

**Our Sacred Stories: God & Us
Gathering Around the Table**

Thanksgiving! The leaves are changing. The air is growing colder and crisper. The sun sets earlier. It seems like we are finally saying goodbye to our summer. It is a difficult goodbye. Yet it is also a moment to celebrate. In an earlier, more agriculture-centered age, this was the time to offer thanks to God for all the gifts of the earth. We may not be so centered now, but we continue to rely on those who produce our food. Thus, we thank them for their efforts. We continue to thank God for nurturing the soil which produces the harvest.

At the center of Thanksgiving is a meal. We dine with family and friends. We express our gratitude to God and to others in a gathering around the table. Many of our human celebrations center on a meal. Dining seems to be a common gathering point for us as human beings. From birthdays to Christmas to a simple visit of friends, our human tendency seems to be to gather for a meal. Around the table we become relaxed, we come to know one another better. Foods are part of our culture and to share our food with others is to share something of ourselves with others. Perhaps that is why in formal and informal gatherings there is invariably a meal in which the participants sit down at the same table.

The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah uses the image of a rich and abundant banquet to describe the fullness of God’s goodness poured out for all the peoples of the earth (Isaiah 25:6-10). Looking to the age of the messiah, the prophet uses a meal, shared by all peoples, as the great sign and symbol that the messiah has come. The reign of God is among us, and all creation is blessed by the presence of God.

Matthew’s Gospel uses the same image for the same reign of God, with twist. He shares one of Jesus’ stories, a parable of the Kingdom about a wedding feast, another banquet (Matt.22:1-10). The parable focuses on the invitation to a meal. The key here is that when the first invited guests refused the invitation, the doors of the banquet were thrown wide open. Servants were sent “into the streets and gathered all whom they found.” Both Isaiah and Matthew proclaim the fullness of God’s goodness for all creation. The table is large and the table is full.

This image is repeated, with the same message every time we gather around our Table for Eucharist. Theologian Eugene LaVerdiere focuses on the Eucharist as it is presented in the Gospel of Luke. The title of his book is *Dining in the Kingdom of God*. We may seldom think in this way, but that is in fact what we do when we gather around our Eucharistic table. We dine in the Kingdom of God. And we dine with a meal of thanksgiving.

Eucharist, literally, means *thanksgiving*. Whether it is around this Table of Eucharist or at the tables at which we gather with family and friends, we proclaim our gratitude – to God and to one another for the presence of goodness with which we are blessed in God and in one another. St. Paul, writing to the Philippians gives us a wonderful prayer to acknowledge both God and one another in this way – seeing both our lacks and our gifts. (Phil.4:12-14, 19-20).

Even now, in the midst of a pandemic, our Eucharist remains a celebration of God’s goodness and the openness of God’s reign to all. We may find ourselves with some limits in how we gather around The Table, but The Table must still be a celebration of God’s openness to all peoples. Somehow, with all our current limitations, we must express a welcome to all, for we are “dining in the Kingdom of God.”

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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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

Oct. 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

Saturday	Oct	10	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Mary Rattray
Sunday	Oct	11	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	David Lawson
	Oct	11	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Monday	Oct	12	No Mass
Tuesday	Oct	13	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Rosary led by CWL
Wednesday	Oct	14	5:00pm St. Gertrude	Ivy Poulin
Thursday	Oct	15	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Gloria Painter Martell
	Oct	15	1:00 pm Woodstock First Nation	Fr. Bill Weiss
Friday	Oct	16	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Francis Cote
Saturday	Oct	17	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Deidre Wright
Sunday	Oct	18	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Parishioners
	Oct	18	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Brian Markey

Please pray for the sick: Joyce Gordon, Nora Gagnon , Brenda Nason, Melisa Nason, Nick Nozzolillo, Josie Shephard, Gordon Reinhart, Martha Cummings Sincennes, Bridget Keenan Wort, John Gallagher, Raymond Adams & Diana Keenan.

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 Sept 28, 2020 Winner** Dorothy Foster **\$611.00** 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.

PPC: A small group is planning for the development of a functional Parish Pastoral Council. 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 process to join the reps from St. Gertrude's. The process would include exploring what is meant by "Pastoral" and how a 'Pastoral' Council" functions. In turn, the members of each worship site in the planning group would present a comprehensive explanation of what a Parish Pastoral Council is, according to the Guidelines from the Diocesan Office. This is necessary for all parishioners before a Parish Pastoral Council would be formed... some members by vote, some by appointment. This is an important endeavor and Fr. Martin insists all churches be involved. If you are able to say 'yes' to this important exploratory endeavor for the Parish, please contact the Parish Office 328.3306.

Sts. Simon and Jude: Please be advised that there will be a mass on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be **Nov 3rd**. **Sts. Simon & Jude Feast Day** will be celebrated **Oct. 28th** with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9:30 am and Mass at 10:00 am. Please mark those dates on your calendars.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION – Sts Simon & Jude– Donated 221 lbs. of groceries with a cash value of \$574. **St. Gertrude** – please bring your food items wrapped in a plastic bag and place in the container at the back of the church

Sts. Simon & Jude - 3rd Sundays you may bring **CLOTHING DONATIONS** (men's, women's and children's) for the homeless and the shelters in Fredericton and place in box in the Upper foyer. Because of Covid-19, these donations will stay at the church and be taken the following week to F'ton. They must sit for a minimum of 4 days before the donations can be donated. (thanks Bob and Sandy)

*You are asked to bring all donations when you come to celebrate Mass....
no one is to enter the church building between Masses.*

OFFERTORY Oct 3,4, 2020			
	St. Gertrude's	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	95.00		
Envelope	1,911.00	571.00	70.00
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
E-Transfers		120.00	
Candles		20.10	
Global South		12.00	
	\$ 3,523.00	\$984.10	\$147.00

Dev & Peace	5.00	Papal Charities	50.00
St. Bonaventure	30.00	The Canadian Church	30.00
Benton Cemetery	10.00	Lynn Lake	200.00
Poor & Needy	5.00	Evangelization of Nations	155.00

CWL- Annual dues \$20.00 are due. You may pay your dues by placing in an envelope marked CWL DUES and put in the basket at the back of St. Gertrude's church.

Thank you to Lillia Sdtys-Mykhnevych for the flowers for St. Gertrude's Church

Next week is World Mission Sunday. This celebration of the missions will take place in every parish in the world. It is also a global celebration of the Universal Church. Your prayers and donations will assist churches, hospitals, schools, and vocations where the church is still at a formative stage. With the assistance that Catholic communities throughout the world receive through World Mission Sunday, they will become self-sufficient and continue to flourish. By sharing the gift of faith, we can bring hope and love to those who need it most.

Online Alpha Course: Our Lady of Peace Parish is offering Alpha online Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:15 pm. Alpha is perfect place to discuss the big questions of life, introduce people to God or renew your own relationship with Jesus. Alpha is open to everyone!

Who will you invite? To register, please email pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca



**. St. John the Baptist Parish
Finance & Property Council
Update to Parish – October 2020**

On behalf of the Finance Council, I wanted to offer a brief update on parish finances, based on results as at August 31, 2020. The short version of the report is that our financial position is stable, each worship site is operating with a modest surplus and we have a typical cash reserve on hand heading into the fall and winter.

Here's a snapshot of our current financial condition, compared to budget and last year. As you will note, both revenue and expenses have declined compared to budget and last year.

All values at Aug. 31/2020	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Ordinary Revenue	\$191,465	\$146,753	\$189,877
Minus Ordinary Expense	-\$191,400	-\$147,738	-\$186,468
Plus Unbudgeted Revenue	\$0	\$7,589	\$3,789
Surplus	\$65	\$6,604	7,198
Allocation - St. Gertrude's		\$4,821	
St. Simon & Jude		\$1,321	
Missions		\$462	

Our revenue decline resulted from reduced offertory during church closures, fewer hall rentals and no fund-raising events. On the expense side, we saved on operating costs during church closures and on reduced salary and rectory expenses while we were without a pastor. The unbudgeted income in 2020 is the federal wage subsidy available to us due to the pandemic.

Not included in the summary above is the \$40,000 spent on repairs to St. Gertrude's (brickwork & doors) nor building fund donations totaling \$18,260 (thank you donors!). The remainder of these costs (approx. \$22,000) will be funded from existing building fund deposits and by applying funds from the investment held for repairs of St. Gertrude's (Whitlock Estate).

As a parish we should be relieved to know that our current financial position is stable. However, operating expenses will rise as temperatures fall and salary and rectory expenses will return to normal amounts now that Fr. Martin has been installed as pastor. On the revenue side, the wage subsidy may not continue and we are not going to be able to hold our annual fall supper. (We do hope to do some fund-raising in place of that event, details of that will be made public later this month.)

Therefore, we need to ask parishioners, to the extent possible, to maintain their typical, pre-pandemic patterns of offertory. If you are unable to attend regularly, we encourage you to consider pre-authorized debit, or ask that you mail regular monthly contributions to the parish office. Steady, predictable offertory, in accordance with our budget, is key to our parish remaining in a stable financial condition.

On behalf of our parish, and Fr. Martin, I want to thank all of the people who assist in administering the temporal goods of our parish – the members of our council (Marg McCallum, Tom d'Entremont, Vicki McLean, Bernadette Pike, Pam Grant, Ron Haines, Jacques Bedard), Diane Dube (Office Manager) and Rudy Nadeau (Maintenance) – whose efforts are instrumental in keeping things running smoothly. I would add special thanks to Marg and Ron, both of whom have been especially busy on your behalf this year, and to Diane, who took on extra responsibilities while we were without a pastor.

Our ability to gather and worship in our facilities safely in this unusual time is a result of careful and diligent effort on the part of many parishioners who assist in planning and implementing our COVID-19 protocols. All of these individuals deserve our thanks and, importantly, our cooperation.

In closing, I also want to say how much I appreciate the support and cooperation I receive as Chair of the Finance Council and the good working relationship Fr. Martin has developed with our Council. I appreciate the faithful, sustained effort our parishioners offer to our community. Your devotion to our mission is the real key to our success.

Stuart Kinney, Chair
Finance & Property Council