

## A BRIEF THEOLOGY OF HALLOWEEN

In this age of pandemic, in many communities Halloween will be different this year, another reminder of how “normal life” has changed as we travel together toward an eventual vaccine. But by the same token, it’s all the more reason to pause and reflect on this strange, remarkable holiday, both so we can catch some of its spirit in new ways this year and so we can look ahead to celebrating it with gusto in 2021.

The name itself comes from “All Hallows’ Eve,” of course, a carnival-like inversion celebrating the shadow side of life — ghosts and ghouls and such — just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Halloween is worth thinking about. It’s now one of the most popular holidays in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it’s a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, front doors thrown wide open to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts distributed to children (all children, not just “our” children!) dressed up as heroes and villains alike.

It’s easy to grumble about “all that sugar,” “marauding teenagers,” “a waste of time,” and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community? When else do we do something as a neighborhood that’s this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, witty, and plain old fun? When else do our front doors swing open to so many strangers? And when else are so many gifts given out — often by strangers, to strangers — just for the sake of delight?

And there’s an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division — segregated lines of race and class, for example — are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Halloween can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true “commonwealth” too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what’s more, there’s now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community’s health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Halloween amounts to a vivid portrait of what “neighborhood” actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. And after all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody — with equal parts creativity and joy — the “loving our neighbors as ourselves” to which Jesus calls us every day?

Those mini peppermint patties never tasted so good!

Stay safe this year — the pandemic is an opportunity to be more creative than ever. Tell some ghost stories at home, hold a physically-distanced outdoor costume parade, or an online costume party, or watch your favorite scary movie with your favorite candy on hand. And in any case: here’s to Halloween 2020!

~Salt Team

*This weekend we welcome into our Faith Community through the waters of Baptism*

*Braylon John Conley-Beddow*

## MASS SCHEDULE

Oct 27, 2020	Tue	St Matthew’s Worship Site	7pm	Bob Parker
Oct 29, 2020	Thurs	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	12:10pm	Bob Williams Raymond Sweet
Oct 31, 2020	Sat	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	4pm	Alyer Brideau Frank Perry & Lori Ann Galliera
Nov 01, 2020	Sun	St. Rose of Lima Worship Site	9am	Parishioners
Nov 01, 2020	Sun	St Matthew’s Worship Site	11am	Jacques Ouellette Rodolphe Dupere

**Women’s Society** - For the month of October the Holy Spirit Women's Society will be collecting items for the Coverdale Centre for Women, which operates a women's shelter. Items needed are new or gently used *pajamas (no nighties please) or leggings, toilet tissue, coffee, whitener, sugar, snacks (pudding, etc), cereal, hot chocolate, juice boxes.* Thank you!

Please call the office 9am-4pm at (506)738-2320 (Tues&Wed) or (506)653-6850 (Thurs) to make arrangements for your donation drop off outside of Mass times.

**Bottles for Life:** A fundraising campaign for New Brunswick Right to Life. The garage at Saint Rose Worship Site, Holy Spirit Parish will be open before and after the weekend masses October 24 and 25th. Please bring your redeemable bottles for this important fundraiser. You can also contact the Saint John Chapter of New Brunswick Right to Life to have a volunteer pick up bottles from your home. [sjrighttolife@gmail.com](mailto:sjrighttolife@gmail.com)

**First Communion:** We are still gathering information on how many candidates we have for both worship sites so we can determine the appropriate date and time.

**Religious Ed Classes:** Registration has begun – The registration form is located on our website – [www.holyspiritrcparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritrcparish.ca)

**Holy Hour of Adoration** : Sunday October 25th 1:00 to 2:00. Covid protocol to be followed regarding mask, registration at the door and 6 feet distancing as per the direction of our Covid Team at Holy Spirit Parish.

**Villa Madonna Art Show –Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm & Nov 01 2-5pm** - Three local artists- Cathy Love, Melanie Koteff Backman and Liane Thibodeau have hung their works in the hallways of the Villa Madonna, so guests can stroll through the halls and see the pieces with safe distancing from others.

**Pro-Life Rosary** - Thursday Oct 29th 11:30 Saint Rose Worship Site

*“Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord...” Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Charles Spear, Cathy Cummings & Shirley Logan*

**Westfield United Church "Drive-Thru" Remembrance Day Turkey Supper** (Wednesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>). **\*\*ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY.\*\*** Advance tickets **MUST** be purchased from the Grand Bay Home Hardware or by calling Judy (647-1849). Tickets are \$12 each for a complete turkey supper + an apple crisp for dessert. There will be 4 different pick-up times (4:00pm/4:30pm/5:00pm/5:30pm) from Westfield United Church parking lot (133 Nerepis Road, Grand Bay-Westfield). No need to leave your vehicle to pick-up your turkey supper!

**Empty Stocking Fund** – Do you know anyone who qualifies for assistance from the Empty Stocking Fund? Children from 1 year of age (born after Jan 01, 2008) and under 13 years of age (born before Dec 31, 2019) are eligible. The cut-off date to register via Holy Spirit Parish is Noon November 12, 2020. Registration has to be done in person with proper ID for each child.

***Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmation Class***

<i>Joanna Jackson</i>	<i>Gregor Dunnett</i>	<i>Megan Marino</i>
<i>Rebecca Williams-Simms</i>	<i>Emily Francis</i>	<i>Cierra Duplisea</i>
<i>Alexandre Chevarie</i>	<i>Kate Peacock</i>	<i>Andrew Magee-Dempsey</i>
<i>Cassandra Perry</i>	<i>Matthew Wallace</i>	<i>Brendan Little</i>
<i>Marley Hazen</i>	<i>Jamie Mazerolle</i>	<i>Morgan Daley</i>
<i>Madison Whelton</i>	<i>Ethan Coleman</i>	<i>Ava Mason</i>
<i>Adam Dunnett</i>		<i>Kaitlyn Anderson</i>

**THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS DEDICATED TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY**

**COLLECTION  
Oct 17/18, 2020**

Regular \$1,900.00 Loose - \$92.00 Mission Sunday \$495.00  
eTransfers - \$90.00  
PAD Weekly Average - \$1,848.00 PAD BLDG - \$172.00

**Thank you for your generosity!!**

**DID YOU KNOW??**

**The New Freeman is available online on the Saint John Diocesan Website.**

[www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org](http://www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org)

***Holy Spirit Parish***

***St. Matthews & St. Rose of Lima Worship Sites***

***30th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

***October 25, 2020***

***We are a welcoming community of growing disciples who share our faith, support one another, and lead others to Jesus.***

**\*\*\* OFFICE HOURS\*\*\***

**Tue/Wed/Thurs: 9 am to 4 pm**

**Office Number - 738-2320 Office Number - 653-6850**

**Monday & Friday: both offices closed**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Email: [holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com](mailto:holyspiritparish@nb.aibn.com)**

**Pastor – Rev. David J. Martin**

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

**St. Matthew Worship Site – (506)738-2320 Fax: (506)757-2948 Website [www.holyspiritparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritparish.ca)**

**Civic Address: 45 Dollard Drive**

**St. Rose of Lima Worship Site – (506)653-6850 Fax: (506)653-6865 Website [www.holyspiritparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritparish.ca)**

**Civic Address: 541 Milford Road**

**Confessions - The Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:15pm Saturdays at  
St. Rose of Lima Worship Site**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Holy Spirit Parish –Please contact Linda Spinney at 636-0677 or email her at [linspin@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:linspin@nbnet.nb.ca)**

**Gentle Path – Counselling Services – Pathways to Hope**

Gentle Path Counselling Services provides counselling at the 28 Richmond Street 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](http://www.gentlepathsj.com)**

**Facebook: Gentle Path Counselling Services**

**<https://www.facebook.com/gentlepathcounselling-services/>**

**Charitable # - 85377 7175 R0001**