

**Our Sacred Stories**

**Emmanuel: God With Us – Life for Creation and Humanity**

Spending time at the beach is a favorite pastime during the summer months. Watching the waves come in and hearing the sounds as the sea flows and ebbs is so regular and relaxing. Sitting on the shoreline wrapped up in quiet thought it is hard to imagine that what we are looking at is so vast and so powerful.

Relaxing on the beach, we do not think much about the bigger picture. The Bay of Fundy can be 52 kilometers across and up to 250 meters deep. The Atlantic Ocean itself in places is almost 8 kilometers deep and 5000 kilometers wide. It covers almost 20% of the earth’s surface. Now that is big.

Often, what we see in our lives is such a small part of the bigger picture. John’s Gospel in chapter 6 poses this problem for the crowds that followed Jesus as well as for his disciples. As John presents the story he begins by telling us that Jesus is being followed by a large crowd of people, “impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick.” (Jn. 6:2) The Gospel goes on to describe another wonder, as Jesus feeds the large crowd. Struck by this miracle they acclaim him as a prophet and seek to make him king. (Jn.6:14-15) He flees into the hills to escape them, while the disciples set out to row across the lake.

The story does not end there, another wonder. A storm comes up on the lake and they encounter Jesus walking on the water toward them. The next day the crowds find Jesus and his disciples on the other side. They are baffled and overwhelmed by what is happening. Jesus, points out that they may be following him because of the wonders and signs, but there is more to it than this. John then begins to relate Jesus speaking to them with a central truth of his message and mission: “I am the bread of life...” (Jn.6:35-69).

Many in the crowd and even some of the disciples found that the message was too much to accept. They could not accept what Jesus was saying as it was too vast a claim and took them far beyond what their faith tradition would allow them. It was an ocean of meaning. Yet many stayed with him. What was the attraction?

As John closes this chapter, he reveals what the attraction is. Jesus lives in a relationship with a loving, life-giving God and his mission is to proclaim this to others through his life, words and actions. For many this was a challenge. Their vision of God was focused on God’s transcendence, the distance of the divinity. The disciples were discovering in Jesus signs of the immanence of God, the closeness of the divinity – *Emmanuel* (God with us) is our acclamation.

“Bread” is a simple and common element of life. Yet for the early Christians who speak to us through John’s Gospel the food and feeding symbolizes the core of life in our world. To eat “the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood” is to receive the life, divine life that Jesus offers to humanity. In doing so we recognize the gift of the life-giving love of our God to all. This is the message and mission of Jesus that we have been given as disciples. We are to share this amazing Good News. Being life-giving to one another is how we share it.

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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**Pastor:** Fr. Martin Arputham

**Office Manager:** Diane Dube

**Pastoral Council Chair:** Stuart Kinney

**Property & Finance Chair:** Marg McCallum

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

**Mass Times: St. Gertrude**

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am

*Reconciliation* Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

**St. Simon & Jude** Sunday 9:00 am

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

**Aug 22, 2021**

**21<sup>ST</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday	Aug 21	4:00 pm St. Gertrude .....	Parishioners
Sunday	Aug 22	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude .....	Brenda Nason
Sunday	Aug 22	11:00 am Sts. Gertrude.....	John McLaughlin
Monday	Aug 23	.....	No Mass
Tuesday	Aug 24	.....	No Mass
Wednesday	Aug 25	9:00 adoration 10:00 St. Gertrude.....	Special Intention
Thursday	Aug 26	.....	No Mass
Friday	Aug 27	9:00 am St. Gertrude .....	Anthony Gvevarra
Saturday	Aug 28	4:00 pm St. Gertrude .....	Paul Poulin
Sunday	Aug 29	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude .....	Ella Sirois
Sunday	Aug 29	11:00 am St. Gertrude .....	Parishioners

Anyone wishing a visit from Fr. Martin please contact the office 328-3306

Please have items for Bulletin by Wednesday

**Please pray for the sick:** Nora Gagnon ,Bridget Keenan Wort, John Gallagher, Pat & Ed McGuire, Lori Young, Emmanuel Basque, Dorothy Hemsley, Margaret Bridgeo, and Genevieve Price.

**For those who have died:** Antonio Precioso

**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 – Aug 16, 2021 Winner** Rhonda Farrell **\$244.00.** 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.

**Would you like to support the growth of our parish community? Would you like to support folks in reconnecting and reengaging in parish life? Are you interested in spiritual renewal?** Consider being a member of the St. John the Baptist Parish's Standing Committee on *Spiritual Revitalization*. This is a *new* committee to be chaired by Brittany Sprague. Please contact Brittany at [brittsprague@outlook.com](mailto:brittsprague@outlook.com) if you would like more information or are interested in becoming a member. All are welcome!

**Healing Mass at St. Gertrude's Church, Aug 26<sup>th</sup> is CANCELLED**

**Now that we are in the "Green", please feel free to invite Fr. Martin to a family event or outing. He would be happy to attend!**



**Aug 13 & 14th Offertory**

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon &amp; Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	78	10	
Envelopes	1,149	389	84
E-transfer	200	125	
PAD	<u>1,552</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>77</u>
	2979	773	211
St. Thomas Hall	200		
St. Bonaventure	50	Global South	17
Poor & Needy	5	Dev & Peace	25

**If you have a child or know of someone who will be starting grade 8 or above who may wish to be part of the Confirmation Program beginning in October they must contact the office ASAP. Spread the word!**

*After several years of faithful and dedicated service to our parish, Diane Dube is retiring from her role as our Office Manager. We will be advertising to fill a restructured full-time position for Parish Manager, combining office administration and pastoral assistant duties, hoping to fill the position in September. Diane has agreed to stay on for a brief period to assist in transition. We will thank Diane for her service more formally later this fall, but for now we express our appreciation for her assistance during this period of transition.*

*Marg McCallum, Finance Council Chair  
 Stuart Kinney, Pastoral Council Chair*

**The Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick** is offering two (2) **Scholarships** in the amount of \$1000.00 each, they will be awarded to one (1) student studying in a French educational institution and one (1) student studying in an English educational institution. Students must be entering their second year of studies or later, in a post-secondary program in the field of health care. Information and application forms are available online at [www.chanb.com](http://www.chanb.com). Applications must be **postmarked by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**. For further information please email [catholichealth@chpchi.com](mailto:catholichealth@chpchi.com).

**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 Anne 382-8398 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	Eucharistic Minister
28-Aug	4:00 PM	Marjorie Allison-Ross Vicki McLean Lorraine Stone	Mike McCallum Marg McCallum	Myrna Keenan
29-Aug	11:00 AM	John Lenehan Brittany Harris Louis Pierce	Claude Dube Patricia Paul	Ann McEvoy
29-Aug	9:00 AM	<b>1st Reading</b> Pat	<b>Prayer of Faithful +</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b> Paulette
05-Sep	9:00 AM	<b>1st Reading +</b> Tom	<b>Prayer of Faithful</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b> Jacqueline