

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 8th, 2017

My Dear People,

As you know, in late August, I accepted the invitation from Bishop Harris to become pastor of St. Rose Parish. For the past month, I have spent time at all Masses at St. Rose learning the names of people and their parish culture. For the past six years, I have served the people of St. Augustine's and St. Matthew's, recognizing and promoting their gifts and at the same time, challenging them to grow in their faith. I too, have been challenged and have grown so much. Now St. Rose joins our family. She, too, has moved my heart in a short period of time. Just as any 'Father' would be, I am proud, protective and seek only what is best for all of you. However, in our current climate of priest shortage, the merger of parishes with one priest, changes have had to be made. All three faith communities have so much to offer!! I am both grateful and humbled by your good works. At the same time, I have discovered "strong threads" that run through our three parishes: 'welcoming,' 'hard-working' and 'faith-filled' people who desire for their parishes to grow and be active in the greater community. In other words, people who love their parishes very much. From your baptismal call, each parish/parishioners offers so much to the greater community and from these changes, I believe that we can offer so much more...that is, if we work together to promote the Gospel Message of God's love.

With that in mind, I have come up with what I believe is a weekend schedule that will work for everyone, including myself, while maintaining our parish status. Therefore, starting the weekend, **NOVEMBER 4th-5th the NEW MASS SCHEDULE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

SATURDAY

4:00 PM St Rose: This is an evening Mass which takes in a large group of parishioners (150). Mass that will be available to those living on the upper Westside (or for St. Augustine/Matthew parishioners who are already in the city for shopping, dinner, etc).

5:30 PM St. Augustine: This Mass will accommodate the people who have children and/or young teens in sports (this has been suggested in the past that there is no Mass for this group). This offers an alternative to the 4 PM Mass.

SUNDAY

9:00 AM St. Rose: This particular Mass gets a very good response. With that in mind, this would be a great Mass for those looking for an early Mass time, and for young families who are awake at this time.

11:00 AM St. Matthew: This has become a popular "Family Mass," with a great cross-section of people. However, there is a strong presence of younger families, with the active participation of our youth. As well, there is a beautiful senior choir at this liturgy. They offer both 'traditional' and 'contemporary' selections and are always looking for additional members.

As you will see by this revised **Mass Schedule, each Parish has had to sacrifice ONE Mass.** This schedule still allow for **FOUR MASSES** within a twenty kilometre radius. I realize that this will mean change for all of us (including myself) but I believe that we can make this work! With

fewer people going to Mass and fewer priests, this will allow you (the Laity-Vatican II) keeping in mind our Pastoral Plan (2012) and the massive amount of work with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) and their recommendations will allow us to prepare for whatever comes our way, to come forth with our gifts to help build up our Church.

Various ministries, such as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers and Sacristans will need to change their schedules accordingly for the **Month of November**. I will continue to reside in the rectory in Grand Bay-Westfield. This location offers the people of this area 'a priestly presence' (the next priest is in Oromocto...which currently has no priest). As for staff, there will be no change for our current employees in any parish or office times. However, I realize that these changes will affect music ministries but hopefully we can work together for a 'workable' solution. **Currently, there are four (4) parishes without a pastor** who are awaiting the arrival of priests from **Africa, Philippines, and India**. As well, I want to thank both Fr LeBlanc and Fr. Fowler for being so good and supportive to me and our communities by helping out and covering various Masses. For those who may be disappointed by these changes, I am sorry but hopefully you will at least give this new weekend schedule a chance.

Just as we begin the new season of autumn, this is a time of new beginnings in our Church. Our current Pope Francis is moving us in a more pastoral (inclusive and accepting) direction. Once again, he is allowing us to use our baptismal gifts, our "creativity" to bring Jesus Christ to the forefront. For me, this is an exciting time for us. As we move forward, building on Christ our foundation, let us continue to pray and to be open to the Holy Spirit and the different opportunities that will come our way!

Please pray for me, for our parishes and for our diocese!

Fr. David

Thursday October 5th	12:10 Noon	Eudore Theriault
Saturday October 7th	4:00 p.m.	Don Sullivan
Sunday, October 8th	9:00 a.m.	Louis E. Murphy
Sunday October 8th	11:00 a.m.	Francesca Scichilone

Remembering Our Dead

In the charity of your prayers, please remember: **George Prokipczuk, Alfred Legere, Lois Harvey, Donald "Bun" Fillmore, Helene Forstner, Helen Willar**
 Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

SAVE THE DATE!

175th DIOCESE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Join us on Sunday October 15 from 12:00 to 1:30pm at St. Matthew's for a BBQ, games, face painting, and entertainment. Frantically Atlantic will be performing authentic Celtic/East Coast style music, including an interactive portion for children. Volunteers are needed; please contact Jill Robillard at 757-8158 or jmr@bellaliant.net Hope to see you there!

*Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory of Mary Louise Harris*

If you wish to place a sanctuary lamp in memory of a loved one, please call the Office at 653-6850.

Stewardship for the week ending October 1st, 2017

Envelopes	3183.50
Loose	352.15
Pre-Authorized Debit	448.65
Food Bank	95.00
Total	4104.30

Religious Education

Religious education classes will resume **Monday, October 16**. The class time will be **6:30-7:30** at St. Rose School for grades 1-8. If anyone is interested in volunteering as a teacher or an assistant, please contact Andrea McGrath at 672-4733, mcgrathm@nbnet.nb.ca or call the Rectory and leave your name, phone number and what grade you would be willing to help with. If you are new to the program or have contact information that has changed from last year, please contact Andrea to register.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast: The next breakfast will be held on October 15 at the Assumption Centre from 9 AM to 1:00 PM. Adults \$7 and Children \$3. Proceeds will go to the West Side Cooperative Preschool and the Girl Guides of Saint John. Thank you for your support – we look forward to seeing you!

The **K of C Council 8094** will be offering **rides to Doctors' appointments** again this year, for those seniors who find it a financial burden to hire a taxi. For more information call Ed Sullivan @ 672-5286.

Knights of Columbus 8094 is welcoming **new members**. If you are interested, please call Bob Bartlett at 653-0625. Information is also available at the back of the Church.

Sunday Exposition/Adoration: October 8, at St. Rose of Lima from 1:00 – 2:00 PM.

