

Our Sacred Stories

Openness to a Flawed Humanity: Seeing with God's Eyes

The Gospels present us with many stories told by Jesus. These parables offer glimpses of what God is like. In Luke's Gospel (Luke 16:1-13) we catch sight of the generous loving God as revealed by Jesus himself. This parable tells the story of a rich man who had a servant managing his wealth. The manager was accused of "squandering" his wealth and so was fired. Recognizing he was in a tight spot, the manager decided to change the debts owed to his former employer. This he thought would make him new friends at this difficult time. Surprise - the rich man commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. What a strange story! What is the point Jesus is making here? Perhaps there are many.

One key point is clearer when we see the location of this story in Luke's Gospel. It follows directly after a parable which is very familiar to us, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Here the younger son of a man demands his share of the family wealth. He goes away and "squanders" his share. In dire straits, he decides to return home to his father. But filled with guilt he determines that he can no longer be regarded as a member of the family, only a slave to his father. Surprise – the father spots the son returning. Overwhelmed with joy, he runs out to gather the wayward one into his arms. No mention of the "squandering", no mention of the thoughtlessness of the son and his desertion of the family. These two parables shown together are revelations of how God sees us.

As persons, as communities, as a global humanity we are gifted with many resources, much wealth. These are ours to use, in trust from God. How do we use this wealth of resources human, natural, economic? Sometimes we "squander" what we have been given. The temptation to treat it as held only for our personal enrichment or even to work at seizing it from others can overtake us, whether as individuals, or communities or nations. In this, like the manager or the younger son, we betray the trust.

The two stories reveal God's response. It is a surprising one. We do not earn God's love. We have only to be open to accept it. God's eyes are ever ready to see beyond our failings. The debts and sins, the hurts and broken trust cannot stand in the way of God's vision. God's unconditional love ever recognizes the goodness of each and every person, even if the person themselves may be blind to it. Luke presents us with these two parables as Jesus' way of proclaiming a faith in God as a loving parent, ever ready to reconcile and heal. The stories express a faith in a God who challenges us with wealth, gifts and resources, in trust. At the same time, they present a God whose unconditional love can see beyond our failures to live up to this trust. It is a parent's love that can see beyond our failures to the goodness with which God has gifted us.

And there is a further point, another challenge. If this is how God treats every one of us, we are to see one another in the same open way. One aspect of the wealth and gifts we have received from God demands of us that we strive to see one another through God's eyes – to recognize the goodness of all beyond the failures and flaws that we encounter. God always has a parent's love for our flawed humanity. In faith are we able to accept and live this love ourselves?

John Jennings - 25th Sun Ord. Time

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Faith? Have you been sitting in the pew wondering what you would have to do to become Catholic? Statistics show that most people respond to a personal invitation. So, this is that personal invitation and a challenge to all of you who might know someone who fits the categories above to invite that person. If anyone is interested please call the office (506-738-2320) or email the office at holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com

Catholicism Series

Do you have questions about teachings of the Catholic Church?

Here is a video series that can answer many of those questions. Topics are:

- Episode 1: Amazed and Afraid – The Revelation of God Become Man
- Episode 2: Happy Are We – The Teachings of Jesus
- Episode 3: That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought – The Ineffable Mystery of God
- Episode 4: Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast – Mary, the Mother of God
- Episode 5: The Indispensable Men – Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure
- Episode 6: A Body Both Suffering and Glorious – The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church
- Episode 7: Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven – The Mystery of the Liturgy and Eucharist
- Episode 8: A Vast Company of Witnesses – The Communion of Saints
- Episode 9: The Fire of His Love – Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
- Episode 10: World Without End – The Last Things

We are delighted to invite parishioners and all those interested in exploring the riches of the Catholic tradition to join us for a special viewing and discussion of Bishop Robert Barron's acclaimed Catholicism video series. Bishop Barron is an internationally recognized theologian, author, and evangelist. He is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and through his books, talks, videos, and documentaries, he has inspired millions with his clear teaching, intellectual rigor, and passionate love for Christ and the Church.

When: Weekly sessions begin on Thursday September 25th at 6:30 p.m. and continue for ten weeks.

Where: St. Matthew's Parish Hall

Format: Each session features a 50-minute video viewing, followed by group discussion. Desserts, coffee and tea will be provided.

If interested, please email alphaholyspirit@gmail.com, let Bernice know, or call John Doubt at (506)738-1994.

MASSES

Sep 24, 2025	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Ali Wallace
Sep 25, 2025	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	11am	Colleen Boucher
Sep 27, 2025	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Parishioners
Sep 28, 2025	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Medore & Alice Arsenault
Sep 28, 2025	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Linda Robinson Wenonah Macdonald Bob Parker

THANK YOU

Thanks to all the people who participated in our parish picnic this past Sunday. Our thanks to the many hardworking volunteers who made everything work so very well. Thanks also to the parishioners who supported the event by stopping by for a burger, a hotdog and salad and to play a few games of bingo. Also, a big thank you to the children who participated in the games. It was a great day!

2025 Picnic Organizing Committee

COLLECTION – Sep 14, 2025

Regular - \$2,463.00 Loose - \$499.00 eTransfers - \$20.00
PAD Weekly Avg - \$1,580.00 PAD Bldg - \$148.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



**KOC 17984 Sept Brunch – The Assumption Centre on
Sep 21, 2025, from 9am – 12:30pm.
\$10 for adults and \$4 for children. All WELCOME!!**

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Michele Sweet, Jeanne Perry and Mike Shannon

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Religious Education classes will begin Sunday, September 21 at 10 AM at St Rose of Lima Worship site, and Sunday September 28, 10 AM at St Matthew's Worship Site. Registration is available online, and there will be registration forms at classes, and in the lobbies of both Sites.

The monthly **K of C council 17984 Rosary and Adoration Service** will be held on Thursday, Sept. 25th, 6:30 pm, at St. Rose Worship Site. Our theme for this month is Pro-life.

**Holy Spirit Parish – September 21, 2025
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Office Hours – Tue, Wed & Thur 9am to 4pm – (506) 738-2320/(506) 653-6850
Mon & Fri: OFFICE CLOSED**

Mailing Address: 279 Nerepis Rd, Grand Bay-Westfield, NB E5K 2Z9

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

**Holy Spirit Parish –Please contact Linda Spinney at 506-636-0677 or
email her at holyspirteducationsj@gmail.com**

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AT ST. ROSE WORSHIP SITE BEGINNING AT 3:15PM
PRIOR TO THE 4PM SAT MASS**

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/
gentlepathcounsellingservices/](https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounsellingservices/)**

Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001