

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**The Kingdom Near Us, With Us & Among Us:**

Beginnings and endings are important. The first looks to the future, our goals, our aims our hopes and dreams. The second is about our arrivals, our fulfillment, our completions and results. In between, there is all the effort, the work, the challenges and struggles, the attempts and the failures, the twists and turns of the journey. Life is just such a journey, in fact, a host of journeys. What we may sometimes not be aware of in the picture is the way in which the Spirit journeys with us, from beginning to end.

Ten months ago, in January we entered into a pandemic with Covid-19. Since then, our world has found itself facing uncertainty and threat. Our lives have been changed by the virus and by the measures taken in response to it. As we pass through this experience, we know we are not alone. We journey with the Spirit of God among us, and in company with the whole human community. We are in this together.

There has been hope and promise. A virus vaccine is on the horizon, but still months away and so we wait in expectation that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Meanwhile, together we work to keep each other safe, and use our talents, gifts and abilities to help our world come to that light. We are in this together.

Our sacred stories in the Scriptures present us with the good news of the Kingdom of God, hopeful news, signs of God's love and constant presence among us. Matthew's Gospel begins with telling the story of the beginning – God has come among us, taking on our humanity in Jesus, an expression of God's love (Matt 1:18-23). This is the Incarnation.

Jesus begins his mission with the great challenge to all humanity: He announced: "I call you to a change of heart, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matt 4:17). This was the message we heard ten months ago, in January. We were called to recognize we are not alone in our life journey. "Emmanuel", God is with us. This is the message.

The core message and mission of Jesus, the Christ was to proclaim the Kingdom of God among us. His work among the poor and the suffering, the sick and the sinner was to heal and reconcile. By word and by work, Jesus made God's Kingdom present. This is Good News, the Gospel.

What is also Good News is that Jesus shared not only his message with his disciples. He also shared his mission. The Reign of God has begun among us. We are Jesus present here and now. Like Jesus, in word and in action and gifted with his Spirit, we are to make God's Kingdom present and alive in our world. This is the mission.

What does this world with the Kingdom look like? How are we to recognize and announce this? The Kingdom is not about the power of dominance, greed and control. It is a Kingdom that reflects the Spirit of Jesus, the face of our loving God. Such a Kingdom is marked by care, compassion and tenderness. It seeks peace and solidarity between individuals and across borders. This is the Kingdom.

Our faith is relational. It is built and expressed in how we live with one another, for we are disciples of Jesus, together called to bring the Kingdom to the world, to all humanity. In that fulfilled and completed Kingdom, Jesus the Christ will say: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." (Matt 25:31-40)

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](mailto:sjbnb@rogers.com) † Website: [www.stjohnthebaptistnb.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptistnb.com)

Facebook page : [facebook.com/st.g.church.1](https://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 22, 2020**

**Christ the King**

**Masses This Week:**

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
Monday	Nov 23	.....	.....	No Mass
Tuesday	Nov 24	12:15 pm	St. Gertrude.....	<b>Rosary led by CWL</b>
Wednesday	Nov 25	5:00 pm	St Gertrude.....	Thanksgiving for Blessings Received
Thursday	Nov 26	12:15 pm	St. Gertrude.....	Ethel Bridgeo
Friday	Nov 27	9:00 am	St. Gertrude .....	Basil Markey v
Saturday	Nov 28	4:00 pm	St. Gertrude.....	Good Health of Lori Young
Sunday	Nov 29	9:00 am	Sts. Simon & Jude .....	Parishioners
	Nov 29	11:00 am	St. Gertrude.....	Twinnie Clark

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

**Wednesday Weekday Mass Time changes to 9:00 am Dec. 2, 2020 with adoration following**

**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

**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 Nov. 16, 2020 Winner** Brenda Bull **\$572.00** 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](mailto: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 are available this weekend. You can pick up your copy at the exit door as you leave Mass. If you are able, a small donation towards the cost of the missals is appreciated.

**OFFERTORY Nov 14 & 15th, 2020**

	<u>St. Gertrude's</u>	<u>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>55.00</b>		
<b>Envelope</b>	<b>1,643.80</b>	<b>701.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>PAD</b>	<b>1,517.00</b>	<b>261.00</b>	<b>77.00</b>
<b>Global South</b>		<b>10.00</b>	
	<b>\$3,214.80</b>	<b>\$972.00</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>
<b>Dev &amp; Peace</b>	<b>230.00</b>	<b>Light a Memory Tree</b>	<b>170.00</b>
<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>Benton Cemetery</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Fall Supper</b>	<b>3,015.00</b>	<b>Retired Priests &amp; Seminarians</b>	<b>65.00</b>
<b>Poor &amp; Needy</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser</b>	<b>240.00</b>
<b>Xmas St. Gertrude's</b>	<b>10.00</b>		

*\* Some of the e-transfers were for specific purposes and have been included in those totals*

**Ministries**

- Nov. 28** 4:00 pm Marg McCallum Lector, Gerry Crawford Greeter, Marjorie Allison- Ross,
- Nov. 29** 9:00 am Tom, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading & Prayers of the Faithful 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Tina
- Nov. 29** 11:00 am Ellen Culbert-Johnston Lector, Claude Dube Greeter, Jocelyn Keirstead,

**Advent Reflection Booklets:** available on the table at the church exit, when you are leaving Mass this weekend.



Last weekend you received an envelope for your donation to the special collection “Recovering Together from Development and Peace. If you were unable to make your donation to the collection, it is not too late! You can make an offering using the envelope that was attached to last week’s bulletin. There are some single envelopes left on the table at the church exit...OR...you can make an online donation at [devp.org](http://devp.org). Your donation will help our partners in their struggle to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized in their communities.

**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](mailto:wendymacwilliams@rogers.com) The event will be live-streamed.
- **The Mitten Tree**, at St. Gertrude's, will be at the back of the church, beginning next weekend, the First Sunday of Advent. A change for this year: No knitted items will be on the tree. Instead, you can put a mitten ornament on the tree if you drop some change into the container by the tree. All monies given will be divided up between the elementary schools in the area and one daycare to assist needy children.
- **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.
- **Blessing of the Nativity**---The Knights of Columbus invite families and friends to the Blessing of the Nativity on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 6:30 pm. Participants are to gather at the St. Gertrude's Nativity by the vestry entrance and participate in the program conducted by Fr. Martin. Be sure to wear your mask so we can safely distance and celebrate the occasion.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Light a Memory Tree</b> - 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.</li> <li>• Name: _____ Envelope # ____ Amount _____</li> <li>• _____</li> <li>• In Memory of: _____</li> </ul>
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**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

**OUR KING IS AN AWESOME KING!** He not only became and lived human even suffering a horrifying death for our sake, conquering death and giving us eternal life, He gave us the Beatitudes as a blueprint for our daily lives, told and showed the Father's love for each and everyone of us, and calls us friend, not servants. Jesus tells us often in the Gospels about the Kingdom of Heaven – it is “within you” (that is, here) and “at hand”(that is, now). His Kingdom of Heaven is assessible to everyone right now! There is no separation between God, us and our neighbours. We are all part of ONE great Life. Christ our King calls us to join Him on mission of justice, peace and love (charity) in our family, our community, our world. Listen to the Call of the King and exclude no one – not the lowly, nor the weakest. Put on Christ, collaborate, cooperate with Him, with joy, building His Kingdom for us here, now. (*parts taken from Richard Rhor's "Jesus and the Reign of God".*)

