

Our Sacred Stories

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: Why do we do this?

Recently I had the honour of gathering at the parish church with several families and welcoming into the Christian community a new member. Ferguson “Fergus” is a little over 4 years of age. Surrounded by family and friends as well as by members of the parish community, Fergus seemed to both tolerate and often enjoy the attention paid to him. Certainly, his parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins were in a happy space. Fergus’s baptism was something for everyone to celebrate.

Over the years, in a variety of communities I would estimate I have celebrated the baptisms of 1500 or more new Christians. Some of those we welcomed were adults, most have been children, many infants. Each time it is both a thrill and a joy to welcome these new Christians into the community. Often, we have done this in the setting of a Sunday Eucharist where the whole community welcomes their newest member. Always the welcome is a gift of the whole community.

For Fergus, his baptism was a beginning of his life as a disciple of Jesus. Like the disciples we hear of in the Gospels, or the crowd that surrounded John the Baptist and Jesus at the River Jordan (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22), Fergus was beginning a journey of faith that would be life-long. As he began this journey, the Spirit was poured out upon him as it was upon Jesus. With the Spirit, like Jesus and the disciples who have gone before us, Fergus has been acknowledged as a beloved of God.

Baptism is part of our sacramental tradition. This tradition acknowledges the wonder of all created reality. This created universe, including our humanity is an expression of God’s overwhelming love. We do not easily grasp this. As well, all of the sacraments, including baptism, are part of life journey in a community of faith. Neither Fergus nor any of us make this journey alone.

The baptism of Fergus was a beginning of a communal journey. Many were involved. First of all, parents, grandparents and others of his family gathered around him. This family want to share many things with him. Among the gifts they want to share is the faith tradition they have. They wish their child to be surrounded by the same loving faith community that they themselves have had. They want their child to be part of their own journey.

Our faith community wants the same for him. We want him to join us on our own journey, to be part of us. And so, we welcome him and express our commitment to share our faith, our love and our support for him in the years to come. We also speak for the whole of the Catholic community of faith. We are a family of faith to which we have now gathered a newly welcomed member.

If we look for it, we will find it. We are a communal faith. Our Christian Scriptures are gifts for this community. Whether gospels or letters or prophetic proclamations, they are for communities of faith. Paul writing to the community in Ephesus is clear about our communal character: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.” (Ephesians 4:4-5)

Baptism, like all of our sacramental tradition, is about relationships – with God, with the community of faith and with one another. Our Catholic tradition is not about individual seekers. It begins with the old initiating the younger into the tradition. It continues through life always in the context of community, with each of us being carried and carrying one another.

Who has carried you on your faith journey? John Jennings
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



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:

Reconciliation Saturday 3:00-3:50 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

January 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	Jan	8	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Sylvia Burns
Sunday	Jan	9	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude.....	Tony Guerrero
Sunday	Jan	9	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners
Monday	Jan	10	No mass
Tuesday	Jan	11	9:00am Adoration 10:00am Sts Simon & Jude.....	Tom Richard
Tuesday	Jan	11	12:15 pm.....	Rosary led by CWL
Wednesday	Jan	12	9:00am Adoration 10:00am St Gertrude.....	Lois Goodine
Thursday	Jan	13	12:15 pm St. Gertrude.....	Gloria’s Aunt Anne
Friday	Jan	14	9:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Brian Markey
Saturday	Jan	15	4:00 pm St Gertrude.....	Anna Gallivan
Sunday	Jan	16	9:00 am Sts Simon & Jude.....	Janice Morrison
Sunday	Jan	16	11:00 am.....	Parishioners

Please have announcement for bulletin into office by Wednesday

Please pray for the sick: Nora Gagnon, John Gallagher, Pat & Ed McGuire, Dorothy Hemsley, Margaret Bridgeo, Andy McLean, Dorothy Deriet, Anne Marie Voutour, Cindy Ouellette, Sarah Ann Wright, Carolyn Allain, Loraine Stone, and Janice Ryan

For those who have died: Fr. Sam Diotte, James Chandra, Lois Goodine, Frank Petrie

If anyone would like a visit from Fr. Martin, please call the office at 328-3306

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: The regular monthly meeting will be Sunday, January 9th at 7pm.
50/50 – Jan 3, 2022 Non- Winner Meryssa Smith **\$416** Tickets are \$2/week available at Martin's Corner Store on Broadway or Smart Stop Ultramar in Grafton. Tickets must be purchased by 6 pm Sunday.

RCIA

St John the Baptist Parish will be offering the RCIA program. Interested persons should contact the office at 328-3306 or email sjbnb@rogers.com

SSJ

The Nackawic Lions Club would like to thank the parishioners of Sts Simon & Jude for their generous donations to our Christmas Daddies. The \$925.00, that was donated, helped us prepare for 47 families in our area as well as donating groceries to Sanctuary House and the Food Bank.

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.

January 15-16, 2022

Date	Time	Lector	Hospitality/Door Greeter
15-Jan	4:00 PM	Marjorie Allison-Ross Nelia Foster Ben Kilfoil	Gloria Yachyshen Ninfa Blacquiere
16-Jan	11:00 AM	Debi Rae Sharon Tenhave Moiria Bowlin	Claude Dube Jocelyn Keirstead
16-Jan	9:00 AM	1st Reading + Prayer of Faithful Dilys	2nd Reading Jacqueline

**Offertory
December 23-31, 2021**

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	85	20	52
Envelopes	6,015	649	160
Candles		70	
Easter (2021)	200		
Christmas	4,300	660	265
PAD	<u>1,557</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>77</u>
	12157	1648	554
Lynn Lake	250	Global South	15
Retires Priests&Sem	30	St. Thomas Hall	220
D&P	5	Poor and Needy	50
St. Bonaventure	150	Fall Supper	1160
St. Bonaventure Cemetery mem Anna Gallivan			50

**Offertory
January 2, 2022**

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	15		
Envelopes	595	349	
Initial Offering	115	82	10
New Years	445	375	25
PAD	<u>1,417</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>77</u>
	2587	1028	112
Lynn Lake	300	Global South	30
Retires Priests&Sem		St. Bonaventure	30
D&P	25	Poor and Needy	50
Missals	5		