

**Living with Uncertainties and Discoveries
In Life... and Faith**

Six months of Covid-19, no end in sight. When will the limits and restrictions be lifted? When can we again cross borders? When will we be able to gather freely with family, with friends? When will schools, work, community gatherings return in fullness? Will there be treatments, vaccines? When? So many unknowns, such uncertainties. Life has so many.

In a world filled with uncertainties, facing constant questions, we live with many challenges. Yet... it is from our questions and often, doubts that we come to discovery, to finding new ways and new understandings of our world, our lives and even our faith.

Several years ago, I met a student who had many questions – questions about faith, questions about the Church, questions about our traditions and practices. She thought that she could no longer be Catholic, because she had these questions. She felt she did not believe everything and so was not Catholic.

In fact, to have faith is to have questions, and we all have them, lots of them. To believe is to want to understand and this necessarily raises questions in us. Such faith discovery is not unlike any of our relationships. When we first meet someone, we begin to ask questions. If they are someone with whom we want a relationship, questions arise, maybe even doubts about them, about us, about our relationship. To question is part of human life and part of faith.

To live in the Catholic faith means we are on a life-long journey. As we identify our doubts and ask our questions we are led to changes in our lives and to action, living the faith that we are coming to understand. It is not possible to have faith in what God is revealing to us in Jesus, his life and his mission without accepting changes in the way we live. Our Faith starts with knowing, with grasping words and teachings. Then it grows into a “living faith”, that is a relationship, touching not only our head, but our heart. Like all relationships, it is alive. It grows over a lifetime.

When Jesus asks his disciples in Matthew’s Gospel “Who do you say that I am?” there was a variety of responses (Matt 16:13-20). Peter gave a remarkable one, but we can be sure that he did not fully understand what he said. Every expression of our faith is more a beginning than a conclusion. It leads us to more uncertainties and further questions. As well, like a couple in a marriage, the commitment of faith will take us to action and to places that we would not otherwise have gone. When it does, then we can say we have a “living faith”. In doing so, we discover the wonder of building a new world in which we live – the Reign of God takes on a reality for us and we other.

Whether it is the questions, fears and uncertainties of Covid-19, or the doubts and challenges we face in faith, they are often the route to discoveries and new ways of acting and living. The challenges, uncertainties and questions open the door to discovering new life.

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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

(506) 328-3306 † E-Mail: sjbnb@rogers.com † Website: www.stjohnthebaptistnb.com

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 23, 2020

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

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
Monday	Aug	24	No Mass
Tuesday	Aug	25	No Mass
Wednesday	Aug	26	5:00 pm St. Gertrude	Brian Markey
Thursday	Aug	27	12:15 pm St. Gertrude	Ethel Bridgeo
Friday	Aug	28	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Paul Poulin
Saturday	Aug	29	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Deceased Members Kof C #2234
Sunday	Aug	30	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Valerie Carmody
Sunday	Aug	30	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Parishioners

Please pray for the sick: Joyce Gordon, Nora Gagnon & Pat Diduch

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. 16, 2020 -Winner** Amanda Grant **\$934.00** 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.

WELCOME FR. MARTIN ARPUTHAM: St. John the Baptist Parish is thankful that Father Martin has come to be with us and we look forward to his leadership and collaboration as our parish develops.

As a parish community we are all eager to come to know Father Martin better. As we begin this journey together, we share this bit of info of some biographical information.

Father Martin, HGN, is a member of the Heralds of Good News, a missionary community which seeks to carry out the work of the apostles in sharing the Good News of the Jesus Christ. It was started in 1984 in the Diocese of Eluru in India by Bishop Jose Kaimlet. Among other aims the priests of this community seek to assist in other dioceses where there is a need. Father Martin belongs to one province or section of this community located in Tamilnady, south India.

Father Martin was born on December 14th, 1980. He has five sisters and four brothers. His father died a number of years ago as well as recently his older brother, but his mother still lives in India. He was ordained as a priest on December 21st, 2005 and served in parish ministry for 6 years. After this experience, he went back to study and completed a Bachelor of Education Degree followed by a Master's Degree in Social Work, specializing in the area of psychiatric care. He served for a year in St. Joseph's care home.

Before coming to Canada in May of 2016, Fr. Martin served in a parish in Dijon France, assisting in pastoral work while studying French. Upon arrival in Canada, he came to the Diocese of Saint John and assisted in the parishes of St. Anne's and St. Joachim in the east Saint John. During that time he became a more familiar with the culture and character of the Church here in this country.

Fr. Martin served four years at St. Theresa's which included two years as pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish. He has also served as member of the priest council.

Our thanks to the Heralds of Good News and to Father Martin for the generosity they are express to our diocese through the presence and pastoral work he is carrying out among us. God Bless you.

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.

Religious Faith Formation – These are changing times, the way we do things, our interactions with each other, all very new and different. We would like to offer First Communion – (Grade 2 and up) as well as confirmation for ages 13 and up. If you have children eligible please contact the office so we can make plans. We are also reaching out to see if anyone would be interested in teaching faith formation for other grade levels and/or Co-ordinating.

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: 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 ; **Deborah Albert**, 575-2532 (by September 4th if possible in order for us to order books.)

OFFERTORY Aug. 15 & 16, 2020

	<u>St. Gertrude's</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	\$ 70.00		
Envelope	6,860.00	414.00	
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
E-Transfer	15.00		
Candles		6.00	
Global South		12.00	
	<u>\$8,462.00</u>	<u>\$693.00</u>	<u>\$ 77.00</u>
Dev & Peace	5.00		
St. Bonaventure	30.00		
Benton Cemetery	10.00		
Poor & Needy	10.00		

There are 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.