

Our Sacred Stories

Living a Synod: Change, Challenge & Fear - Faith, Hope & Love

Change is a challenge. It is also universally necessary. Whether we talk personally or communally, we constantly face changes in our life. The same is true for our church. Change is an ever-present need for us all. And, it always makes demands of us. Thus, it comes as no surprise that we have a tendency to fear, oppose and resist change as we meet it.

Reluctance to accept and work with change is part of the story of our faith community. The idea of our church as “unchanging” and an anchor in our changing world has long been a commonly held view. More than a century ago, in 1910, an Irish priest in Brooklyn NY, Msgr. Edward J. McGolrick, captured this view in a very popular book: *The Unchangeable Church*.

The perspective was still held by many who resisted the changes of Vatican II, in the 1960s and 70s. At a local retreat in the 1970s, the retreat director, focusing on the changes called for by the Council noted this resistance. He drew attention to a musical work by the Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) called: “The Seven Last Words of Christ”. At the retreat, we were asked if we had ever heard of “The Seven Last Words of the Church”? His response when none indicated they had heard of it – “We Never Did It This Way Before”.

Pope Francis has expressed this same thought in a number of ways when reflecting on the resistance to change which haunts our church. In the first year of his papacy, 2013, Pope Francis issued an apostolic exhortation to the whole church on proclaiming the Gospel to all humanity (*The Joy of the Gospel*). He called for a whole new energy, changing how we do things. He called on the community “to abandon the complacent attitude that says: ‘We have always done it this way.’ ” (EG 33)

Such attitudes of resistance at all levels of our faith community are blocks to dynamism and openness in the mission we have been given as disciples. Speaking to a community of Jesuits recently Pope Francis commented: “The Catholic Church suffers from a temptation to return to attitudes and practices of the past,... the ideology of going backward”(The New Freeman, Oct.1, 2021). It is an attitude that stems for fear of what we do not know. Any new step poses some risks. We are ever in need of courage to move forward.

The synod process into which we now move is the work of the Spirit as we seek to read the “signs of the times” and to bring the Gospel into our times. Much as we did for Vatican II, the Synod “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission” will demand that we rely on the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit to our church. Our church, our faith community will depend on the Spirit’s gifts: *Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude(courage), Knowledge, Piety (spirituality), and Fear of the Lord (Awe)*.

Mark’s Gospel (Mk.13:24-32) expresses the fear that can paralyze us humanly and bring discouragement, despair and inaction in the face of challenge and the need to risk. In response, comes the saving action of Jesus the Christ (Hebrews 10:11-14, 18) and the shining light of God’s love and glory (Daniel 12:1-3). As church and disciples we can trust in Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (13:13) “Now faith, hope and love abide..., and the greatest of these is love.”

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: Debi Rae

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 10am-3pm

Reconciliation Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

Nov 14 2021

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Nov	13	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Buenaventura Pamplona
Sunday	Nov	14	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude	Francois Thebeau
Sunday	Nov	14	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Monday	Nov	15	No Mass
Tuesday	Nov	16	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Rosary led by CWL
Wednesday	Nov	17	9:00 am adoration 10:00 St. Gertrude	Adrian Saulis
Thursday	Nov	18	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Jeannie Doran Bridgeo & DMF
Friday	Nov	19	9:00 am St. Gertrude	Jean Claude Doiron
Saturday	Nov	20	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Ron Dow
Sunday	Nov	21	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude	Tom Richards
Sunday	Nov	21	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Parishioners
Sunday	Nov	21	2:00 pm St. Gertrude	Memorial Service

Please have items for the Bulletin in by Wednesday afternoon

Please pray for the sick: Nora Gagnon , John Gallagher, Pat & Ed McGuire, Dorothy Hemsley, Margaret Bridgeo, Andy McLean, Dorothy Deriet & Lynn Patterson, Anne Marie Voutour, Cindy Ouellette & Harold Sharkey.
For those who have died: Therese Senechal, James and Joyce Sweeney, Diane Black, Paul Richard, and Fr. Vince Donovan

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) jkeirstead21@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Mondays Bingo - Doors open at 6:00 pm.
50/50 – Nov 8, 2021 Winner Glen Thornton **\$226.00** 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING: Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 7pm

Offertory
November 6/7 2021

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	5		
Envelopes	1,745	599	300
Candles	25	85	
E-Transfer	70		
PAD	<u>1,552</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>77</u>
	3397	933	377
Poor & Needy	750	Global South	20
Dev & Peace	5	Fall Supper	1740
Memorials	30	Retired Priests & Seminarians	230
Canadian Church	15	Light a Memory	350
St. Bonaventure	30	Italian Dinner *	200
St. Bonaventure Cemetery		In Memory Anna Gallivan	1072.54

CEMETARY NOTICE

This is to remind families to remove and/or clean up their family burial site of all plastic flowers, solar lights and other items prior to the first snow fall. If the families remove these, they can be reused next year otherwise they will go to the transfer station.

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
20-Nov	4:00 PM	Marg McCallum Lorraine Stone Ben Kilfoil	Marjorie Allison-Ross Ninfa Blacquiere
21-Nov	11:00 AM	Brittany Sprague Sharon Tenhave Moiria Bowlin	Claude Dube Jocelyn Keirstead
21-Nov	9:00 AM	1st Reading Pat	2nd Reading + Prayer of the Faithful Tina

Light a Memory Tree - We remember in prayer our deceased family members and friends. Anyone wishing to have someone included in the Book of Memorials should complete the form below and put in an envelope with the offertory collection. These memorials will be included on the Light a Memory Tree during the Advent and Christmas Season. Please have these in by **Nov. 14, 2021**. (St. Gertrude's)

Name: _____ Envelope # _____ Amount _____

In Memory of:

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE: PARISH FUND RAISING

As you know, St. John the Baptist Parish could not hold its annual *Italian Dinner* (Nackawic) or *Harvest Supper* (Woodstock) this year due to the pandemic. These are important events in our parish and we rely on the revenue from them to meet our annual budget.

During the month of November, members of the organizing committees for these events will be *canvassing parishioners* by *phone* seeking donations in place of what you would normally contribute to these events. Calls have already begun in Nackawic.

We understand that not everybody will be able to contribute, but if you can, please consider donating an amount of money that would be similar to what you would spend buying food or supplies or purchasing meal tickets for the event. And, if you normally make an additional donation in support of this event, we ask you to do that as well.

Donations may be made by **e mail transfer** (sjbnb@rogers.com) or by delivering a *cheque* to the parish office or placing in the *offertory basket* at Mass. In all cases, *please indicate* that the donation is for the "*Italian*" or "*harvest supper*" (as the case may be).

On behalf of our organizing committees and the parish finance council, we *thank you* for any support you can offer. We appreciate whatever assistance you can provide as we attempt to make up the revenue shortfall from these two events.

If you have any questions about the donation process, please call the parish office – 328-3306.

Let's all look forward *with hope* to a time when we can gather again for these important community events.

ST SIMON & JUDE

CCW

The CCW will once again be holding their Memory Tree Fundraiser during Advent and the Christmas season. Please put your donation, your name and the name of the person(s) you are honouring in an envelope and put in the collection basket by November 21. Angels will be placed on the three the following Sunday.

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes are due on November 21. Thank you for your continued support.

St Gertrude's Church Annual Memorial Service **Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 2 PM**



The St Gertrude's Bereavement Ministry invites you to attend the upcoming Memorial Service to be held at St Gertrude's Church. If you have a loved one that you would like to have remembered in this service, please contact Sharon Tenhave at shtenhave@hotmail.com or 375-6800.

The Memorial Service consists of Music, Prayer, Scripture, Reflection, and reading of the names of the deceased and lighting a candle to remember the loved one(s). We invite you to bring a photo or memento of your loved one and place next to the candle on the Memorial Table.

COVID-19 Protocols will be followed.

ST GERTRUDE'S FOOD DRIVE for FOOD BANK— Help families in our community through donations of non-perishable food items to our local Food Bank. Please consider bringing food items for our church **FOOD DRIVE for the FOOD BANK**. Space will be reserved at the main church entrance for your donations. Look for the wagons ! Thanks for your generosity.



ST SIMON & JUDE FOOD BANK-St Simon & Jude donated 135lbs of food with a cash value of \$351.00

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Church of God is convoked in Synod. With this convocation, Pope Francis invites the whole Church to question itself on synodality, which means "walking together". He has called this "a decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church." Your prayer and your voice are important! To find out how you can participate, contact your parish or visit <https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/synod-2021-2023>. Let us give God permission to move in power in our diocese and the universal Church as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit during this Synodal process.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE-Next meeting will be Thursday, November 18th at 4:30pm in the church hall. Covid Protocols will be followed.

CWL-The next CWL meeting will be Monday, November 15th at 4pm. This is an important meeting and a good attendance is required. A vote will be taken on a motion for a national per capita fee increase. There will also be a vote on proposed amendments to some constitutions and bylaws. Please bring donations for the Food Bank.

THE SALVATION ARMY-CHRISTMAS KETTLE CAMPAIGN 2021

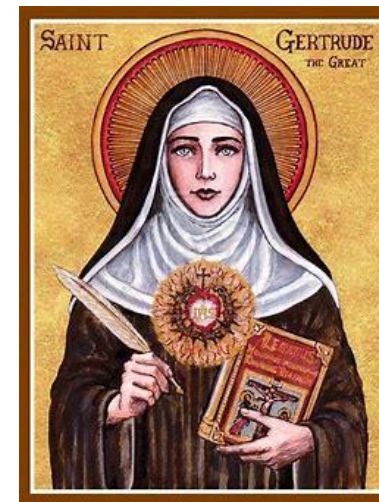
The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers for their Kettle Campaign that runs from November 25th to December 24th. If you would like to volunteer, please call either Majors Angel & Marlene Sandoval at 506-328-8276 or Community and Family Ministries at 506-324-4565

SALT AND LIGHT CATHOLIC MEDIA

Salt and Light Canadian TV provides Vatican live events, documentaries, docu series, tv shows and much more. While it is a subscription service (\$3.99/month and \$39.99/year + tax), there is much 'free' content (daily Masses from Montreal, Vatican events: Papal Masses, weekly General Audiences, Apostolic Visits, Rosary from Shrines around the world invoking an end to the pandemic, documentaries, etc.) These can be accessed on the Salt and Light Media website (slmedia.org), as well as on its Facebook and YouTube sites.

GLASS RECYCLING

CIEVA (Community Industries Employment Vocational Association), 113 Moffatt Street, Woodstock is accepting (up to February 28, 2022) 'grocery' glass jars and bottles (jam, pickles, spaghetti sauce, instant coffee, glass ketchup bottles, olive oil, salsa, maple syrup, etc. and homemade wine bottles). Lids are to be removed. Glass may be clear, brown or green but must be bagged separately in clear bags - one for clear glass, one for coloured glass. Items MUST be CLEANED thoroughly. Not accepted are cookware, dishes, ceramic, window/door panes, vases, pyrex items, auto glass or unclean items. In Woodstock, drop off locations are at Vail's Bottle Exchange, 522 Main Street (below St. Gertrude's Church) and CIEVA Recycling, 113 Moffatt Street.



ST. GERTRUDE

On November 16, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Gertrude, the Great, a Benedictine nun whose great love for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has helped earn her the title of “the Great.”

Gertrude *was born* in Eisleben, Germany on the Feast of the Epiphany, **1256**. She lived during the same time as many of the great saints including St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Dominic. Not much is known about her early life. Historians believe that she may have been a child oblate to the church, just as Hannah offered Samuel to the temple. She entered a monastery school in Saxony at age five, where she earned an impressive education and ultimately decided to become a religious sister herself.

Gertrude was incredibly smart, earning an education unlike any woman of her time. She admitted in her autobiography that often times, she allowed Christ to take a backseat as she harnessed her skills in philosophy, literature, singing and painting. It eventually led her to feel lonely and depressed, and she called her intellectual pursuits a “tower of vanity and curiosity.” She refocused her priorities after a mystical encounter with Christ and began to focus on studying Scripture and theological works.

Gertrude was a mystic. She had many mystical experiences which she recorded in her journals. One was a series of visions of St. John on the night of the Last Supper. Through these series of visions, Gertrude wrote extensively about the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and these writings helped spread the devotion throughout the Western world.

Gertrude also wrote many prayers, especially those devoted to the Souls in Purgatory. Here is an example: ***Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen***

Surprisingly, Gertrude was never officially canonized by the Church. However, after 300 years following her death, Pope Paul V approved various prayers, readings and hymns in her honour, and in 1738, Pope Clement XII extended her Feast to the Universal Church. She is recognized as a saint who is praying for us among the communion of saints.

Gertrude is the only female Saint to be called, “the Great”. Pope Benedict XVI gave her the title to differentiate her from Abbess Gertrude of Hackborn, and to acknowledge the depth of her writings and theological insight. St. Gertrude **died on November 16, 1302**, and remains one of the most well-known saints in the Church. **St. Gertrude the Great, pray for us!**