

How wide is our World? How broad is our Vision?

We are part of a global, human community. Unfortunately, we are not always ready to pay attention to this. Our vision can be short and our concerns quite local. When we first heard of the corona virus, it was somewhere else, not here where we were. It was not our concern. Then suddenly we became aware that it is our concern. We are part of a global community and for good or for ill, we share this planet. In fact, with time, we discover that in all things, we are in this together. That is how God made us; how God gifted all Creation with life; how God loved us and the rest of humanity into life. Jesus and the Incarnation are an expression of God’s great love for all humanity and all creation. We are a global community.

Every so often I visit the neighborhood in which I grew up. As I do this I am surprised by how small everything seems to be. The street is now so short. What seemed as a child to be a long, steep hill is now a gentle grade. Those big backyards are tiny now. The bushes we used to hide in are sparse little shrubs. What happened to my big neighborhood? How did it become so small?

Perhaps nothing happened to it. But a lot happened to me. I grew in both size and in experience. I left my little neighborhood and moved into the larger world. What was my whole world as a child is now but a tiny piece of my world. As the years passed, my world grew. It encompasses many other neighborhoods, many cultures and beliefs. As my world grew, so too did my vision. Even my vision of faith and of God and of God’s plan has broadened.

In fact, this broadening of vision is not just limited to you and to me. The people of the Old Testament like other peoples in the ancient world viewed God in a limited way. Each people had their own gods who looked after them, just as other peoples were cared for by their gods. The Israelites began with such a vision.

Over time for the Israelites this limited view of God began to change. Very gradually, their One God began to be seen as the One God not just for Israel but for all peoples. We find indications of this growing vision of a universal God, caring for all peoples in the Prophet Isaiah: *And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,... these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;... for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.* (Isaiah 56:6-7)

Matthew’s gospel recognizes this growing vision. He tells the story of Jesus encountering a Canaanite woman. She wanted him to free her daughter from torment by a demon. The disciples thought it inappropriate that a foreigner, a Gentile should expect Jesus to call on the God Israel. Jesus himself seems reluctant to include her in his mission – *I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.* (Matt 15:21-28)

Only with her insistent faith does Jesus turn and reach out to her. He acknowledges that her faith is great. It revealed a broad vision of the God of Israel. She saw and expressed what Isaiah had proclaimed - God is for all humanity. All are welcome in God’s reign. We are in this together.

How wide and welcoming is our faith? How open are we to the “other” - the foreigner, the one who is different from us in race, in culture, in creed and belief?

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

105 Union St. † Woodstock, NB † E7M 2W4

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Mass times

Pastor: Fr. Martin Arputham

Office Manager: Diane Dube

Property & Finance Chair: Stuart Kinney

Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 10:00 am – 1:30 pm

Closed Friday

St. Gertrude Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am

Sts. Simon & Jude Sunday 9:00 am

Aug 16, 2020

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

Saturday	Aug	15	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Mary O’Connor
Sunday	Aug	16	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Parishioners
Sunday	Aug	16	11:00 am St. Gertrude	George Donovan & Family Skiff Lake
Monday	Aug	17	No Mass
Tuesday	Aug	18	No Mass
Wednesday	Aug	19	5:00 pm St. Gertrude	Gene Currie
Thursday	Aug	20	12:15 pm St. Gertrude	Special Intention
Friday	Aug	21	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Tom McCashion
Saturday	Aug	22	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Sunday	Aug	23	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Germaine & Theo Francoeur
Sunday	Aug	23	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Mary Anne Simons

Please pray for the sick: Joyce Gordon, Nora Gagnon & Pat Diduch
For those who have died: Natividad Florento (mother-in-law Katherine Sutingco) Mary Anne Simons (mother of Kathy Samoy) & Louis Corbett

Note: Prayers for the sick will be posted for 2 weeks. If you wish to have longer please contact the office.

CWL PRAYER LINE: Prayers will be said daily for two weeks by the CWL women, on request. All requests are confidential; no information is required. To have prayers said, call Jocelyn Keirstead (328-9485) jkeirstead52@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: (proud Supporters of Parish Activities): Monday Bingo: Open at 6 pm. **50/50 Aug. 2, 2020 -Non winner** Rosemary Toner **\$616.00** Tickets are \$2/week available at the K of C Hall Monday evenings, Martin's Corner Store on Broadway or bulk food store on Connell St. Tickets must be purchased by 6 pm Sunday.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): We are hoping to offer information/instruction in the Catholic Faith for 'non-Catholics' who are interested in the Fall. If you know of someone who is interested, please have them call the office and leave their name and phone #. Also seeking 'confirmed' and active Catholics, knowledgeable in the Faith, who are interested in being part of the RCIA team.

Faith Formation – For those children who are eligible for sacraments, please contact the office. First Communion – Grade 2 and up and Confirmation age 13 and up.

Please contact the office to schedule a time for Reconciliation or for any other Sacraments

Weekday Masses--Weekday masses have resumed at St. Gertrude's Church. You are encouraged to consider coming to these masses if your schedule allows for it. Also, if you are a parishioner who has been cautious about attending weekend masses due to concerns around COVID-19, attending a week day mass may be a good alternative to staying home. The mass is approximately 30 minutes in length. At the present time mass is in the main church, so there is adequate spacing following the COVID-19 protocols. We are using the side entrance by the Vestry so if you have mobility concerns, you do have the ramps to use entering and exiting the church. **Week Day Mass times: Wednesday--5 pm, Thursday--12:15 pm, Friday--9 am All are welcome.....** We hope to see you soon. Blessings!

INVITE FOR PARISHIONERS: Something new and exciting is about to happen! A few parishioners from each of our 3 worship sites had been meeting virtually with Fr. Jennings, discussing the Pastoral Needs and Resources of St. John the Baptist Parish. The conversations led to an awareness of our need to build up community, get to know people in our new parish, and be revitalized by nurturing a living faith. In an effort to start somewhere,

we chose an adult program - reading and experiencing together Pope Francis' "**The Joy of the Gospel**" using ZOOM technology. Non-internet people can join ZOOM by telephone.

Fr. Martin, our new pastor, is welcoming and supportive of this endeavor!

The Joy of the Gospel is an invitation to reflect on the gap between the lives we are living and the life God calls us to live. It is an invitation to love both God and our neighbor more fully. It is an invitation to live more fully in the midst of the opportunities and challenges that each day presents, especially in this pandemic!

The plan is designed to have small groups of 5-7. Each individual group will have members, singly or couples, from each of the 3 worship sites. Since we don't know many people from the other worship sites, we believe that this is a way that we can meet new people while deepening our faith. As we come together, we will grow into one strong, supportive parish. Each group will have a facilitator who will lead us through a guide prepared by The Word Among Us Press.

To take part, you can read the '**Joy of the Gospel**' online or order the printed copy through the Parish Office.

To register, please contact one of the following: Parish Office, **Diane Dube**, 328-3306; **Marjorie Allison-Ross**, 328-8249 ;**Pam Grant**, 328-5264 ; **Sally Richards**, 575-8997 (by September 4th if possible in order for us to order books.)

OFFERTORY Aug. 8 & 9, 2020

	St. Gertrude's	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	\$ 145.00	5.00	
Envelope	1,358.00	464.00	
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
E-Transfer		120.00	
Candles		3.00	
Global South		12.00	
	\$3,020.00	\$855.00	\$77.00
Dev & Peace	5.00		
St. Bonaventure	30.00		
Benton Cemetery	10.00		
St. Gertrude's Brick work	\$12,500.00		

Now, there are now 3 ways you can support the Parish.

1. Envelopes can be dropped off at the Parish office. You will find a mail slot near the front door.
2. Sign up for Pre-authorized Debit
3. E-transfers. This is done through on-line banking with your financial institution. Please send to sjbnb@rogers.com. **Under comments add your name and envelope number. If you do not have a number add your address instead.**



Explosions in Lebanon: Development and Peace - Caritas Canada accepting donations to support hardest hit populations

Crisis in Lebanon – Development and Peace Emergency Fund

The situation in Lebanon following August 4th explosion has been described as “beyond imagination.” Thousands of people have been affected with over 159 people dying, over 6,000 injured, and over 300,000 people left homeless. The explosions have also worsened the country’s social, economic, and political crisis

Development and Peace’s partner, Caritas Lebanon, is providing food, water, medical aid, and psychological and social support to those impacted by this crisis. Development and Peace and its trusted network of partners in the country are also assessing the long-term impacts and needs of this crisis.

Please join in Pope Francis’ invitation to pray for the victims, for their families, and for all of Lebanon. Please also consider joining the Pope in responding to this desperate cry for help by:

donating to the emergency relief effort at Development and Peace – Caritas Canada through the following link: <https://bit.ly/2DRwfiv> or
by calling **1 888 664-3387**

Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis.

All donations will be matched by the Canadian Government because...

Development and Peace is participating in the Humanitarian Coalition’s Lebanon Crisis appeal through its active membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank.