

Our Sacred Stories

Waiting for Jesus - Meeting Jesus

Walking down the street, I spot a person coming toward me whom I know I have met before. What is their name? Where did I meet them? Did I teach them? Were they in one of the parishes where I have been? Worse – Did I just meet them recently? Searching through the files of my memory, the name does not come to me. This happens to me often. It happens to us all. Meeting someone like this challenges us. We are often not prepared for such encounters.

Our Gospel this weekend (Matt 25:1-13) is about **encounters** and **being prepared**. The ten bridesmaids were waiting for the coming of the groom. He was late arriving and when he did come, some were prepared, some were not. Why does Matthew tell this parable of Jesus?

Like all the parables they are told first for the little communities of Christians to whom the Gospel writers belong. These early Christians of the first generation after resurrection, expected Jesus to return in glory soon, even in their lifetime. As time went by, the return was delayed, like the groom’s coming. Some were discouraged by this delay. Matthew’s parable is to urge Christians to wait patiently and **be prepared** for the **encounter** when they would meet their risen Lord: “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

As it did to Matthew’s community, this parable speaks to us. Like them, we continue to wait in faith and readiness for the *Coming of the Lord Jesus* in glory. We wait to enter into a sharing in the risen life of Jesus. We wait for the *Coming* when all creation will be made whole and the God’s Kingdom will be fulfilled. And we know “neither the day nor the hour.”

We also wait and prepare for our own daily encounters with Jesus. Every day, we meet Jesus personally in the challenges and experiences of our lives. Jesus comes to us in the persons we meet, in the needs of others and the joys of companionship with one another. Jesus comes to us in the wonder of all Creation and in our care and delight with this Creation. We cannot predict when these **encounters** will come. Nor can we foresee how these meetings with Jesus will take place. But all of these daily encounters with Jesus call forth responses of love and respect, care and compassion.

In the present experience of the corona virus, we recognize how difficult it is to wait. In the midst of our isolation and distancing, in the dislocation of our mask-wearing, we wait for a vaccine. There is no telling when we will have such a vaccine. But when it comes, we must be ready to receive it. Only then can we relax our current situation. We long for it, we wait for it, we are impatient for it.

Our life experience at this moment in time offers us some special opportunities to wait for encounters with Jesus in very practical ways. We wear our masks and social distance not for our own sake, but for the sake of those around us. Our concern for the all people of our world and our nation is a chance to reflect the face of Jesus beyond our own circle. Our readiness as communities to support our public health leadership and those who advise us from the World Health Organization is a response that expresses the global compassion of our loving God for all. How aware, ready and responsive are we when our loving God reaches out to us in the daily experiences of our lives? Are we ready?

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

John Jennings



St. Gertrude



Sts. Simon & Jude



Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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(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

32nd Day in Ordinary Time

Nov 8, 2020

Masses This Week:

Saturday	Nov 07	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Ann Dionne
Sunday	Nov 08	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Parishioners
	Nov 08	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Marshall Sappier
Monday	Nov 09	No Mass
Tuesday	Nov 10	12:15 pm St. Gertrude.....	Rosary led by CWL
Wednesday	Nov 11	No Mass
Thursday	Nov 12	12:15 pm St. Gertrude	Harold Culbert
Friday	Nov 13	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Irene Keenan
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

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.
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. 2, 2020 Winner** Marion Briand **\$296.00** 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.

Remembrance Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11--On Remembrance Day we pause to honour the men and women who have served and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict, and peace. This weekend we pay tribute and give thanks to those Canadian Forces veterans and service members of our parish who are present with us at our weekend Masses or who are at home or in care facilities. Thank you for your service to our community and to our country. **Lest We Forget**

JOY OF THE GOSPEL FAITH SHARING GROUP: The name for our faith sharing group is 'The Magnificats'. The Magnificat is Mary's song of praise she sang when visiting Elizabeth. – "My soul rejoices in God my Savior" (Lk 1-46-55). Meeting Jesus in the Gospels and meeting others in faith sharing will set free our inner joy. And what a joy sharing with each other the 'Joy of the Gospel' by Pope Francis! Our first ZOOM gathering shared on the Introduction to the Pope's 'Exhortation' which exhorts us to read and act on the document/letter immediately. We were touched by the truths Francis spoke – we are so concerned and busy with our own interests there is no room for God and others and so the desire to do good fades. But God is always waiting for us with open arms of love to restore our joy – the joy of being fully human, more than human beyond ourselves to the fullest truth of our being. Missionary outreach (looking after the needs of others) is THE method for all our activities and for all Church activities.

Our second ZOOM gathering on the two parts of Chapter ONE revealed that sharing gives us energy and inspires us 'go forward' from our comfort zone. We can bear fruit of the Spirit wherever we go- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22) The seeds we plant by being welcoming, sharing our faith in words and deeds, will be 'watered' by God. We just need to take the first step and sow the seeds by always being welcoming.

Foodbank: Parishioners at Sts. Simon & Jude church collected a cash value of \$574.00 last Sunday. Parishioners of St. Gertrude's may donate in the box at the back of the church. Please ensure items are in bags.

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 Oct. 31 & Nov. 1st, 2020

	<u>St. Gertrude's</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	22.50	15.00	
Envelope	1,050.00	751.00	
PAD	1,692.00	261.00	77.00
E-Transfers		220.00	
Global South		10.00	
	<u>\$2,764.51</u>	<u>\$1,247.00</u>	<u>\$ 77.00</u>
Dev & Peace	5.00	Lynn Lake	200.00
St. Bonaventure	30.00	Benton Cemetery	10.00
Retired Priests & Seminarians		\$195.00	

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.14	4:00 pm	Marjorie Allison-Ross, Mike McCallum Greeter, Marg McCallum Screener
Nov.15	9:00 am	Tom & Prayers of the Faithful & Jacqueline 2 nd Reading
Nov.15	11:00 am	Brittany Harris Lector, Rudy Nadeau Greeter, Debie Rae Screener

“HELP US HELP OUR 150 PARTNERS”



Help us help our sisters and brothers in the Global South!

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us in many ways here in Canada. In the Global South, the impacts are devastating, as the pandemic is worsening poverty, hunger, conflict and gender inequality. More than ever, your solidarity and generosity are needed to support the work of Development and Peace so we are all recovering together. Our partners are working for a just recovery in their countries so all can live in dignity. There will be a collection in our parish on [Insert Date]. You can also make a donation online. Your generosity allows Development and Peace to support over 100 projects in 35 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East!

To learn more about the **Recovering Together** campaign, please contact Mary Hanson phone number 325-2437.

Day of the collection Nov. 14 & 15th.

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 – ***weekly or monthly – 1st of each month***
4. E-transfers. This is done through on-line banking with your financial institution. Please send to sjbnb@rogers.com. ***Under comments add your name and/or envelope number.***

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.

