

**Our Sacred Stories: God & Us  
God's Broad and Open View**

Covid-19 affects everyone. We may or may not catch the virus, or have a loved one who does. But we are all affected. We find ourselves isolated and having to distance ourselves from others. Barriers have been erected between communities and regions. Borders are closed between countries. The virus has divided our world. Until we have more effective treatments and we are able to be protected with vaccines this will be our world. Does God really care? Does God enter our human story?

The readings of this Sunday help us to see that God speaks to us in human terms. In our scriptures, both the Old and New Testament we hear of God using human instruments to enter our story. In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, the prophet Isaiah, speaks of the Persian King, Cyrus. As Isaiah describes it, a pagan king becomes the instrument by which God saves the People of Israel from exile and returns them to their land. Through Cyrus, God intervenes in the history of God's People. (Is.45:1, 4-6)

In Matthew's Gospel, we hear one of the stories of Jesus' discussing with the Pharisees. (Matt.22:15-21) They try to trap him into denying his Judaism or into speaking against Roman authority. Jesus response to them is to do neither. The story draws us into a recognition that faith and our relationship with God is lived out in the midst of the secular world. Jesus points out to the Pharisees that they are to give to God what belongs to God and to the Emperor what belongs to him.

We live in a complex world of the secular and the spiritual. Neither denies or excludes the other. The story of Christian faith is founded on what we refer to as the Incarnation. It is one of the foundations of our faith that God enters our human condition in the person of Jesus Christ, God and human. This basic belief is the fullest expression that God speaks to us in human terms. This is a proclamation that all humanity, all human life, all human history is touched by the presence of God. God truly does speak to us in human terms, in every time and place. God really does stand with us.

Over the centuries, our Catholic faith and tradition has often expressed this incarnational vision of God-with-us. We are a faith that sees God speaking and acting in the context of our human story, i.e. in the times in which we live. Our Church's 2000year history shows many occasions when we failed to be God's voice in a way that could be heard by people of particular cultures and times. But it is also replete with a host of times when it reached out to the context, time and cultures in which it lived. As Church and as the presence of God's People in our own time, this is the gift we can bring to our world.

The Second Vatican Council expressed this vision repeatedly. It spoke explicitly of this vision in the last of its great documents, *The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)*. This document takes its title from its beginning words: "The joy and the hope, the grief and the anguish of the people of our time... are the joy and the hope, the grief and the anguish of the followers of Christ as well."(GS 1) With these words, Vatican II expressed its solidarity with the world and context of its time. It understood that our God speaks and acts in the present world in which we live. In every era, the life and faith of our Church is intended to hear and speak to the culture and people of our time.

**How do we as Church listen to our time and culture? How do we reach out with the Good News?**

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

# St. John the Baptist Parish

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**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. 18, 2020**

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Masses This Week:**

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
Monday	Oct 19	.....	No Mass
Tuesday	Oct 20	12:15pm St. Gertrude .....	<b>Rosary led by CWL</b>
	Oct 20	3:00 pm St. Thomas .....	Lloyd Keilty
Wednesday	Oct 21	5:00 pm St. Gertrude .....	Louis, Eveleen & Eileen Corbett
Thursday	Oct 22	12:15 pm St. Gertrude .....	Stacey Jurcaski
Friday	Oct 23	9:00 am St. Gertrude .....	Fr. Bill Weiss
Saturday	Oct 24	4:00 pm St. Gertrude .....	Parishioners
Sunday	Oct 25	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude .....	Patricia Diduch
	Oct 25	11:00 am St. Gertrude .....	Jeannie Doran Bridgeo & DMF

**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 , Ray Cuevas and Pat & Ed McGuire.

**For those who have died:** Josephine Sheppard

**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](mailto:jkeirstead52@gmail.com)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** (proud Supporters of Parish Activities): Monday Bingo: Open at 6 pm. **50/50 Oct12, 2020 Winner** Glen McDonald **\$301.00** 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. **Stay tuned for a PowerPoint presentation weekend Oct. 17/18!**

**COME CELEBRATE!!** Sts. Simon and Jude Feast Day is October 28<sup>th</sup>! On that Wednesday at our Worship Site, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 9:30 am for quiet reflection and encounter with Jesus followed by a short presentation on St. Simon and St. Jude. At 10:00 am, Mass will be celebrated for our two apostles who suffered martyrdom. Weather permitting, there will be socializing , with a beverage, in the large parking area as we obey Covid-19 protocol.

**Sts. Simon & Jude - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10/11, 2020			
	St. Gertrude's	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	150.00	20.00	
Envelope	1,390.00	344.00	
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
E-Transfers	20.00		
Candles		6.00	
Global South		12.00	
	<b>3,077.00</b>	<b>\$643.00</b>	<b>\$ 77.00</b>
<b>Dev &amp; Peace</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude Cemetery</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>Evangelization of Nations</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Benton Cemetery</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Poor &amp; Needy</b>	<b>20.00</b>

**CWL-** Annual dues of \$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.

**Confirmation classes will begin Sunday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Parish Hall** If you have not registered please contact Diane at 328-3306 asap.

**First Communion:** There will be an information meeting for the **3 Worship Sites** after the 11:00 mass at St. Gertrude's Hall **Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>** for parents This is an important meeting to attend. This year students/parents will be given books with on-line support so they may go through the programs at home.

**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY:** The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on **October 7**, also known as Our Lady of Victory, began as a celebration of the victory of the Battle of Lepanto — securing European Christendom against a Turkish invasion on October 7, 1571. It is an example of victory and the power of the Blessed Mother to shore us up. She nursed Jesus in a manger, stood at the foot of His Cross at the Crucifixion, and now comforts and strengthens us in our trials. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory at Lepanto to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe. He pleaded with every man, woman, and child to pray the Rosary. Pope Pius V instituted the feast in thanksgiving for the victory as Our Lady of the Rosary. This feast and the Rosary is not just for the past, but also for today as we pray to overcome anti-Christian forces. When the Blessed Mother appeared monthly in Fatima, Portugal to three shepherd children from May to October in 1917, each time she asked them to pray the Rosary daily. During the last apparition on October 13, she said, "I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day." **The daily Rosary is not a task; it is a gift from Our Lady and an opportunity for her help in our families and in our world.**

**October 2020 St. Gertrude's Ministries Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Hospitality/ Door Greeter</b>	<b>Screeener</b>
Oct 17- 18	4 PM	Ron MacDonald	Gerry Crawford	Jocelyn Keirstead
	11 AM	Ellen Culbert- Johnston	Claude Dube	Debi Rae
Oct 24- 25	4 PM	Ben Kilfoil	Stuart Kinney	Gloria Yachyshen
	11 AM	John Lenehan	Rudy Nadeau	Sharon Tenhave

***There are many 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. By Mail- St. John the Baptist Parish  
105 Union St.  
Woodstock, N.B.  
E7M 2W4
3. Sign up for Pre-authorized Debit
4. E-transfers. This is done through on-line banking with your financial institution. Please send to [sjbnb@rogers.com](mailto:sjbnb@rogers.com). ***Under comments add your name and/or envelope number.***