

Our Sacred Stories

Holy Week: A Pilgrimage through Death to Life, Darkness to Light

This Sunday we enter what we call Holy Week, that sacred season from Passion Sunday to Easter. As we bless the palms and listen to the Passion story once more, we begin a pilgrimage in solidarity with our world. It is a journey of faith which calls us to reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus. Ultimately our trek will take us to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus. From darkness to light.

Our pilgrimage unfolds on three levels. We take this pilgrimage personally, looking inward at our own life. Each of us has our experiences of pain, suffering and encounters with evil. We also embark on this pilgrimage communally, for we journey with the whole Christian community. It too, is often broken and suffering, struggling with the shortcomings and flaws within us.

Beyond this, our journey is also one we share with all of humanity, and the whole of creation. We witness the face of evil and pain and suffering with all the peoples and nations of our world. In every place and every age, this has been our global reality. So often, we are a world of darkness - inequalities, injustice, war, threats of climate change and the dread of a pandemic. We are so often less than we can be or even want to be.

In this season of Holy Week – Easter we are called to reflection, prayer and a movement of heart, mind and action through the experience of evil and death, to new and transformed life. It is season of hope and promise, a pilgrimage through death to new life, from darkness to light.

Our journey begins at a high point with acclamation and celebration, as we hear the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the cheers and accolades of the crowd (Mark 11:1-10). We end our pilgrimage on another high point - the resurrection of Jesus with Easter, from darkness to light.

As we journey from one high point to the next, however, we must descend into the valley, the darkness of challenge, of struggle, of suffering, of pain, evil. It is a valley where we journey with Jesus through his passion and ultimately his death. This is a valley of darkness. Our human experience reveals it as something we all face in life. We encounter it in ourselves and we encounter it in our world.

Evil poses questions that have challenged reason and religious faith down through the centuries. Despite all efforts to "explain" it, evil defies rational explanation. No one has identified the ultimate cause of evil. The principal religious traditions of the world: Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, have all noted the existence of evil. But why do we face it? Where does it come from?

Religious traditions can identify no ultimate cause, but they do aid us with the challenge. What helps us is how these traditions present the divine. Christianity, Judaism and Islam all present us with an image of God who is above all else, compassionate. We may not know why there is evil, but our Christian faith does offer us a response to it. It is the response of Jesus – to be compassionate as our God is compassionate.

In other words, the challenge of evil is not addressed by discovering who caused it or why we face it. It is addressed by how we respond – by compassion and care, for one another and for our world. This is a week of moving from darkness to light, death to new life. Jesus embodies God's compassionate love for all humanity

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 : <http://www.facebook.com/st.g.church.1>

Pastor: Fr. Martin Arputham

Mass Times: St. Gertrude

Saturday 4:00 pm

Office Manager: Diane Dube

Sunday 11:00 am

Pastoral Council Chair: Stuart Kinney

Reconciliation Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

Property & Finance Chair: Marg McCallum

St. Simon & Jude Sunday 9:00 am

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 am- 1:30 pm

Reconciliation Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

Mar 28, 2021

Passion Sunday

Saturday	Mar	27	4:00 pm St. Gertrude.....	Jean Bedard
Sunday	Mar	28	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude	Cecil & Conrad Albert
Sunday	Mar	28	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners
Monday	Mar	29	No Mass
Tuesday	Mar	30	No Mass
Wednesday	Mar	31	No Mass
Thursday	Apr	01	5:00 pm Sts. Simon & Jude.....	Carolyn Roy
Thursday	Apr	01	7:00 pm St. Gertrude.....	Tucker,Grattan,McEvoy & Donovan
Friday	Apr	02	12:00 noon Sts. Simon & Jude.....	...Good Friday Service
Friday	Apr	02	3:00 pm St. Gertrude.....	Good Friday Service
Saturday	Apr	03	9:00 pm St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners
Sunday	Apr	04	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude.....	Earle & Annetta McGuire
	Apr	04	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Frank Keenan & DMF

Please contact Fr. Martin at 328-3306 if someone requires a visit.

Please pray for the sick: Nora Gagnon , Brenda Nason, Gordon Reinhart, Martha Cummings Sincennes, Bridget Keenan Wort, John Gallagher, Pat & Ed McGuire, Lori Young, & Emmanuel Basque

Those who have died: Gerry Levesque & Greg Fox & Arleen Laforest

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: Mondays *Bingo. Door opens at 6:00 pm.*

50/50 – Mar. 22, 2021- Winner Diana Kennedy **\$536.00.** Tickets are \$2/week available at Martin's Corner Store on Broadway or bulk food store on Connell St. Tickets must be purchased by 6 pm Sunday.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program can assist people file their tax returns. This free service for people with modest income. There are no in person clinics this year, however volunteers are available to do the returns. For more information contact Jocelyn 323-0343, Terrance 328-5162 or Dorothy 276-4604.

REGISTER FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES--ST. GERTRUDES

If you wish to attend the Holy Week services on **GOOD FRIDAY** and/or **EASTER SUNDAY** at St. Gertrude's Church, you must register with the Parish Office to be able to reserve seating for you and/or your family. Please contact Diane Dube, at the Parish Office, either by phone (328-3306) or by e-mail (sjbnb@rogers.com). Information needed: *Which service you wish to attend? How many people to reserve seating for?* **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Be advised: Reserving ahead guarantees you a place to be seated somewhere in the church, not a specific pew. All services will be live-streamed on the parish Facebook page. (Distribution of communion in the parking lot following the services for Good Friday & Easter Sunday will be available for 30 minutes following the conclusion of the service. **Deadline for registration is Monday Mar. 29th at 1:30 pm.**

All COVID-19 protocols will be followed: screening at the entrance, sign in, hand sanitizing, mask wearing. For further information on COVID-19 protocols, check the Government of NB COVID-19 website.

PLEASE NOTE: These plans are subject to change at any time due to NB government/Diocesan COVID-19 protocol directives.

Chrism Mass: Participation in the Chrism Mass this year is by invitation only. Clergy, consecrated and lay faithful are invited to join via the **Livestream** on our Diocesan Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofSaintJohn/>) on Tuesday, **March 30th**, at **6:30 pm** from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Good Friday Collection on April 2, 2021 is for the benefit of the Holy Land

Offertory Mar 20/21, 2019

	St. Gertrude	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	40		
Envelops	1,548	472	100
PAD	1572	261	77
E-Transfer		100	
Candles	–	–	–
	3160	833	177
Dev & Peace	1580	St. Bonaventure	30
Poor & Needy	20	Global South	34.75
St. Lawrence/Benton	10		

WEEK 6: MARCH 22 TO 28, 2021

Share Love, Share Lent: Keeping Canadians committed.



Did you know that advocacy by Development and Peace members resulted in several schools, parishes and municipal offices across Canada giving up bottled water? Join our *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign to celebrate the many ways in which Canadian Catholics show that they care for social, economic and environmental justice. To help make a difference, **get your MP to commit to building back better from the pandemic.** Visit devp.org/lent to learn more.

St. Gertrude's Ministry Schedule for Holy Week

Date	Time	Lector	Hospitality/ Door Greeter	Screener
April 1st Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	1st: Jocelyn Keirstead 2nd: Tom Bridgeo Prayers of Faithful: Loraine Stone	Vicki McLean	Marjorie Allison-Ross
April 2nd Good Friday	3:00 PM	1st: Ben Kilfoil 2nd : Harmony Serrano Passion Narrator: Vicki McLean S parts: Noah Lenehan	Mike and Marg McCallum Eucharistic Minister: Nellie Gallagher	Jocelyn Keirstead
April 3rd Easter Vigil	9:00 PM	Exsultet: Stuart Kinney 1st: Debbie Lutes 3rd: Debi Rae 5th: Marjorie Allison-Ross 6th: Allyson Cluff 7th: Elizabeth McLaughlin Epistle: Ron MacDonald Prayers of Faithful: Brittany Harris	Gerry Crawford	Ninfa Blacquiere
April 4th Easter Sunday	11:00 AM	1st: Noah Lenehan 2nd: John Lenehan Prayers of Faithful: Vicki McLean	Claude Dube Rudy Nadeau _____ Eucharistic Minister : Doris Markey	Sharon Tenhave

Sts. Simon & Jude Ministry Schedule for Holy Week

April 1st	5:00 PM	1st Reading , Psalm & Prayer of the Faithful Tom	2nd Reading Jacqueline
April 2nd	12:00 Noon	1st Reading , Psalm & Narrator Sally	2nd Reading & S1,S2,S3 Rita
April 4th Easter Sunday	9:00 AM	1st Reading & Prayers of the Faithful Dilys	2nd Reading Paulette



HOW TO GIVE

Online:
devp.org

By phone:
1 888 234-8533

Send a cheque to:
Development and Peace
1425 René-Lévesque Boul. West, 3rd Floor
Montreal, QC H3G 1T7

Share Lent 2021  **Development and Peace**
CARITAS CANADA

SHARE LOVE SHARE LENT

Thank you to all who contributed to the **Development and Peace--SHARE LOVE, SHARE LENT** collection last weekend. Your generosity is appreciated. There is still time to make a contribution. Use the blue envelope in your offertory box, or an ordinary envelope with your name. *If you write a cheque, please make it out to St. John the Baptist Parish.* Or you can make your donation directly to Dev. and Peace. Contact information is in the HOW TO GIVE notice above. **St. Gertrude's D&P Committee.**



Holy Week

For most Christians, this week — **Holy Week** — is the most **important** week of the year. Holy Week culminates in the Paschal **Triduum**, the three days commemorating the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many Christians prepare for this event with 40 days of fasting, prayer, and alms giving.

The three days of the **Easter Triduum** are from dusk on **Holy Thursday** to dusk on **Good Friday** (day one), dusk on **Good Friday** to dusk on **Holy Saturday** (day two), and dusk on **Holy Saturday** to dusk on **Easter Sunday** (day three). Each of those days "tells" a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action.

--SUNDAY, MARCH 28 - PALM SUNDAY - 9:00 am Mass Sts. Simon & Jude
11:00 am Mass St. Gertrude's

--THURSDAY, APRIL 1 - HOLY THURSDAY - 5:00 pm Mass – Sts Simon & Jude
7:00 pm Mass – St. Gertrude's

--FRIDAY, APRIL 2 - GOOD FRIDAY - SERVICE TIMES: Noon Sts. Simon & Jude
3:00 pm St. Gertrude's
(day of fasting and abstinence)

--SATURDAY, APRIL 3 - EASTER VIGIL - 9 PM – St. Gertrude's

--SUNDAY, APRIL 4- EASTER SUNDAY - MASS TIMES – 9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude
11:00 am St. Gertrude's



Happy Easter to all!

Thank you to all the volunteers who are helping with the celebrations!

Villa Madonna

StayCation at Villa Madonna: Villa Madonna Retreat House can host your whole family/household bubble for a special event. Bring your whole bubble to Villa Madonna for a family dinner, or stay overnight over-night and enjoy a leisurely brunch. You could bring your entire bubble for a whole weekend get-away and have the whole retreat house to yourself. Our rates are reasonable and packages include all accommodations and meals. Our hiking trails are open, WIFI available and lots of space for the kids to play and the Chapel for some quiet time. We serve excellent home-style meals and we can cater to any special dietary needs. Email villamadonna@nb.aibn.com or call 849-5125.

What are your plans for after Lent?



Why not grab a friend and join us for our next Alpha Course? Alpha is the perfect place to discuss the big questions of life, introduce people to God or renew your own relationship with Jesus. **Our Lady of Peace Parish's next course will start online, Thursday, April 15th at 7:00 pm. Who will you invite?**

To register please contact Patty Cameron at pattycameron@ourladyofpeacefredericton.ca or Diane Dube at sjbnb@rogers.com

Note: We are looking to provide future Alpha courses at St. John the Baptist Parish. Please considerer becoming involved. For more information contact Diane at the office at 328-3306.