

Borders and Boundaries – God’s Dream of Love and Peace for All

Covid-19 has introduced us to many unfamiliar experiences. Among these is the reality of closed borders. We are isolated into our own little bubbles. Only recently have our borders here in the Atlantic region opened somewhat. The borders of provinces to the west of us remain more limiting. And the national boundary between Canada and the US is even more completely closed.

Borders and boundaries divide us. These divisions seem to characterize the many relationships that are part of our lives. Differences in culture, language, religious beliefs and colour make for great variety in the peoples of the earth. Sometimes they also serve to break the relationships of communities around the globe. Sadly, they also create divides in our shared communities and from one area of the earth and the next.

These divisions are often expressed in national borders and regional groupings. The result is frequently competition and even violence across the divides. We suffer with our inability to live in peace, in mutual care and compassion. In many ways, this is a picture of all our relationships – personal, regional and global.

Boundaries emphasize differences between us and to some degree they limit and restrict us. When our differences are made to loom large, they belie the fact that we share a common humanity and together inhabit the same earth. Despite our differences, we are part of a global community.

God’s dream for our common humanity is that we live in peace, based on compassion and love. John’s Gospel expresses this dream as he relates Jesus’ prayer for his disciples, his friends. He even broadens this prayer to include the whole world. God’s dream, God’s kingdom is extended to all humanity and all creation. John presents the prayer in this way: “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.... That they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you love me.”(John17:20, 23) This is what we are speaking of when we talk of the Reign/Kingdom of God, a world living entirely in peace, filled with love.

In Matthew’s Gospel we again hear Jesus speaking to his disciples (Matt 18:15-20). At the end of the piece Jesus says to his friends: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Christian faith is a communal faith. It feeds our spirit, but it does so in the context or setting of a community of believer and doers. It cannot be separated from the world in which we live and it cannot be lived in a solitary setting.

We human beings are social animals. We are also marked by a need for spirituality that is social AND personal. There is then, a need to nurture both aspects of our lives. To pray and act in community is characteristic of the Christian. We need each other in order to grow socially and spiritually. In our communal faith, living with others in compassion and love we are responding to God’s dream and Jesus’ prayer. In midst of Covid-19, we recognize that “we are in this together” and whether masks, or distancing or universal vaccination, we do it for the others around us. And we do it because God’s dream is that we “may all be one”. In this, we discover what we all long for, PEACE FOUNDED ON LOVE.

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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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

Sept 6, 2020

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

Saturday	Sept 05	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Stephen Dalton
Sunday	Sept 06	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Parishioners
	Sept 06	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Deidra Wright
Monday	Sept 07	No Mass
Tuesday	Sept 08	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Rosary led by CWL
Wednesday	Sept 09	5:00 pm St. Gertrude & Exposition of.....	Twinnie Clark
Thursday	Sept 10	12:15 pm St. Gertrude	Brian Markey
Friday	Sept 11	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Abigail Paul
Saturday	Sept 12	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Sunday	Sept 13	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Jean Claude Doiron
	Sept 13	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Good Health of Grace White

- A reminder to come to Mass early to allow for COVID-19 Protocol. *

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

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

ROSARY – The CWL will lead the Rosary Tuesdays at 12:15pm

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: (proud Supporters of Parish Activities): Monday Bingo: Open at 6 pm.
50/50 Aug. 31, 2020 -Winner Pat Keilty **\$626.00** 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.

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!

A small group is planning for the formation and establishment of a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). They are seeking two representatives from St. Simon and Jude and one representative from the missions (St. Thomas, St. Bonaventure, and St. Joseph) to participate in this planning process. *To be clear, this group is meant for time-limited planning for forming the PPC; this is not for appointment to the PPC. If interested, please email the parish office at sjbnb@rogers.com.*

SEASON OF CREATION: In many parts of the world, Christian churches celebrated "Creation Day" Sept. 1st. They have also set aside **Sept. 1st to Oct. 4th** (the feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi) as the **Season of Creation**. This time gives us a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in our vocation (calling) as custodians, stewards of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that God has entrusted to our care, invoking God's help for the protection of creation and God's mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we

live. Let us acknowledge 'creation' (Genesis chapter 1)- that priceless gift of the Almighty and Loving Creator who has made us into God's own image and likeness. (excerpt from the book of Laudato Si which was the Topic of a guided group reading which took place November/December 2019)

Pontifical Collection for the Custody of the Holy Land on Sunday, 13 September 2020, for the benefit of the Church and the Christians of the Holy Land

The Pontifical Collection in support of the Holy Land, usually collected on Good Friday, was cancelled when churches were closed due to the pandemic. Pope Francis has requested that it be taken up on Sunday the 13th of September - a date close to that of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast celebrates Christ's saving work and also reminds us of faithful Christian pilgrims, like St. Helen when she found the relics of the Holy Cross in the 4th century, who have committed themselves to preserving the holy sites as places of worship that sustain our Christian culture and history of salvation.

The annual Holy Land Collection not only helps to maintain churches and shrines located at holy sites, but, above all, helps to support the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church undertakes in caring for the local population. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, invites you to be in solidarity with the Church and the Christians in the Holy Land.

On behalf of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, and entrusted with this care, I sincerely thank you in advance for your support.
 Fr. Robert Mokry, OFM
 Commissary of Holy Land in Canada

OFFERTORY Aug. 29 & 30, 2020

	St. Gertrude's	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	\$ 65.00	5.00	
Envelope	1,513.00	336.25	80.00
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
Candles		15.00	
Global South		14.35	
	\$3,095.00	\$631.60	\$ 157.00
Dev & Peace	5.00	Lynn Lake	\$200.00
St. Bonaventure	30.00	Easter & Holy Land	\$20.00
Benton Cemetery	10.00		