

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**Living as Disciples and Friends**

Recently I had the honour and pleasure of journeying on a week-long retreat with the Sisters of St. Martha of PEI and their lay associates. It was a marvelous experience of living faith with them. Reflecting on our Scriptures, sharing our faith Tradition and taking time to nurture our spirituality we had the opportunity to grow as disciples and friends. What a wonderful community to be with. They are truly a blessing for which I am thankful. One lament – they were on Prince Edward Island. I was in New Brunswick. We were forced to meet virtually, unable to come together face to face. Covid-19 has been unkind.

For the last year our world has been disrupted. What was our normal no longer is. The retreat experience illustrates the impact of the pandemic. We were separated. Borders could not be crossed and so we found ourselves isolated in our own spaces. Alone as we were, we were not alone in the experience. Right now, the same experience is happening all around our world.

Masks, social distancing, shrinking social gatherings, no hand-shaking or hugging have been our norm. Hospitals, seniors' homes, schools, neighbourhoods, campuses and churches have been affected. Contact has been through virtual means. For the sake of one another it must be done. To live safely in this pandemic, we must live with separation. It works, but we do lose in the experience.

Relationships are significant for us and we long to be together. Community matters for we are social beings. A streamed retreat or Mass might be necessary and it is certainly better than none, but it is not ideal. What is missing is the communal element. The full experience of Eucharist must include the social contact. The danger is that it become only ritual, "going through the motions". Like so much of our lives, we need the interpersonal element, for this brings us life and allows us to realize we are linked with a bond of humanity and love. We care about each other.

In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the vine and the branches (John 15:1-8). What a wonderful image of our Christian faith. We are interconnected, dependent on one another for life both physically and spiritually. It is no small thing that Jesus gathered his disciples around himself and invited them to follow as he led them through Galilee. Not only did they learn from him, they built a bond that joined them together as branches of the same vine.

Chapter 15 of John's Gospel is set in the Passover meal that Jesus shares with his friends. It is their last. At the end (ch.17) Jesus will offer his farewell prayer for them, but here in chapter 15 he expresses the deep bond that has grown among them. They are together like the vine and the branches. No branch will live without the connection with the vine and the vine itself will grow and share life through the branches. As Jesus puts it: "Abide in me as I abide in you" (15:4). Discipleship is a communal experience.

Christian faith is relational. Our sacramental tradition expresses this. It shows especially in what we call the Sacraments of Initiation or entry into the community of Christians (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist). All three draw us to grow as disciples. They offer a relationship with the person of Jesus, the Christ. In this way, we have a bond with our God. Like a loving parent this God of ours offers life and loving compassion. As disciples, we too are to reflect this life and love around us.

John Jennings



*St. Gertrude*



*Sts. Simon & Jude*



*Mission Churches*

**St. John the Baptist Parish**

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

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**[www.stjohnthebaptistnb.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptistnb.com)**

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

<b>Pastor:</b> Fr. Martin Arputham	<b>Mass Times:</b> <b>St. Gertrude</b>	Saturday 4:00 pm
<b>Office Manager:</b> Diane Dube		Sunday 11:00 am
<b>Pastoral Council Chair:</b> Stuart Kinney	<i>Reconciliation</i>	Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm
<b>Property &amp; Finance Chair:</b> Marg McCallum	<b>St. Simon &amp; Jude</b>	Sunday 9:00 am
<b>Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 am- 1:30 pm</b>	<i>Reconciliation</i>	Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

**May 2, 2021**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

Saturday	May	1	4:00 pm St. Gertrude .....	Ron & Eva Stiles
Sunday	May	2	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude.....	Vital Thebeau
Sunday	May	2	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners
Monday	May	3	.....	No Mass
Tuesday	May	4	9:00 adoration 10:00 mass St. Simon & Jude	Francois Thebeau & David Lawson
Tuesday	May	4	12:15 pm St. Gertrude .....	Rosary Led by the CWL
Wednesday	May	5	11:15 am Adoration 12:15 pm Mass St. Gertrude ...	Vivian Karnes
Thursday	May	6	12:15 pm St. Gertrude.....	Jeannie Doran Bridgeo & DMF
Friday	May	7	9:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Decreased members K of C #2234
Saturday	May	8	4:00 pm St. Gertrude .....	Richard Keilty
Sunday	May	9	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude.....	Pauline & Ernie Donaldson
Sunday	May	9	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners

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

**Please have items for Bulletin by Wednesday**

**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, Ron Haines, Karen Keoughan & Dorothy Hemsley.  
**Those who have died:** Helen Ross

**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:** Mondays *Bingo. Door opens at 6:00 pm.*  
**50/50 – Apr 26, 2021- Winner** Grace Veysey **\$265.00.** 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.

**Ministries**

*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
May 8	4:00 PM	Vicki McLean	Barb Woodland	Charlene Prosser
May 9	11:00 AM	Debi Lutes	Rudy Nadeau	Debi Rae
May 15	4:00 PM	Ben Kilfoil	Gerry Crawford	Veronica Steeves
May 16	11:00 AM	Brittany Harris	Claude Dube	Sharon Tenhave
May 9	9:00 AM	<b>1st Reading +</b> Tom	<b>Prayers Faithful</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b> Jacqueline
May 16	9:00 AM	<b>1st Reading</b> Diane	<b>Prayers Faithful +</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b> Pierrette

**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.

**First Communion will be celebrated on May 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be reserved seating for families of children who will be receiving communion for the first time at St. Gertrude's. Due to limited space some parishioners may prefer to attend the Saturday mass next weekend.**

We will soon be planning for **Grad Mass in June**. Please contact the office if you have or know of any students graduating in our **Parish** in June as we want to recognize them. We would not want to leave anyone out. Thank you.

**St. Josephs Newburg Cemetery Association** will be holding their semi-annual meeting on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm at the church providing we do stay in the Yellow Phase of recovery. COVID-19 protocols will be followed with sign in, hand sanitizing, wearing masks and seated 6' apart in your family bubbles.

St. Gertrude's Church - Beginning Wednesday, **May 5**, the schedule will be: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament begins at **11:15 am**, followed by Mass at **12:15 pm**.

**Join the Conversation:** The Atlantic Association of Catholic Youth Ministers is seeking young people aged 12-24 to join a series of virtual conversations (via Zoom) originally initiated by the CCCB and the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network. These sessions are scheduled to take place on an ongoing basis beginning in May and will be an opportunity for young people across Atlantic Canada to gather and talk about issues important to them in 2021 and how we as a faith community can respond to them. All young people in this age range are welcome to join the conversation.

For more information contact Margot at [fredreled@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:fredreled@dioceseofsaintjohn.org) or 444-6025.

**Offertory April 24/25, 2021**

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	90	5	55
Envelopes	1,143	411	
PAD	1,572	249	77
Initial Envelope			6
E-Transfer	20		
Candles	–	<u>151</u>	–
	2825	816	138
Dev & Peace	5	St. Bonaventure	70
Poor & Needy	20	Global South	32
Lynn Lake	200	St. Lawrence/Benton	10