

Our Sacred Stories

Saints among us: Building on the Gifts of God for the Common Good of All

November begins with the Feast of **All Saints**. I have long seen this feast day as consoling and supportive. Saints so often seem to be larger than life. Sometimes they are the “plaster saint”, a model that really does not relate to our human experience. At other times, they seem to represent a spiritual experience that takes them out of this world and far from our experience. Such models appear removed from the call to evangelize or share the Good News with the world given us as Jesus’s disciples.

The story of Christianity over the centuries has exhibited the same tendency to distance ourselves from the broader world in which it has lived. In his most recent encyclical, *Fratelli tutti* (Oct 2020). Pope Francis has pushed our church into recognizing our call into the world of our experience. It is there that we discover our relationships are touched in their humanness by the loving hand of God. Disciples are called to pass this message on and to there build God’s loving reign.

Several weeks ago, Fr. Richard Rohr in his daily reflection remarked on how Christianity has tended to focus inward over the centuries. “Christianity, in its first two thousand years, has kept its morality mostly private, interior, and heaven-bound, but with very few direct implications for what is now called our collective economic, social and political life.” (Rohr 1 Nov 2020) By doing so, we lose something of the Incarnation, our faith in God’s love living among us, revealed in the person of Jesus. In him, the divine and the human come together. This is the Good News calling us to build God’s reign.

Rohr turns to the words of a Benedictine sister, Joan Chittister to direct our call as disciples of Jesus beyond ourselves to social justice and the common good for all peoples of the earth. Chittister observes: “Everywhere there are people who, despite finding themselves mired in periods of national [disruption] or personal marginalization refuse to give up the thought of a better future or give in to the allurements of a deteriorating present. They never lose hope that the values they learned in the best of times or the courage it takes to reclaim their world from the worst of times are worth the commitment of their lives. These people, the best of ourselves, are legion and they are everywhere.” (Rohr, 2 Nov 2020) Like the servant in Matthew’s Gospel, they use the gifts they receive well. (Matt 25:14-30)

These are our prophets, our saints among us. In 2014, the world two young prophets/saints received the Nobel Peace Prize. Each of them gave up a great deal and have showed remarkable courage in speaking and working for the common good of us all.

Malala Yousfzai is a young Pakistani Muslim teenager who has actively been speaking out for the rights of girls in Pakistan to have an education. Her voice and her courage resulted in her being shot and seriously wounded by the Taliban. She continues to be a voice for this common good and right.

Kailash Satyarthi is an Indian electrical engineer who at age 26 gave up his career and has been working to promote and provide education possibilities for the children of some of the poorest and most disadvantaged in northern India. Kailash is a Hindu.

These are only two such saints for our time. As Chittister pointed out, such prophetic figures are everywhere, even standing among us and urging us to live our discipleship with an outward vision that changes our world. Our call is to share our gifts, courage and energy for others, building God’s reign.

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

105 Union St. † Woodstock, NB † E7M 2W4

(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

Mass Times:

St. Gertrude Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Sts. Simon & Jude Sunday 9:00 am

Reconciliation: 8:15-8:45 am

Nov 15, 2020

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses This Week:

Saturday	Nov 14	4:00 pm	St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Sunday	Nov 15	9:00 am	Sts. Simon & Jude...Theo & Germaine Francoeur	
	Nov 15	11:00 am	St. Gertrude	Paul Poulin
Monday	Nov 16		No Mass
Tuesday	Nov 17	12:15 pm	St. Gertrude	Rosary led by CWL
Tuesday	Nov 17	3:00 pm	St. Thomas	John, Adrina & Patrick Burke
Wednesday	Nov 18	5:00 pm	St Gertrude	Geneva King
Thursday	Nov 19	12:15 pm	St. Gertrude..Deceased members K of C #2234	
Friday	Nov 20	9:00 am	St. Gertrude	Brian Markey
Saturday	Nov 21	4:00 pm	St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Sunday	Nov 22	9:00 am	Sts. Simon & Jude.....	David Lawson
	Nov 22	11:00 am	St. Gertrude	Mary & Eugene Bowlin

Please have items for the bulletin no later than Wednesday evening.

Please pray for the sick: Joyce Gordon, Nora Gagnon , Brenda Nason, Melisa Nason, Nick Nozzolillo, Gordon Reinhart, Martha Cummings Sincennes, Bridget Keenan Wort, John Gallagher, Raymond Adams , Pat & Ed McGuire, Lori Young, Garfield Bulmer, Carol Beale & Carolyn Keoughan

For those who have died: Earl Gallagher

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 Nov. 9, 2020 Nonwinner Pat Minard **\$282.00** 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE: PARISH FUND RAISING

As you know, St. John the Baptist Parish could not hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner (Nackawic) or Harvest Supper (Woodstock) this year due to the pandemic. These are important events in our parish and we rely on the revenue from them to meet our annual budget.

During the month of November, members of the organizing committees for these events will be canvassing parishioners by phone seeking donations in place of what you would normally contribute to these events.

We understand that not everybody will be able to contribute, but if you can, please consider donating an amount of money that would be similar to what you would spend buying food or supplies or purchasing meal tickets for the event. And, if you normally make an additional donation in support of this event, we ask you to do that as well.

Donations may be made by e mail transfer (sjbnb@rogers.com) or by delivering a cheque to the parish office or placing in the offertory basket at Mass. In all cases, please indicate that the donation is for the "spaghetti dinner" or "harvest supper" (as the case may be).

On behalf of our organizing committees and the parish finance council, we thank you for any support you can offer. We appreciate whatever assistance you can provide as we attempt to make up the revenue shortfall from these two events.

If you have any questions about the donation process, please call the parish office – 328-3306.

Let's all look forward *with hope* to a time when we can gather again for these important community events.

Living with Christ Missals--Sunday missals will soon be available to parishioners for their own personal use for the weekend masses. **Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the missals cannot be left in the pews.** Parishioners can bring their copy of the missal to the mass and take back home with them. We hope to have the missals available at Sts. Simon and Jude and St. Gertrude by the Nov. 21/22 weekend. A donation towards the cost of the missals would be appreciated, if possible. Remember the new liturgical year begins on the weekend of Nov. 28/29, the First Sunday of Advent.

OFFERTORY Nov 6 & 7th, 2020

	St. Gertrude's	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	80.00		
Envelope	2,479.00	397.00	
PAD	1,517.00	261.00	77.00
E-Transfers	20.00	100.00	
Global South		10.00	
	\$4,106.00	\$768.00	\$77.00
00			
Dev & Peace	5.00	Lynn Lake	200.00
St. Bonaventure	30.00	Benton Cemetery	10.00
Fall Supper	80.00	Retired Priests & Seminarians	40.00

2021 OFFERTORY Envelopes ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

These will be distributed over the next few weeks. They may also be picked up at the office

Discipleship in Today's World. You are invited to attend a special presentation given by Father Owen Burns, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization, on Saturday, **November 21** from 10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Bring along your own brown bag lunch. Beverages will be provided. The presentation will be followed by Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Confessions will be available at the same time. Register before Wednesday, November 18, by calling 444-6029 or email: olfatima1962@gmail.com

Is the Lord Calling You to be a Priest? Come and See. Young men in the Fredericton region interested in the priesthood are invited to a special presentation given by Father Owen Burns, Vocations Director for the Diocese, on Saturday, **November 21** from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Please register by Wednesday, November 18, by calling 444-6029 or email: olfatima1962@gmail.com

Ministries

- Nov. 21** 4:00 pm Tom Bridgeo Lector, Stuart Kinney Greeter, Gloria Yachyshen Screener
- Nov. 22** 9:00 am Sally 1st Reading & Pierrette 2nd Reading & Prayers of the Faithful
- Nov. 22** 11:00 am Allison Chandra Lector, Michael Chandra Greeter, Sharon Tenhave, Screener

**IMPORTANT NOTICE
 NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

St. John the Baptist Parish is planning to hold elections later this month for **six members** of the new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) which is being formed.

We are **seeking nominations** of parishioners willing to serve on this new council. If you wish to nominate somebody, please verify that the person is willing to allow their name to stand for election and then submit their name to the parish office. **Note** – parishioners may nominate themselves if they are interested in standing for election to the council.

Nominations may be made via e mail to sjbnb@rogers.com or in writing by delivering an envelope to the office or leaving in the collection basket at mass. Please include your name/phone number and the name/phone number of your nominee.

Nominations must be received no later than **5:00PM on November 17, 2020.**

Every parishioner has an interest in the work of the pastoral council and every parishioner has a role to play in helping to form this new council, whether nominating somebody, or agreeing to be nominated themselves.

Please give this serious consideration.

Of course, every parishioner will also be encouraged to vote in the election. Details of that process will be provided once nominations are completed.



Please give generously, so we are all Recovering

Together Today, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada invites us to be in solidarity with communities in the Global South, whose situation is worsening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's act together for a just recovery that includes all.

Thank you for your generosity and solidarity. Your donation will help our partners in their struggle to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized in their communities.

You can contribute to the parish collection (use the attached envelope and drop in the Collection next weekend or mail on your own) OR make an online donation at devp.org.

What is the Church's purpose? The Church is a school for communion. (Fr. John Keoughan)

St. John the Baptist Parish

PPC Education Event, Nov.7/20

Ben Kilfoil, Moderator – kept things moving according to the agreed format. **Diane Dube** assisted with the technological supports, and Covid precautions. Approximately 25 parishioners in attendance.

Presentations:

Fr. John Keoughan – A Diocesan Pastoral Council and local parish councils are very important for the future of the church and highly recommended. Baptism calls all of us as Christians to a share in Christ's priesthood, prophecy, and kingship. In answer to the question that was posed – 'what is the church; what is its purpose?'; answered – The church is a school for communion. For this response he drew on Pope John Paul II's teachings.

Pat Lawson – emphasized a Pastoral Council discerns the needs and direction of the SOUL of the Parish, working with responsibility given at Baptism to be co-responsible with Fr. Martin and Bishop Christian. The Diocesan Guidelines and the Diocesan Plan provide the blueprint for planning our future. The key for our wisdom is in the Gospels and our personal relationship with Jesus. All decisions of Council are made in the Spirit of the Gospels.

Stuart Kinney – The Church has some serious challenges to face up to. Are we up to it? Our namesake John the Baptist is relevant here, as we try and sort out our way forward. The fact we are made in the image of God, the Triune God, is a daunting prospect for us. There is a way of enhancing the tradition by authentically appropriating the new ... Co-responsibility is linked to our viability, indeed even our salvation as a Church ...

Respondents:

Debbie Lutes responding to Fr. Keoughan – we need to "meet" others where they are at. It is so important to get to know one another outside the 'Temple'. There is the concern that this may not be happening, that we are too much under the sway of old habits as Catholics. Debbie posed the question – Can we determine what our priorities will be when it comes to revitalization and why we want it?

Enrique Serano responding to Pat Lawson – emphasized that personally he was a "doer". He had a special appreciation for Pope Francis' urgings that the Church leaders 'get down and dirty' with the 'flock'. This is very important today. We need to have a fire lit under us. How will this happen? And as for the future and 'revitalization', it is very hard to give what you don't have.

Brittany Harris responding to Stuart Kinney – agreed with most of what Stuart presented. There may be some differences in interpreting co-responsibility, or what aspects of it are emphasized. Brittany would especially like to emphasize the importance of working in cooperation and unity with the clergy and Bishop.

Plenary/Outcomes: The importance of prayer as a way of resting in the Lord was stressed. And that if we are open to cooperating with God, we can be surprised as to what can happen. The question of perhaps a concrete need for a 'lay ministry' position that is paid was raised in several different ways. It was suggested that this may be possible and should be explored further. It could be a help in coordinating the many volunteer efforts, and in animating and building up the parish community as is hoped for ... Carol Polchies added in discussions afterwards that she very much wanted to agree with Debbie Lutes response to Fr. Keoughan - "We need to meet others where they are at. It is so important to get to know one another outside the temple." So true to form. Much attention should be placed, not only on the Indigenous people from our area, also the new people who came from other countries making Woodstock their home. There is such a diversity in the culture of both worlds, making it at times impossible to fit in. My strongest belief is that it would be a help if greeters were placed at the entrance of the church to make sure that people of different cultures were made to feel welcome, with the desire to return.

Note: This is not a report but rather a descriptive reflection of what I heard and took away from this important event.

Prepared by Hugh Williams

Advent News: The season of Advent will soon be here (begins weekend of **Nov. 28/29...the First Sunday of Advent** for the liturgical Year B). Some of the usual activities and celebrations for Advent will still be held this year but may have to be adjusted somewhat due to the COVID-19 virus and the protocols that have to be considered for the event to take place. Here are a few of the upcoming activities:

- **Advent Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, Nov. 29, 7 pm** at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 113 Victoria St. Woodstock. This gathering includes scripture readings, prayers and singing. Due to COVID-19 protocols, the request is for one reader and one soloist from each church to participate. If you are interested in taking part, please contact pastor Wendy MacWilliams at this e-mail address: wendymacwilliams@rogers.com The event will be live-streamed.
- **Mitten Tree**--St. Gertrude's will have a mitten tree this year, but with a twist! In place of putting knitted mittens and scarves on the tree, Fr. Martin suggests that monetary donations be made instead. A basket will be under the tree and if you wish to make a donation, put it in an envelope and your name and colourful paper mittens will be put on the tree. Monies raised will be divided between the elementary schools, and one daycare in the town for the purpose of assisting children in need.
- **Light a Memory Tree**--All churches in our parish (St. Thomas, Sts. Simon and Jude, and St. Gertrude) have Memory Trees lit during the Advent/Christmas season. ***If you are a usual parishioner at St. Gertrude's and would like deceased family and friends remembered, please fill in the form below***, put it in an envelope and drop in the collection basket or contact the Office. A donation to the Memorial Fund is optional and can be placed in your envelope.
- **Donations to Food Bank and Homeless Shelter** can be made at Sts. Simon and Jude and St. Gertrude churches all year round. **Christmas Daddy** donations are collected at St. Simon and Jude.
- **Salvation Army Christmas Kettles** will be in the community this season.
- **Candle Light Parade to the Christmas Creche**---The parade will not be taking place this year. Further details from the K of C regarding the outdoor Nativity Scene TBA.

Christmas Liturgies--The following is the schedule for Christmas liturgies for St. John the Baptist Parish. **Please be advised that these plans could be altered if the COVID-19 situation changes.**

- **St. Thomas of Canterbury Christmas celebration** (Wednesday, December 23, 7 pm). No weekday mass at St. Gertrude on this day.
- **Sts. Simon and Jude, Christmas eve**, Mass (Thursday, December 24, 10:30 pm) No pre-registration needed.
- **St. Gertrude, Christmas eve**, Masses (Thursday, December 24, times: 5 pm and 7:30 pm) *To be able to accommodate those wishing to attend the Christmas eve masses, a pre-registration will take place to help eliminate having too many people in the church at one time. The church hall will be used as an overflow and communion will be distributed. The masses will be live-streamed. Further details for the pre-registration will be announced.
- **St. Gertrude, Christmas day**, Mass (Friday, December 25, 10 am)
- Weekend masses (Sat. Dec. 26/Sun. Dec. 27) at the regular times. Feast of the Holy Family

Light a Memory Tree - We remember in prayer our deceased family members and friends. Anyone wishing to have someone included in the Book of Memorials should complete the form below and put in an envelope with the offertory collection. These memorials will be included on the Light a Memory Tree during the Advent and Christmas Season. ***(for St. Gertrude's Church)***

Name: _____ Envelope # _____ Amount _____

In Memory of: _____