

Our Sacred Stories: God and Us

Sacred Spaces: Finding Our Spiritual Centre

Took a hike, recently through some of the trails of Mactaquac Provincial Park. The trails wind through forests and around beaver ponds. The forests in the fall are a collage of green, and yellow and red. The ponds are places showing the work of the beavers, the energy of the squirrels and presence of deer and moose. The ponds and the forests are filled with a host of different birds. Over it all there is a wonderful sense of calm and peace. This is, indeed, a sacred space. Walking through it one can sense the presence of the Spirit.

We have a long history of finding such sites as places where we experience the presence of God among us. The Ancients, Celts found this in springs, wells and other water sources. These were the places where life was supported for them, signs of the divine presence for them. Here they knew that God touches their human experience in real ways.

In our Scriptures the image of sacred spaces appears frequently. In the New Testament we see it in Matthew's Gospel, 21:33-46, where Jesus employs the image of a vineyard for his message of God's reign among us. This image is an echo of what we can find in the Old Testament. In Psalm 80, it represents the whole People of God. In the Prophet Isaiah (5:1-7), God's People are the object of a love song. For Isaiah, for the psalm and for Matthew, "the vineyard" is the place where we center on God.

Wade Davis is a Canadian anthropologist. He holds the position of Explorer-in-Residence for National Geographic. In November 2009, he delivered the CBC Massey Lectures as part of the *Ideas* programs on CBC. The series was entitled *The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*. One of the lectures was "Sacred Geography."

Davis' lecture focused on a number of places around the world, northern B.C., the Andes in for us South America and the desert of central Australia. There he found places which over the centuries have been deemed sacred by the indigenous peoples who live there. They are places which long have been seen as sources of life for them.

We still need these spaces to bring meaning to our own lives. We have many personal ones. They may include a room in our home where we tend to go to be at peace. The site may be our local church or a community gathering place. Sometimes there is a particular place or path in the woods where we enjoy a sense of "getting it all together". Whether we realize it or not, we all have our sacred spaces. And we need them.

Often, we do not recognize that everyone of us has a "natural spirituality". Whoever we are and wherever we are we have a spiritual center. There we discover something that offers peace and brings meaning to our lives. Such spirituality is life-giving to every human being on earth. Fr. Richard Rohr noticed this in the writings of an English Benedictine monk, Bede Griffiths.

Rohr quotes Bede's insight: "According to the Letter to the Colossians, in Christ 'all things were created, in heaven and on earth... all were created through him and for him' [Col. 1:16]. This is truly a cosmic vision embracing the whole created world, which we now know to be an integrated whole,... which is capable of embracing all humanity." (from: Rohr. Reflections 25 Sept 2020)

Where do I find my sacred spaces? How do I nurture my own spiritual life?

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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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. 4, 2020

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

Saturday	Oct	3	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Sunday	Oct	4	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Armando & Yolanda Gugliotti
	Oct	4	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Twinnie Clark
Monday	Oct	5	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Vivian Karnes
			<i>Blessing of the animals will take place following mass in the parking lot</i>	
Tuesday	Oct	6	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Rosary led by CWL
Wednesday	Oct	7	5:00 St. Gertrude	Adoration
Thursday	Oct	8	No Mass
Friday	Oct	9	No Mass
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

Please pray for Fr. Martin while he is on retreat Oct. 5 - 10

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.

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 Nonwinner** Blaine Durling **\$306.00** 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.

Due to Thanksgiving the regular Knights of Columbus meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 4th at 7:00 pm.

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 Fr. Martin will be away on retreat for the 1st week of October and there will be **no Mass on Oct 6th**. The next 1st Tuesday of the month will be **Nov 3rd**. The **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– 1st Sundays of the month is **FOOD BANK** Collection. Please leave items in the lower foyer on your way in to celebrate Mass. (*thanks Trevor and Diane*) *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.

The **Collection** for the **Papal Charities** will take place on the 3rd & 4th of October.

Father John Fraser will be coming to Fredericton on Monday, October 5th at 11:30 am to sell his book 'THE BIBLE THE HOLY LAND AND ME'. Books are \$20 each and can be pre-ordered by emailing Fr. Fraser at fraserjohn082@gmail.com or by calling the parish office 444-6001. The 212-page book tells of early encounters through school and college. The journey then takes you through the Holy Land and many experiences there. Many bible references are included.

OFFERTORY Sept 26/27, 2020

	<u>St. Gertrude's</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	52.00	20.00	
Envelope	2,257.00	312.00	150.00
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
E-transfer	20.00	150.00	
Easter	20.00		
Candles		15.00	
Global South		12.00	
	\$ 3,866.00	\$771.00	\$227.00
Dev & Peace	5.00	Papal Charities	10.00
St. Bonaventure	30.00	The Canadian Church	80.00
Benton Cemetery	10.00	Lynn Lake	200.00
Good Friday	10.00	Poor & Needy	5.00
Canadian Church	90.00		

SJB FAITH SHARING GROUPS: Three groups of 5 participants met Sept. 27th at St. Gertrude's Hall for introduction to each other, the facilitators of the 3 groups and introduction to the format for sharing their faith as they read through Pope Francis' "*The Joy of the Gospel*". Each Group will meet every 2 weeks using ZOOM technology. In our Bishop's letter last week, Bishop Christian asked that each parish provide programs for faith formation, faith sharing, serving with outreach programs and other tools of sharing faith.

Our Parish Program is designed to further formation in our faith, sharing our faith, and building community. Each group has participants from each of our Worship Sites! Please pray for the program and the participants as they journey together in this exciting adventure.

OCT. 4TH The last 4 bulletins had notes directing our thought to the Season of Creation. As Oct 4th is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and *the close of The Season of Creation* (Sept.01-Oct 04), we present the Canticle of the Sun, a religious song composed by Saint Francis of Assisi. We thank and praise God and we unwrap the gifts of creation and look after these gifts tenderly and diligently. (hear the song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGMIjwf0SVw>)

ST. FRANCIS'S CANTICLE OF THE SUN

O Most High, almighty, good Lord God, to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing!

Praised be my Lord God with all creatures; and especially our brother the sun, which brings us the day, and the light; fair is he, and shining with a very great splendor: O Lord, he signifies you to us!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which God has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, And for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which you uphold in life all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water, which is very serviceable to us, and humble, and precious, and clean.

Praised be my Lord for brother fire, through which you give us light in the darkness: and he is bright, and pleasant, and very mighty, and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and yields diverse fruits, and flowers of many colors, and grass.

Praised be my Lord for all those who pardon one another for God's love's sake, and who endure weakness and tribulation; blessed are they who peaceably shall endure, for you, O Most High, shall give them a crown!

Praised be my Lord for our sister, the death of the body, from which no one escapes. Woe to him who dies in mortal sin! Blessed are they who are found walking by your most holy will, for the second death shall have no power to do them harm.

Praise you, and bless you the Lord, and give thanks to God, and serve God with great humility.