200pm, with everyone welcome, regardless of skill level. Prayer shawls, mittens, hats, and scarves are hand knit or crocheted. Each item is made with love and prayers.

- 53 prayer shawls were knit or crocheted this past year, shawls were blessed at St. Rose on the 2nd Sunday of Easter and at St. Matthew's on Thanksgiving. Quilt racks are in the entryway of both worship sites, making the shawls available for anyone in need of spiritual comfort.
- Hands and fingers have also been busy knitting and crocheting 237 pairs of mittens, 22 hats, 6 scarves, 10 headbands, 8 pairs of slippers, 1 child's sweater, and 10 pairs of socks. Generous bags of these hand crafted items were donated to our local schools (Grand Bay Primary, Harbour View High School, Inglewood Elementary, River Valley Middle School, Westfield Elementary), as well as Avenue B and Horizon Recovery Centre.
- 12 small teddy bears were made to keep on hand, to provide for the RCMP or any other need.

- **Harbour View High School:**

- A food donation drive for Harbour View High School was held this past winter. The donations help to feed hungry students at school, and some food was sent home to families in need.
- In September, donations of both school supplies and non-perishable food were collected for HVHS, to help provide items for students in need. As always, the parishioners of Holy Spirit parish were very generous; the staff and volunteers at HVHS were extremely grateful.

- **Horizon Recovery Centre:**
 - In November and December, the Women’s Society organized a donation drive to provide support to the men at Horizon Recovery Centre, a long-term residential program (up to 3 months) for men who have an addiction to alcohol, drugs, and/or gambling. The donations received were extremely generous, helping to make Christmas less lonely for the clients as well as provide items that are used throughout the year.
- **Christmas Donations by The Women’s Society:**
 - A monetary donation was made to the Joshua Group, a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization serving at risk children in the Greater Saint John area
 - A monetary donation was made to the River Valley Food Bank
 - A monetary donation was made to the parish for assistance with heat, power, and/or maintenance
- **St. Matthew’s Hall:**
 - The Women’s Society continues to manage St. Matthew’s Hall rentals. For 2023, there have been 2 craft shows, and 2 funeral receptions, as well as rental of room dividers.
- **Fundraisers:**
 - Although St. Augustine’s Memorial Garden is not a project of the Women’s Society, we did engage in 1 activity and 2 fundraisers, with all the proceeds going to the garden. We participated in the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield’s spring road cleanup, held a quilt raffle, and hosted the Fall Flavours café.
- **Fellowship and Community Building**
 - An important part of who we are and what we do revolves around friendship and our church family. We held 2 pot luck lunches this year, one in June and one in December. All the women of Holy Spirit are encouraged to attend, and we were very pleased to welcome new faces around the table this year.

The Women’s Society relies on the kindness and generosity of our parishioners to support our outreach activities through donations of required items or financial assistance, as well as assistance and support behind the scenes. What we do could not be done without the support we receive from both worship sites. It is all greatly appreciated. Thank you. If you are interested in being part of our fellowship, please reach out to the parish office for contact information, or find us on Facebook: Holy Spirit Women’s Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Robillard
 Chair, Holy Spirit Women’s Society

Religious Education

We have resumed our classes, based on our Vision that every child brought into the family of the Church through Baptism, develops a personal love of Jesus Christ and has an understanding of their mission to the world. We Welcome all children, Worship with them, and help them learn how to worship on their own, and we Witness to them by sharing our Faith experience, and encourage them to share their own.

Our classes are provided in two phases, general knowledge of our Faith, our Church, and the part we play in each, for grades one to seven; and preparation for the Sacraments for the appropriate grade levels. This year we have a total enrollment of 26, with an average attendance of 12 each week. Of those students, 6 completed First Reconciliation in December, and 11 are currently preparing for First Communion in the Spring. One Confirmation candidate completed her preparation and was confirmed in December, and one remaining candidate will complete his preparation with a Youth ALPHA program, and be confirmed in the Spring of 2025, aligning with the Diocesan program of Confirmations near the end of the school year. In addition to class work, we encourage participation during Mass, with our students serving on the Altar, and collecting and carrying offerings to the Altar.

We continue make available online support and lesson programs, to allow for interruptions of in person classes, and to reinforce the classes at home.

This year, with the support and generosity of the Holy Spirit Women's Society, we will reinstate the practice of gifting each Grade Four student with their own Bible, which was interrupted by the restrictions of the pandemic. We will also gift those students who completed Grade Four during the hiatus, and missed their presentation.

Once again, Angie MacDonald is providing wonderful leadership to the student's preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion, and we have been joined by Mary Johnson in our general classes as helper, guide and catechist. With the arrival of Miss Mary, we now have an opportunity to offer more individual attention to the youngest of our students, and may even have the chance to welcome kindergarten age students depending on interest. Bernice remains our pillar of support, and Patricia Lee, as Diocesan Coordinator, is always available with her wisdom, practical help and resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Spinney, Religious Education Coordinator,
Holy Spirit Parish

Liturgical Committee

Our committee continues to try to enhance your weekly Masses by strengthening your faith and beautifying your church so that you can have a good spiritual experience.

Two new members have joined us this year; Joe and Della Pitre. They were warmly welcomed into our committee. Workshops were held for both our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. We want to make sure our volunteers are comfortable and effective when reading and when servicing communion. The workshops were only about 20 minutes long but Father David made sure all was covered to make sure we are doing what our roles entail. Workbooks were purchased for each year of readings.

Palm Sunday, Triduum and Easter this year were back to our new normal. Some Triduum services have COVID adaptations but our Advent and Easter services have been enhanced. Palms were more plentiful on Palm Sunday this year and next year we should have double what we had this year. Mass at Easter was beautiful with church decorations so warm and bright and Father's homily making us listen more intently.

Blessing of pet animals was held on October 21st at both worship sites. Father David was pleased with all the pets that were waiting to be blessed and having any extra-ordinary ones. Just cats and dogs, thank heaven!! St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint for animals and we wanted to have our blessing as close to his worship day as possible.

"Remembering our Dead" is a service we do each year remembering all those of our parish who have died within November 1st and October 31st each year. We had 42 funerals this past year, six from St. Matthews worship site and thirty-six from St. Rose worship site.

Our goals for next year are:

- to have St. Matthew's altar hand railing installed
- to continue recruiting for new members for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers
- to put on a retreat

Goals accomplished this year were:

- new members recruited – on going
- St. Rose's altar hand railing was installed and fits in well with the Church's décor
- St. Matthew's choir have new gowns to wear and they are so happy to get them

Our committee members are:

Father David Martin, Pastor
Anita Le Blanc, Secretary
Cindy Doyle
Teresa Mittleholtz

Francine Doiron
Bernice Martin
Mary Rose Daigle
Sue Ogden

Joe & Della Pitre
Stephen Parker
Amanda Muise
Cathy Thornton

Legion of Mary 2023

The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of the lay Catholics under the leadership of Mary the Blessed Mother, with the guidance of the Parish Priest – Father David Martin, to do works that are useful for the welfare of the church.

Our presidium (group) consists of 3 active members, and 11 auxiliaries (praying members) from Holy Spirit Parish.

The members are Francine Doiron (president), Amanda Muise (secretary), Susan Smith (treasurer).

Our Parish Priest is Father David Martin, and our Spiritual Director is Father Darren Bryk.

The goal of our presidium continues to be the visitation of the sick and shut ins. This is to bring them Holy Communion. We also do many other works as needed by the Parish. We have resumed our visits to shut-ins.

We do these works for the love of Jesus in the Spirit and in union with Mary His Mother, and always with the permission of our parish priest. We are truly blessed to have Father Martin as our Parish Priest, and Father Bryk who was appointed the Spiritual Director of Legion of Mary for our Diocese. We appreciate their interest and their support in our mission. Our Acies (yearly celebration of renewal for all Legion of Mary's) was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Our goal for the coming year is to welcome new active members and auxiliaries. Should you have an interest in either one of these memberships, please contact any of our active members.

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm, after mass. Our meeting begins with the recitation of the Rosary to which members of our communities are more than welcome to attend. We are blessed to have members of our communities that are faithful in joining us for the Rosary.

“...and so it is that we proclaim the most Holy Mary to be the mother of the Church, that is so to say, of all the people of God, of the faithful and their pastors.” – Excerpt from the Pope Paul VI: Discourse during Vatican council II

**Respectfully submitted on behalf of the “Our Lady of Apostle” presidium
Secretary – Amanda Muise**

Francine Doiron (506) 738-3143

Amanda Muise (506) 738-3108

Susan Smith (506) 657-1236

Building and Maintenance Committee Report

The Committee meets regularly to address the needs of the properties within Holy Spirit Parish. The Committee is responsible for reviewing and renewing annual contracts for snow removal and lawn care.

Last year the committee adopted a 5-year plan for both worship sites geared to the needs of each worship site. This year's report will reflect the repairs done in the 1st year of the 5-year plan.

St. Matthews Worship Site

- 1) All windows were resealed and caulked.

St. Rose Worship Site

- 1) All exterior windows were re-caulked.
- 2) Rotten exterior wood replaced.
- 3) Exterior of building painted.
- 4) Flat roof repair (ongoing supply issue)

Holy Spirit Rectory

- 1) Exterior painted.

2024 we will be working on the 2nd year of the 5-year plan.

St. Rose Worship Site

- 1) New parking lot lights.
- 2) Landscaping.

St. Matthews Worship Site

- 1) Interior painting.
- 2) Repairing of a portion of the parking lot.
- 3) New seating.

Holy Spirit Rectory

- 1) Interior painting.
- 2) Repaving of driveway.

The Committee also dealt with unforeseen repairs not part of the 5-year plan.

St. Matthews Worship Site

- 1) New projector.
- 2) Parking lot lights.
- 3) Tree removed.

St. Rose Worship Site

- 1) New toilet for washroom.
- 2) Racoon problem.
- 3) Had sewer line visually inspected.

St. Rose Place (former rectory)

- 1) Leaking water pipe repaired.
- 2) Toilet repaired.

Committee Members:

Leo Maloney

Wayne Connell

Keith Doiron

Stephen Parker

Fr. David Martin

St. Augustine's Memorial Garden



When St. Augustine's church was closed in 2018 and then demolished in 2021, the plan was to build a memorial garden on the site. The spring of 2023 saw that plan begin.

Four landscaping companies were asked to submit their design and costs; bids were received and Lawrence Landscaping was awarded the project. The project price was locked in until 2025 with the payment of a 25% deposit.

The garden is being built in 3 phases over 3 years, to be completed in 2025. The design is to be in the shape of a Celtic cross, with each arm of the cross having a bench. The cost of the benches is not included in the quoted cost of the garden.

The Phase 1 work done this past year has resulted in the site now being well-defined, as well as already visually appealing. The asphalt on the back driveway has been removed. A rosebush hedge has been planted along the west and north side edges, a barberry hedge now runs along the edge of the sidewalk on the Nerepis Road, and 6 maple trees have been planted on the south side that lines the existing parking lot.

Parishioners have been extremely generous in financially supporting the garden with donations. Fundraising efforts have been very successful; many parishioners have given of their time and energy to help with events, and the support of the Women's Society has been invaluable.

Many grant applications have been completed, and we have successfully received three so far, two from the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield, and one from the provincial government.

Donations to specifically purchase the three benches have either been received or promised, and all 6 maple trees have been sponsored.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Robillard and Patti Blake

St. Augustine's Memorial Garden Income and Expenses as of December 31, 2023

INCOME			
Provincial Grant	2472.00		
Municipal Grants	2000		
Donations (donations for benches have been removed)	8591.30		
Fundraising	4708.91		
TOTAL INCOME	17,772.21		
EXPENSES PAID	BASE	HST	TOTAL
Deposit	5702.75	855.41	6558.16
Drainage work	2704.11	405.62	3109.73
Phase 1	6338.47	953.47	7309.94
TOTAL EXPENSES PAID TO DATE	14763.33	2214.50	16,977.83
BALANCE			+794.38
FUTURE EXPENSES			
Phase 2, Parts 1 & 2 (2024)	6435.44	965.32	7400.76
Phase 3 (2025)	7737.96	1160.69	8898.65
TOTAL FUTURE EXPENSES	14,173.40	2126.01	16,299.41

