

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**Baptism and Mission: We Are in This Together**

Covid-19, for all its challenges has taught us some lessons. These lessons will hopefully guide us in the days and years ahead. One of these lessons was how much we are dependent on one another to address our challenges. Some 400 years ago, the English poet, John Donne expressed this poetically:

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.  
 (John Donne, 1572-1631)

Covid-19 has taught us that we are "in this together". The challenges we face can only be addressed if we are together in our response. We isolate, we self-distance, we wear masks not to protect ourselves, but those around us. The vaccines that have brought us promise that the pandemic will someday end have come from a global effort and the result has been vaccines rolling out faster than any previous experience of them.

I don't think I realized it at the time, but my mother did. She was right when she offered a constant lesson: "Wash your hands". Looking back, I am sure we thought it was to protect ourselves from viruses, bacteria and germs. Only now am I beginning to think she said that not just so I would not get sick, but because I could possibly convey the sickness to the rest of our family. She was right, we truly are, "in this together", none of us "is an island entire of itself".

All four of our Gospels see Jesus beginning his public ministry, his mission with his baptism by John at the Jordan. What John the Baptist was doing was common ritual of Judaism. It was a cleansing from sin. The Gospel accounts, however reveal, a new dimension is added to this ritual. As Jesus came up from the river, the Spirit descended upon him and he received his mission – to proclaim the Good News of God's reign. What had been of rite of cleansing from sin, become for the disciples of Jesus and acknowledgement that the Spirit is among us and that we share the mission of Jesus – proclaiming and building God's reign among us and around us.

If baptism were understood as only a cleansing rite, then this would be the end of it. But in our Catholic tradition, baptism marks not an ending or fulfillment, but a beginning. For Jesus, it was only a beginning. He surrounded himself with a host of disciples. He spoke beyond that circle to the crowds, to the world. He had Good News that needed to be shared with everyone. It was the beginning of his mission. And our baptism is the beginning of a mission for us as well.

Our baptism is often referred to as a sacrament of initiation, a door into a community of faith. That initiation or entry comes with a share of the mission of Jesus. We are disciples who are continually learning what we are about and we are missionaries who cannot but share this good news to others and to our world. We are in this together, a community of faith.

**Who nurtures my faith? Whose faith do I nurture?**

John Jennings  
 Baptism of the Lord



*St. Gertrude*



*Sts. Simon & Jude*



*Mission Churches*

# **St. John the Baptist Parish**

**105 Union St. † Woodstock, NB † E7M 2W4**  
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**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:** Marg McCallum

**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:** Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

**Jan. 10, 2021**

**Masses This Week:**

|           |     |    |  |                                    |
|-----------|-----|----|--|------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | Jan | 9  | 4:00 pm St. Gertrude .....                   | Geneva King                        |
| Sunday    | Jan | 10 | 9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude .....              | Parishioners                       |
|           | Jan | 10 | 11:00 am St. Gertrude .....                  | Stacey Jurouski                    |
| Monday    | Jan | 11 | .....  | No Mass                            |
| Tuesday   | Jan | 12 | .....  | Rosary Led by CWL                  |
| Wednesday | Jan | 13 | 9:00 am Adoration Mass 10:00 am St. Gertrude | Annie Nicholas                     |
| Thursday  | Jan | 14 | 12:15 pm St. Gertrude..                      | Special Intention                  |
| Friday    | Jan | 15 | 9:00 am St. Gertrude.....                    | Deceased Members of K of C #2234   |
| Saturday  | Jan | 16 | 4:00 am St. Gertrude .....                   | Edwin, Arthur, Line & Greta Stiles |
| Sunday    | Jan | 17 | 9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude .....              | Theo & Germaine Francoeur          |
|           | Jan | 17 | 11:00 am St. Gertrude .....                  | Parishioners                       |

**Baptism of the Lord**

**Please have items for Bulletin by Wednesday**

**Please pray for the sick:** Joyce Gordon, Nora Gagnon , Brenda Nason, Gordon Reinhart, Martha Cummings Sincennes, Bridget Keenan Wort, John Gallagher, Raymond Adams Pat & Ed McGuire, Lori Young, Guy LaForest and Vicki Guerrera

**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 Jan. 4, 2021 Winner** Debbie Murray **\$275.00** 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.

**Finance Council** met in December to review the parish financial position as year-end was approaching. We are pleased to report that parish revenue exceeded expenses by about \$6,000 through the end of November 2020. This is extremely good news and a testament to the generosity of our parishioners and their commitment to ensuring that we survive the challenges of this pandemic.

Of particular note, the response to the fundraising we conducted in lieu of the Fall Supper in Woodstock and the Italian Dinner in Nackawic was very positive, resulting in proceeds of over \$10,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

While our parish is well-positioned heading into the more expensive winter months, we hope that you will continue your generous support for the parish. As always, we encourage parishioners to consider pre-authorized debit. Finance Council will be bringing forward a budget for 2021 and a more detailed report on 2020 will be available in February (when the AGM will be held, if possible).

On a personal note, I wish to advise that my term as a member of Finance Council concluded at the end of December. Vice-Chair Marg McCallum is now the chair, effective January 1/21 and Fr. Martin will be filling the council vacancies created by my departure and that of Anita Fox (Nackawic) earlier in 2020.

I want to thank Marg for her guidance and support while I served as Chair. I also offer my thanks to all the council members for their assistance during my tenure and to Diane Dube for her excellent work keeping parish administration running smoothly. As a parish, we are fortunate to have our temporal affairs in the hands of such capable individuals.

I am grateful as well for the unfailing good will and support I received from all parishioners, who never refused to help whenever I sought their assistance. Nobody serving in parish leadership could ask for anything more. Thank you for your dedication to the worshipping community of St. John the Baptist Parish.

Stuart Kinney

**CWL** –Just a reminder for those who have not paid your dues, please remit to Patricia Paul or place in the collection addressed to her attention. Dues remain at \$20.00. Thank you!

## Ministries Schedule

For St. Gertrude's, please arrive 15 minutes before scheduled Mass if you are a lector. Please arrive ½ hour before Mass if you are a Door Greeter or Screener. Please let Myrna or Ann know you are present to serve. If unable to serve, please let Myrna 328-9640 or Anne382-8398 know in advance or find a replacement. Thank you so much for your generous offer to serve during these unique pandemic times.

| Date    | Time     | Lector            | Hospitality/Door Greeter | Screener         |
|---------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Jan. 16 | 4:00 PM  | Ben Kilfoil       | Stuart Kinney            | Veronica Steeves |
| Jan. 17 | 11:00 AM | Noah Lenehan      | Mike Chandra             | Sharon Tenhave   |
| Jan. 23 | 4:00 PM  | Gloria Yachyshen  | Marjorie Allison-Ross    | Veronica Steeves |
| Jan. 24 | 11:00 AM | Jocelyn Kierstead | Rudy Nadeau              | Debi Rae         |

|         |         |                     |                    |                        |
|---------|---------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jan. 17 | 9:00 AM | 1st Reading + Dilys | Prayers Faithful + | 2nd Reading Jacqueline |
| Jan. 24 | 9:00 AM | 1st Reading Sally   | 2nd Reading +      | Prayers Faithful Tina  |



The Nackawic Lions club would like to thank members of St. Simon & Jude for their generous donations totalling \$800.00. We helped 47 families in the areas as well as the sanctuary house & food bank . Because of a great community effort these families had a much better Christmas.

Parishioners of St. Gertrude's donated 150 lbs of food for the Food Bank in December. Sts. Simon & Jude – groceries will be collected for the Food Bank this Sunday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

The province of New Brunswick is in the "orange level" of the province's recovery phase. This means that church services are limited to 50 in the building and funerals and marriages are limited to 25. There is no singing and masks are to be worn at all times.

## Offertories for the Last 2 weeks

### Christmas Masses Dec. 23, 24 & 25th

| \               | <u>St. Gertrude</u> | <u>Sts Simon &amp; Jude</u> | <u>St. Thomas</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Loose           | 313.6               | 25                          |                   |
| <u>Envelops</u> | <u>3312</u>         | <u>1020</u>                 | <u>745</u>        |
| Total           | 3625.6              | 1045                        | 745               |
| Global South    | 10                  |                             |                   |
| Retired Priests | 10                  |                             |                   |
| St. Bonaventure | 30                  |                             |                   |

### Weekend Dec. 26 & 27th

| <b>Dec 26/27</b> | <u>St. Gertrude</u> | <u>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude</u> | <u>St. Thomas</u> |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Loose            | 35                  |                              |                   |
| Envelops         | 2031                | 432                          | 600               |
| PAD              | 1522                | 261                          | 77                |
| E Transfer       | 100                 | 150                          |                   |
| Candles          |                     | <u>83</u>                    |                   |
|                  | 3688                | 926                          | 677               |
| Global South     | 9                   | St. Bonaventure              | 50                |
| New Freeman      | 10                  | Lynn Lake                    | 500               |
| Dev & Peace      | 5                   | St. Lawrence/Benton          | 10                |
| St. Thomas       |                     |                              |                   |
| Cemetery         | 100                 | Fall Supper                  | 40                |
| Light a Memory   | 56                  | Poor & Needy                 | 700               |

### New Year's Eve & Day

|           | <u>St. Gertrude</u> | <u>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude</u> | <u>St. Thomas</u> |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Loose     | 50                  |                              |                   |
| Envelops  | <u>630</u>          | <u>369</u>                   | -                 |
|           | 680                 | 369                          |                   |
| Lynn Lake | 100                 | St. Bonaventure              | 25                |

### Weekend of Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

| <b>Jan 2 &amp; 3</b> | <u>St. Gertrude</u> | <u>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude</u> | <u>St. Thomas</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Loose                | 35                  |                              |                   |
| Envelops             | 902                 |                              | 40                |
| PAD                  | 1797                | 261                          | 77                |
|                      | <u>2734</u>         | <u>261</u>                   | <u>117</u>        |
| Lynn Lake            | 200                 |                              |                   |
| St. Bonaventure      | 25                  |                              |                   |



