

The Cost of Being a Christian

Bubbles, ... physical distancing, masks – Covid 19 has given us many new experiences, some more challenging than others. I have to admit, those measures which have impeded socializing are the most difficult of all. Why do we take on those restrictions on what we have for so long seen as normal behavior? We do so for the sake of others, not to protect ourselves. They are sacrifices made for those we love and even for the strangers who come into our lives.

Selfless commitment and sacrifice play a huge role in human life and happiness, perhaps more than we normally might expect. The married couple, each of whom sets aside their own desires and preferences for the sake of the other certainly shows commitment born in love. The parents who give up their own comfort and wants for the good of their children can often be heroic in their sacrifices. Examples such as this, small and great surround our life experiences. In each of them we can see something of what it means to “pay the price” for what we believe. Committed love calls for sacrifice.

It is such selfless commitment that is called for in Christian discipleship. It is the *cost of discipleship*. One cannot live as a disciple of Jesus without making a commitment in love that has demands on our time, talent and treasure. It asks much of us to live as a disciple of Jesus whose sacrifice was so great.

In the Gospel of this Sunday (Matt.16:21-27), we hear Jesus tell his disciples that he is to face suffering and death. He also reassures them that he will rise again. His selfless commitment to sacrifice himself for us will ultimately lead to resurrection. That is, through his commitment he will bring life.

As Matthew relates this story, we hear Jesus tell his disciples that they are called to do as he does. They will follow him: *If anyone wants to become my follower, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me* (Matt.16:24). Jesus call for sacrifice, a willingness to give of ourselves. We disciples are asked to have the same commitment to love as he showed. In doing so, we, like Jesus have the power to bring life to others and to our world. But it does make demands of us. Being Christian is not just about receiving. More important is our willingness to give, to offer our own life, time, energy and attention for the Gospel.

But isn't this commitment and dedication what is asked of us in any life-giving relationship. In all our friendships, our marriages, our families and so many other relationships there is a call for commitment and a call for setting ourselves aside for the sake of the other person. It is this self-giving that brings life to our relationships and allows them to continue and grow. As we grow in life, we discover that *it is not all about me*. Every relationship is richer and more life-filled when we sacrifice for the other. It is the cost of relationship. It is the cost of discipleship. In paying this cost, we become the spirit of Jesus in our world and what a difference we can make!

Q/ What are some specific, practical things I can do to express my commitment and dedication as a disciple of Jesus?

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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

Facebook page : facebook.com/st.g.church.1

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

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Sts. Simon & Jude Sunday 9:00 am

Aug 30, 2020

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday | Aug 29 | 4:00 pm St. Gertrude |Deceased Members of K of C #2234 |
| Sunday | Aug 30 | 9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude | Valerie Carmony |
| | Aug 30 | 11:00 am St. Gertrude | Parishioners |
| Monday | Aug 31 | | No Mass |
| Tuesday | Sept 01 | 10:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude* |Francois Thebeau |
| Tuesday | Sept 01 | 12:15 pm St. Gertrude's | Rosary |
| Wednesday | Sept 02 | 5:00 pm St. Gertrude & Exposition of | Collette Livingston |
| Thursday | Sept 03 | 12:15 pm St. Gertrude | Herman & Ada Trask and DFM of Kehoe, Chambers & Trask Families |
| Friday | Sept 04 | 9:00 am St. Gertrude |Carol MacMullin |
| Saturday | Sept 05 | 4:00 pm St. Gertrude | Mary Sampson |
| Sunday | Sept 06 | 9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude | Parishioners |
| | Sept 06 | 11:00 am St. Gertrude | Deidra Wright |

- **Reconciliation: Sts. Simon & Jude Church 9:00 – 9:30 am Sept. 1, 2020**

Please pray for the sick: Joyce Gordon, Nora Gagnon , and Martha Cummings Sincennes.

For those who have died: Pat Diduch, Stacey Jurouski (Cousin of the Keenan Family) and Jack Kitchen

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. 24, 2020 -Nonwinner** Blaine Darling Grant **\$317.00** 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.

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 any other Sacrament

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!

Weekday exposition of The Most Blessed Sacrament: St. Gertrude's after 5:00 pm Mass

COMING THIS FALL.. SJB PARISH ADULT FAITH SHARING GROUPS!! YOU ARE INVITED to join through ZOOM read and experience THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL by Pope Francis. To register, contact Diane Dube at the Parish Office, 328.3306; or Marjorie Allison Ross, 328.8249; or Pam Grant 3285264; or Deborah Albert 575.2532 (see poster on bulletin board). Please register by Sept 4th so books may be ordered.

OFFERTORY Aug. 22 & 23, 2020

| | <u>St. Gertrude's</u> | <u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u> | <u>St. Thomas</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Loose | \$ 140.00 | | |
| Envelope | 873.00 | 459.00 | |
| PAD | 1,517.00 | 261.00 | 77.00 |
| Candles | | 9.00 | |
| Global South | | 12.00 | |
| | <u>\$2,530.00</u> | <u>\$741.00</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.***



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 Food grains Bank.