

Pastoral Letter Autumn 2024

Dear Parishioners,

As time leads us from Summer into the beautiful season of Autumn, it is good to inform you of what is new or coming up at Holy Spirit Parish. Once again, the Holy Spirit, our Namesake, never fails to amaze me and what is accomplished among us, for us and for the greater community.

As you know, our Parish Picnic will soon be upon us. If this year's celebration is anything close to what we celebrated last year, then we are certainly in for a great time. Last year we served over 200 meals, along with games for the kids, a photo booth and of course, excellent entertainment. Don't worry, we will order more cake for this year! I want to thank our Revitalization Team and the Parish Picnic Subcommittee for their dedicated work in putting everything together. Also, on the we are planning a Dance and prior to Christmas, a special breakfast. More information to follow on these events. Thank you to the Revitalization Committee for their ongoing dedication.

Religious Education is paramount to any parish. Ours is no different. So far, our classes are very small (6 in total at St. Rose Worship Site). Program will be offered every other week at each worship site. Please check our website for further information or call Linda Spinney our Religious Education Coordinator. We could use help in this vital area of passing our faith onto the next generations.

The exterior painting of St. Rose is coming to an end. Merzetti still in the process of touching up some exterior spots. As well, the landscaping on the parking lot side and front of the church is completed. The interior back wall of the church has been repaired and painted by Ron Pye. Our next course of action will turn to the foyer where we need to remove and replace the water-stained sheetrock and paint.

Our next is to focus on St. Matthew's Worship Site. We will be replacing the current chairs that are over 40 years old... some are stained, ripped, or the seats have broken. They will be replaced with new chairs, "with arms" to aid us in our worship. As well, the interior of the church is overdue for

a fresh coat of paint. Downstairs in the hall, we must replace the 'industrial size stove' to ensure that we can rent and use the hall to its fullest purpose.

The Rectory where I live will soon need new windows. These windows were replaced 40 years ago. Many of the seals are cracked and some windows do not open. Our Building and Maintenance Committee is in the process of getting quotes for this project. As well I am happy to see the Memorial Park finish it's Second Stage of completion. A monument needs to be placed at the former St. Brendan's Mission Church site. Monies have been set aside for this purpose. Anyone interested in taking this on, please notify the office.

On a pastoral note. The clergy in Saint John met with Kelly Hudson-Lewis of Horizon Health. No longer can clergy go into a hospital and look at 'The List' of patients for our own denomination. Unfortunately, since Covid there have been various changes made to ensure patient confidentiality therefore, the practice of having daily lists has been cancelled. If you are going to the hospital or if your family member is in the hospital, please notify the office not Fr. David before or after Mass.

Liturgy Committee is discussing Advent, Evening Prayer and ongoing Art and Environment continue to keep our worship spaces welcoming and inviting as well as our great musical and singing talent. If you are interested in joining our choir or have an instrument to play, let us know! It is through your 'active participation' and contributions that make our liturgies prayerful.

As we begin our new season, let us be mindful of the stress and tension that exists in many of our families, communities and the greater world. Let us continue to pray for healing, reconciliation for the troubled areas of our world. It's God's creation and thus should be treated with the utmost respect and care.

Blessings,

Fr. David