

Our Sacred Stories

Who Are We To Be? A Church of Love and Peace

Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you.... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

One of the formative experiences of my life and priesthood was several years of involvement in weekend retreats for married couples. At the core of these retreats was the awareness that enrichment of relationships depended on constant communication within couples, from the heart. Deciding to do this as a couple honoured a principle – love is a decision.

Often we think of love as an emotion. To see love as a decision is to require an explicit commitment in any relationship. When such a principle is accepted and acted upon it has the possibility of building a relationship that is marked by peace, harmony and mutual respect. In the long term, such a relationship whether for a couple or a community or our world is what we all long for. It only becomes a reality, when we are able to make the decision to love. And this requires a commitment to the other. It is not a feeling, it is a decision.

Understanding love in this way helps us to grasp and make sense of what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matt.5:43-45). Love that is a decision moves beyond the emotional to conscious efforts to follow the disciple’s path offered by Jesus’ call. It nurtures relationships, building peace and harmony.

As John in his Gospel, tells the story of Jesus and his disciples we discover the significance of relationships for the disciples of Jesus. Before his death and resurrection, Jesus reflects on his departure from them (John 14:23-29). As he does so, Jesus reassures them in two ways. First, his vision is that they not be troubled or fearful. He wants his disciples to be at peace, in their own hearts and with one another.

The second reassurance is his promise that the Father will not leave them alone or abandoned. God will gift them with “the Advocate”. The Spirit of God will be with them always. With this Spirit, Jesus will continue to be among them, guiding and supporting them as they carry on his message and mission.

In 2015-16 Pope Francis, moved by the Spirit, launched our church on a journey to discover the peace of heart and peace with others that is Jesus’ vision for disciples. The focus Francis took was to lead us away from commands, rules and judgement, to see ourselves as a church of mercy.

One the images he turned to was the church as a “field hospital”. Our church is to be out among the struggles and challenges of our world, responding to the physical, social, economic and moral needs of all humanity. It is to reach out in particular to the lost and the excluded, the outcasts, the suffering, the wounded and the hurting. Such openness and outreach builds the peace for which we all long. It reveals the peace that is Jesus’ blessing for all: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27). Living such relational faith, is the role of the disciple, building the Reign of God among 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.sjbwoodstock.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:		Sunday 11:00 am
Pastoral Council Chair: Sylvie Dempsey	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- 12:00 pm	Reconciliation	Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

May 22, 2022

6th Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 21	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Lewis Stone
Sunday	May 22	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude	Theo & Germaine Francoeur
Sunday	May 22	11:00 am St. Gertrude	Antony Nidhen
Monday	May 23	No Mass
Tuesday	May 24	12:15pm St. Gertrude	Rosary led by the CWL
Wednesday	May 25	No Mass
Thursday	May 26	No Mass
Friday	May 27	No Mass
Saturday	May 28	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Genevieve Tucker
Sunday	May 29	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude	Guy Beaulieu
Sunday	May 29	11:00 am St. Gertrude	James Chandra

Welcome Fr. Bryan Sabourin along with Fr. Dennis Hayes

Please have items for Bulletin by Wednesday

Please pray for the sick: Nora Gagnon, Pat & Ed McGuire, Margaret Bridgeo, Andy McLean, Anne Marie Voutour, Cindy Ouellette, Sarah Ann Wright, Janice Ryan, John Hallihan, Noopa Abin and Ildfonso Conrado Cortes
For those who have died: Alice Kidney, Rose Brinkman, Theresa Mahoney & Jack MacIsaac

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: Monday Bingo: Open at 6 pm.
50/50 – May 16, 2022 – nonwinner Roberta Yeo **\$220.00** 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.

Ministries Schedule

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.

Date	Time	Lector	Eucharistic	Hospitality	Gift Bearer
28-May	4:00 PM	Marg McCallum Tom Bridgeo Ning Van Rhijn	Nellie Gallagher	Charlene Prosser Mike McCallum	Gladys Dalton Vicki McLean
29-May	11:00 AM	Louis Pierce Allison Chandra Moiria Bowlin	Myrna Keenan	Michelle Nowlan Mike Chandra	Sharon Tenhave Patricia Paul
29-May	9:00 AM	1st Reading Diane	Second Reading + Prayer of Faithful Paulette		

NOTICE TO PARENTS: If you have a child in grade 8 or higher in September, please contact Diane Dube with regard to confirmation @ 323-8775.

If you have a family member who is graduating this year, make sure the office knows so that we may celebrate with them.

Offertory May 14/15

	St. Gertrude	Sts. Simon & Jude	St. Thomas
Loose	125	25	
Envelopes	1,160	482	100
Memorials	70		
Candles		115	
PAD	1,387	222	77
E-Transfer	—	—	—
	2742	844	177
Papal Charities	25	Lynn Lake	250
St. Bonaventure	50	Global South	24
Cathedras Restoration	40		



Our new web site is up and running at www.sjbwoodstock.com. Please note that it is still a work in progress, and additions/updates needed to be made in many areas. We will continue to update and add content as we go along. We are looking for volunteers to do a write up on each of the churches and hope to add updated pictures. We welcome your feedback. (Our old web site will be redirecting to this site in the upcoming days)

GLASS RECYCLING - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

CIEVA (Community Industries Employment Vocational Association) and Vail's Bottle Exchange, both in Woodstock, are again accepting (for the next several months) 'grocery' glass jars and bottles (jam, pickles, spaghetti sauce, instant coffee, glass ketchup bottles, olive oil, salsa, maple syrup, etc. and homemade wine bottles). Remove all lids, wires, etc. 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. CIEVA Recycling is located at 113 Moffatt Street (open Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm) and Vail's Bottle Exchange is at 522 Main Street (below St. Gertrude's Church, open Tuesday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm).

NOTRE DAME DE L' ASSOMPTION ABBEY - Rogersville, New Brunswick (from 'Wikipedia')

Notre Dame de l'Assomption is a Trappist/Cistercian monastery located in Rogersville, New Brunswick. There are, in fact, two Trappist monasteries - one for monks, one for nuns.

The monastery dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. Due to religious persecution, a group of [Cistercian nuns](#) emigrated to Canada in 1904, from a Cistercian monastery located in [Vaise \(Lyon\), France](#) (which had been founded in 1817) in order to reestablish their [monastic](#) community in Rogersville. Their new abbey was established 3.5 kilometres south of [Notre Dame du Calvaire Abbey](#), a monastery established by another group of Trappist monks who had arrived in 1902.

The nuns arrived in May and took possession of their new provisional monastery - a small farmhouse of six rooms for 19 people - on June 10 of that year. Those early years were full of struggles as the nuns adapted to the Canadian climate, a rural lifestyle and the daunting task of building up a monastery from the humble beginnings of that farm house.

With the generous aid of the local people and their [pastor](#), Mgr. Marcel François Richard, the nuns not only persevered but were eventually joined by many Acadian women desirous of the monastic lifestyle and, little by little, a flourishing monastic community was established, replete with an Abbey church built in 1922, the present monastic complex built in 1950 and a retreat house for women opened in 1970. Over the years, the nuns gained their livelihood through different endeavours: at first by making Mass [wine](#), then through the fabrication of [Altar Breads](#) (hosts). The altar bread industry has been modernized and today several types and sizes of hosts are made and sold throughout the Maritime parishes. Most importantly, however, the [Trappistine](#) nuns have lived a life of prayer and intercession by their faithful celebration of the Liturgy, consisting of prayer services dispersed throughout the day, with its climax in the Eucharist.

Please check out the Cistercian-Trappist Monastery - Our Lady of Calvary website (www.calvaryabbey.com) for further information on daily life within the Abbey and possibly participate, in a retreat, at the monastic community.

CATHOLIC NEWS:

- * Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.cccb.ca)
- * Diocese of Saint John + New Freeman (www.dioceseofsaintjohn.org)
- * Vatican News (www.vaticannews.va)
- * Catholic News Agency (www.catholicnewsagency.com)
- * National Catholic Reporter (www.ncronline.org)
- * The Catholic Register (www.catholicregister.org)
- * Our Sunday Visitor (www.osvnews.com)
- * The Catholic Thing (www.thecatholicthing.org)
- * Catholic World Report (www.catholicworldreport.com)

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE - PARENTS OF VIRGIN MARY (from the 'Catholic News Agency')

On July 26 the Roman Catholic Church commemorates the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anne. The couple's faith and perseverance brought them through the sorrow of childlessness, to the joy of conceiving and raising the immaculate and sinless woman who would give birth to Christ.

The New Testament contains no specific information about the lives of the Virgin Mary's parents, but other documents outside of the Biblical canon do provide some details. Although these writings are not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, they outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about Joachim, Anne and their daughter.

The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves to rigorous prayer and fasting, in isolation from one another and from society. They regarded their inability to conceive a child as a surpassing misfortune, and a sign of shame among the tribes of Israel.

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah. An angel revealed this to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel."

"And Joachim brought the child to the priests," the account continues, "and they blessed her, saying: 'O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations' ... And he brought her to the chief priests; and they blessed her, saying: 'O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be forever.'"

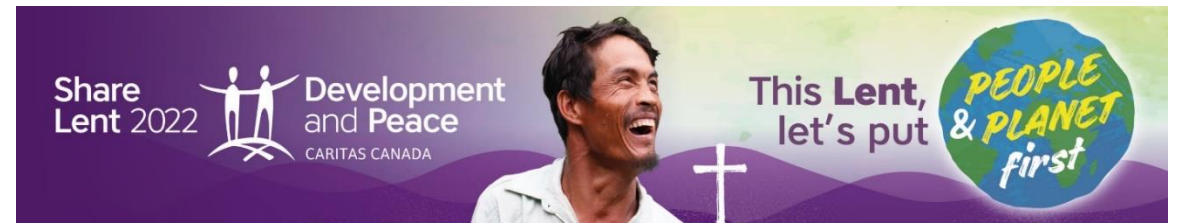
The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph.

St. Joachim and St. Anne have been a part of the Church's liturgical calendar for many centuries. Devotion to their memory is particularly strong in the Eastern Catholic churches, where their intercession is invoked by the priest at the end of each Divine Liturgy. The Eastern churches, however, celebrate Sts. Joachim and Anne on a different date, Sept. 9.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLECTION FOR CATHEDRAL RESTORATION: As the mother church the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is important not only for its heritage value in the city but also for the ongoing missionary outreach and evangelization that takes place in one of the poorest areas of the diocese. To aid in our Cathedral restoration effort, an annual collection will be taken up in the parishes on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), this year on June 19, 2022. Envelopes will be available in your parishes for this collection, and Bishop Riesbeck is asking people to prayerfully consider a generous personal donation. To support parishes in their evangelization efforts, 10% of every dollar raised will be used to establish a diocesan endowment fund to serve youth, seniors, religious education, and leadership formation needs in the parishes of the diocese. Your ongoing support is deeply valued as we restore not only a building, but hearts and souls to Jesus.

MARCH FOR LIFE is May 26, 2022 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the New Brunswick Legislature. It is being hosted and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus NB State council. Join us as we celebrate the gift of life with Bishop Christian Riesbeck, CC. and guest speaker Marsha Boyd-Mitchell of Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick. As this event is outside, you're welcome to bring a lawn chair. Prior to the event, a Pro-life Mass will be held at St. Dunstan's Church (120 Regent St.) at 10:00 am. Refreshments to follow the day's events at the Monsignor Boyd Family Center. Everyone is welcome!

CAMP SHELDRAKE is a Catholic overnight summer camp located in Bartibog NB. We are happy to say we are OPEN for the Summer 2022 season. Our registration is up and we look forward to welcoming campers both new and old to camp! You can find the registration forms at campsheldrake.com. If you would like more information, you can email the director Mallory at sheldrake.director@gmail.com.



Development and Peace – Share Year Round Giving Program, *We are deeply grateful for all donations, monthly donations make the biggest difference. Become a Share Year-Round donor, your contributions becomes sustained and predictable and allows us to have lower administrative costs. That means more money can be more reliably invested in our partners. Between now and Pentecost, June 5, 2022, new donors and current donors who increase their donation amounts will have their donation matched through a fund supported by religious faith communities. Your \$20 monthly donation will become \$40.00*

To enroll in the program please visit our website at

<https://www.devp.org/en/>

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People can go online on our web page **devp.org** to make their donations

OR call the Emergency number:

Toll Free number: 1 888 664-3387