

Our Sacred Stories

Spirituality: Holiness, Wholeness and Healing

This weekend we hear two stories of healing...and more. The first story tells of healing the leprosy of a Syrian general, Naaman, by the prophet Elisha (2 Kgs 5:14-17). The second story relates how Jesus heals ten lepers, one of whom is a Samaritan not a Jew (Lk 17:11-19). Leprosy was an isolating disease. It made a person an outcast from the community who stood back in fear of it.

For the person who struggled with the affliction it left them with a humanity that was wounded and broken, physically, but also emotionally and socially. They were broken in body, but perhaps more significantly in spirit and in heart. Their relationships with family, friends and community were fractured. In our own times leprosy is sometimes seen as an image for the isolation and brokenness that is often part of the human experience. Someone who is excluded is often referred to as “being treated as a leper.”

The healing that the prophet Elisha gave to the Syrian, Naaman and that Jesus offered to the ten lepers was more than a healing of the body. It was a healing of the spirit and heart. It returned the broken ones to the fullness of community. In the case of the ten lepers in the Gospel, they were to go to the priests who would certify that they were healed and eligible to return to the community. In the story from the Book of Kings, Naaman, a Gentile had a spiritual relationship brought forward in his life as he turned to the God of Israel. Their exclusion has ended.

We all yearn for the wholeness in life that the lepers experienced in their healing. Who is without wounds, whether physical, emotional or social? Who does not long for the closeness of relationship that brings inclusion, care and expression of love? The story of Naaman and the ten lepers is the story of every human being. We may not have the disease of leprosy, but our lives are marked by a leprosy of spirit in many ways. At the same time, we are also marked by the healing that we see in these two accounts. We long for the wholeness that comes from this healing. We call this wholeness *holiness*.

Holiness is sometimes confused with what we might call religiosity. That is, following a strict pattern of belief or rules of a church. In fact, holiness comes from a sense of God’s constant and loving presence with us. It is about a relationship that is vital and active. This relationship is both personal and communal. It cannot be lived alone, taking no other persons into account. And it cannot be real and living if it does not reach out and touch our world with care and concern. In short holiness is always inclusive and caring.

Continued....

Holiness is actually the wholeness for which we all long. It is the gift of vitality and meaning that helps us to make sense out of our lives. Holiness draws us into a healthy and lively relationship with a God who loves and cares about us. It also draws us into healthy and life-giving relationships with others. Holiness is fullest when lived within a community with whom we can share our experience. It flows from a sense of the spirit, a spirituality that is lived amid our ordinary lives and shared with a community of others on the same journey of life.

John Jennings

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

COLLECTION – Oct 05, 2025

Regular - \$2,106.00 Loose - \$350.00 Needs of the Cda Church - \$115.00

Building Fund - \$1,710.00

eTransfers - \$170.00 PAD Weekly Avg - \$1,580.00 PAD Bldg - \$148.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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

RIVER VALLEY FOOD BANK

FOOD DRIVE

Once again, this year, in conjunction with Grand Bay-Westfield Fall Fest, we will host a food drive in aid of River Valley Food Bank. We will be at the end of St Matthew's Worship Site Driveway, October 25, from 10 to 3.

Anyone interested in lending a hand, either before the event to promote it, or the day of to set up, maintain and clear away, please contact Dorothy Arsenault at arsendorothy@gmail.com , Linda Spinney at 506-636-0677 or through the office during business hours at 506-738-2320 or 506-653-6850

Memory Café – The Memory Café is a free program for people living with all stages of dementia and their families to meet others, learn, and have fun! The café is the 1st Sunday of the month – 1pm–3pm at St. Mark’s United Church on 50 Dexter Drive Saint John, NB.

MASSES – 2 Weeks

Oct 15, 2025	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	NO MASS
Oct 16, 2025	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	11am	NO MASS
Oct 18, 2025	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Alyer Brideau Donnie Sullivan
Oct 19, 2025	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Ray Connolly
Oct 19, 2025	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Parishioners
Oct 22, 2025	Wed	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Al Morrison
Oct 23, 2025	Thur	St. Rose Worship Site	11am	Randy Beckwith
Oct 25, 2025	Sat	St. Rose Worship Site	4pm	Alfred & Noella Bastarache Alfreda & Michel Bastarache
Oct 26, 2025	Sun	St. Rose Worship Site	9am	Parishioners
Oct 26, 2025	Sun	St. Matthews Worship Site	11am	Paul Riley Aline Gionet



***HAVE A SAFE AND BLESSED
THANKSGIVING***

The office will be closed on Thursday, October 16, 2025 – Fr. David and Bernice will be attending an all-day workshop at the Diocese. Keep us in your prayers!

CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

On October 07, 2025, Helen Dorcas celebrated her 100th Birthday. Helen is Deannie Chaisson’s mother and Josephine Dorcas’ mother in-law. Blessings on this wonderful milestone!!

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Regis Doiron and Aline Gionet

**Holy Spirit Parish – Oct 12, 2025
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Spirit Parish – Oct 19, 2025
29th 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/](https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounsellingservices/)

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

Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001