



The Parish of the Good Shepherd

645 Murray Avenue, Suite 1, Bathurst, NB

Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 9am to 12 Noon and 1pm to 4pm

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Pastor: Rev. Father Keith Goldrup

Vicar: Rev. Anthony Umunna

Deacon: Mr. Christopher Kingston

Welcome To Our Parish Community – Kwe' aa'qa'tuk aqq na'kmaq aqqi'kik - Bienvenidos a Nuestra Comunidad de la Iglesia – Maligayang Pagdating sa Aming Komunidad ng Simbahan

December 20th & 21st /2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A - Gospel of Matthew)

(1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24)

DID YOU KNOW THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND ST. BONIFACE

With Christmas right around the corner, it is worthwhile to remember St. Boniface (680-754), known in Church history as the apostle to the Germans. Boniface is regarded as “probably the greatest missionary since St. Paul” for his extensive travels and successful evangelization efforts in modern day Germany.

Although he is well known as a great bishop and evangelizer, Catholic legend, based on actual historical events, also holds that Boniface is the founder of the use of a Christmas tree to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Boniface spent the rest of his life evangelizing the areas of modern Germany and parts of the Netherlands. He also became a friend of the Frankish court and helped reform and reorganize the Church in that area. From his missionary travels, Boniface knew that in winter the inhabitants of the village of Geismar gathered around a huge old oak tree (known as the “Thunder Oak”) dedicated to the god Thor. This annual event of worship centered on sacrificing a human, usually a small child, to the pagan god. Boniface desired to convert the village by destroying the Thunder Oak, which the pagans had previously boasted the God of Boniface could not destroy, so he gathered a few companions and journeyed to Geismar.

His fellow missionaries were fearful that the Germans might kill them, so they balked when they reached the outskirts of the village on Christmas Eve. Boniface steadied the nerves of his friends, and as they approached the pagan gathering, he said, “Here is the Thunder Oak, and here the cross of Christ shall break the hammer of the false god Thor”. Boniface and his friends arrived at the time of the sacrifice, which they interrupted. In a show of great trust in God, and born from desire to enkindle the fire of Christ in the German pagans, Boniface grabbed an axe and chopped down the Thunder Oak of mighty Thor.

The Germans were astounded. The holy bishop preached the gospel to the people that eve and used a little fir tree that was hidden behind the now felled oak as a tool of evangelization. Pointing to it, he said,

This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace; it is a sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness”.

Awed by the destruction of the oak tree and Boniface's preaching, the Germans were baptized.



CHURCH TODAY

Vatican Christmas Tree and Nativity Scene inaugurated in St. Peter's Square

The Vatican light up the Christmas Tree and Nativity Scene in St. Peter's Square in a ceremony with Sister Raffaella Petrini, President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State, and Italian civil and religious representatives of the dioceses that donated the Christmas elements.

The Vatican's Christmas tree and Nativity Scene were lit up and officially inaugurated in St. Peter's Square on Monday, December 15th, by Sister Raffaella Petrini.

“Today, in the square that embraces the world, the Nativity scene and the Christmas tree are not merely Christmas decoration but signs of communion, a call for peace and for the care of creation, and invitations for universal fraternity, which St. Francis placed above all else and which became the hallmark of his charisma,” she said, recalling that next year will mark the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, who began the tradition of Nativity Scenes in 1223.

Religious and civil representatives from the diocese that donated the elements were present and spoke at the inauguration event, and earlier in the day they had the opportunity to meet with Pope Leo XIV.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Christmas Message from your Pastor:



Dear Friends in Christ: Merry Christmas! On behalf of the staff, Father Anthony, Deacon Chris and myself, Father Keith, I sincerely hope that the remembrance of Christ's birth brings you much peace and hope. As we celebrate Christmas, I would like to thank you for your presence and prayers with our parish family of the Good Shepherd Church.

I extend a special welcome if you are joining us for the first time, if you are visiting from away, or if you do not worship with us on a regular basis. Just as the shepherds were led to a humble stable in Bethlehem to worship the infant Jesus, so have we been led to be together at this time and in this place to sing with the angels: Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on Earth!

I hope that God's presence will be made known to you not only today but every day. Know that we pray for you, your loved ones and your intentions. Thank you for lifting us in prayer as well. May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year, and may we meet each day in prayer!

In joyful hope, Rev. Keith Goldrup

Special Advent Mass celebration in The Parish of Good Shepherd:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral – Tuesday, December 23rd - 12-noon mass with Anointing of the Sick Sacrament.

Healing Mass is a special mass where we receive sacrament of the anointing of the sick providing spiritual and physical healing with the forgiveness of sins. Grace to strengthen the soul and peace and courage to help overcome life's difficulties in sickness and old age.

2025 Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Wednesday – December 24th

- 4:00 pm - St. Thomas Aquinas – Campbellton
- 4:00 pm - Sacred Heart Cathedral – Bathurst
- 4:00 pm - St. Gabriel the Archangel – Belledune
- 6:00 pm - St. John Bosco – Dalhousie
- 6:00 pm - Holy Family – Bathurst

Christmas Day – Thursday – December 25th

- 10:30 am - St. John the Evangelist – Belledune
- 11:00 am - Holy Family – Bathurst

New Year's Eve -Wednesday – December 31st

- 4:00 pm - St. Thomas Aquinas – Campbellton
- 4:00 pm - Sacred Heart Cathedral – Bathurst
- 6:00 pm - St. John the Evangelist – Belledune
- 6:00 pm - St. John Bosco – Dalhousie

New Year's Day – Thursday – January 1st

- 11:00 am - St. Gabriel the Archangel – Belledune
- 11:00 am - Holy Family – Bathurst

• **Winter Weather Mass Cancellation:** Due to winter weather, Mass cancellations can happen without much notice. Parishioners are asked to consider before heading out to mass that road conditions may be hazardous and sidewalks and church driveways not yet cleared. Please know your parish contact to call in case mass is cancelled. Thank you and be safe.

• **Donation Envelope Boxes for use in 2026:** When picking up your envelopes for 2026, **please ensure your name is on the box** as some numbers may have changed. We remind you not to use your new envelopes until January/2026. By **completing and returning the information card** found in the front of each box with your name, address and phone number, we will verify and update our files to ensure all your information is up to date. For those who have pre-authorized donations, a separate income tax receipt will be issued.

• **Catechism Class:** Next class at Holy Family Church in Bathurst will be on Sunday, January 18th at 2:00 pm.

• **Bible Class-With Father Keith:** Class will resume in the New Year.

• **Baptisms 2026:** Parents who wish to have their child baptized can complete and submit the online registration form and complete the baptism preparation course; both are found on our webpage at goodshepherdparish.faith.



• **Weddings 2026:** Couples who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage should contact the Parish Office before making any other arrangements at **506-547-4737**. Please note that only the couple themselves can book their wedding date and make the necessary arrangements.



• **Bulletin Announcements:** Announcements for the upcoming weekly bulletin must be received by Wednesday at 11:00 am by email at churchesgoodshepherd@gmail.com

• **Cemetery Notices:** Contact the Administrative Office of The Parish of the Good Shepherd at 506-547-4737 to arrange all burials in the cemeteries allowing us to complete the mandatory paperwork.

RECOMMENDED TO YOUR PRAYERS

May the Lord console their families and lead them safely home

- † Please pray for **Hans Bouma** who passed away on October 30th at the age of 87. A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Church.
- † Please pray for **Eleanor Kiss** of Campbellton who passed away on November 7th at the age of 91. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Anthony's Church.
- † Please pray for **Theresa Turcotte** of Bathurst who passed away on November 11th at the age of 83. A Chapel Service was held at Elhatton's Funeral Home.
- † Please pray for **Joey B. Lavigne** of Lorne who passed away November/2024 at the age of 42. A Chapel Service was held at MacMillan & Drapeau Funeral Home.
- † Please pray for **Yvette Gauthier** of Bathurst who passed away on November 25th. A Graveside Burial was held at Holy Family Cemetery.
- † Please pray for **Marcella Frenette** of Bathurst who passed away on December 4th at the age of 77. A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Church.
- † Please pray for **Paul Theriault** of Bathurst who passed away on December 9th at the age of 76. A Chapel Service was held at Elhatton's Funeral Home.

IN LOVING MEMORY

- ✠ **Lori Durette** (3rd Ann.) (Raymond Rioux) STA
- ✠ **Maurice & Roger LeBlanc** (Bob & Debbie Anglehart) (Carl & Lorraine Dobson) STA
- ✠ **Bob Snider** (1st Ann.) (Sister, Phyllis) SJB
- ✠ **Dennis Guitard & Michael McGregor** (Karen Firlotte) SG
- ✠ **Garfield Spurrell** (Beloved Wife, Judy) SG
- ✠ **Irene & Raymond Furlotte** (Love your daughter, Judy) SG
- ✠ **Jane Duivenvoorden** (Donna & Charles Tourneur) SG
- ✠ **Franklyn Melanson** (Carol & Collen O'Neil) HF



All the faithful are invited to attend the celebration of the closing of the Jubilee Year, which will be presided by our Bishop Msgr. Michel Proulx, o. praem on **Sunday, December 28th at 2:00 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bathurst. All are welcome!**

• **Influenza (Flu) & Covid Season:** Parish churches are asked to ensure hand sanitizer and masks are available for all parishioners. We ask everyone who is not feeling well with flu-like symptoms such as cold, cough, or fever to stay home until you are better. This way we can help to prevent spreading this very contagious virus.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
123 Saint Andrew Street, Bathurst, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Thank You Lord.

St. Brother Andre Candle: Raymond Bourque (*Wife, Dorothy, Evelyn & Eric*).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The Holy Sacrament will be exposed on Thursday, after the English 12:00-noon Mass and on the first Friday of each month after the French Weekday Mass.

Christmas Flowers "In Memory": We are accepting donations for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. Donations can be put in the regular collection (Envelope marked Flower donation) or flowers can be dropped off prior to mass.

Heating Collection: This week-end masses, December 20th & 21st.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Collection Envelopes: The 2026 envelopes will be available at this weekend's mass. It is very important that the first envelope is filled in with complete donor information for our accounting and tax purposes.

HOLY FAMILY

430 St. Peter Ave. Bathurst, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: John O'Connell (*Genevieve O'Connell*).

Christmas Flowers: Donations in memory of a loved one can be placed in the collection in an envelope marked "Christmas flowers". Along with your donation please include your name, envelope number and the name of your loved one. A card with the name of your loved one will be displayed with the flowers. Thank you.

Christmas Decoration Fundraiser: We will be selling Christmas balls for our Memory tree at the cost of \$5.00 each. The name of your loved one will be written on a Christmas ball and you can take it home once the Christmas season is finished. The money raised will be used to purchase additional Christmas decorations for the Church.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

43 Andrew St. Campbellton, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Deceased Family Members of Roy & Dumont Family (*Gerry & Carmel Dumont*).

The House of Agape Prayer Group: Our prayer group held every **Tuesday at 10:00 am** in the church basement. For more information call Mike at 506-753-5805.

Yard Sale: Please note we will not be accepting yard sale donations until after Jan/6th in order to give us time to reorganize as we are overloaded with merchandise that must be sorted and/or cleaned.

ST. ANTHONY

14000 Route 17 Glen Levit, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Healing Intentions (*A Parishioner*).

Mass Book: St. Anthony's mass book is now open and in need of masses.

ST. JOHN BOSCO

470 Victoria St. Dalhousie NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Una & Stewart Roy (*Son, Mark*).

Weekday Mass: Morning mass every Tuesday at 9:30 am. Holy Hour at 6:00 pm with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction held every last Thursday (Jan 29th) of the month.

Visits and Communion for the Sick & Shut-Ins: Please call Deacon Chris at 506-684-2810 to make arrangements.

Christmas Flowers: Parishioners are invited to share in the cost of Christmas Flowers. You may do this in memory of your loved ones by putting your donation in an envelope with written particulars and drop it in the Sunday collection. Thank You.

December 50/50 Draw: Congratulations to Herby Hickey winner of the December draw in the amount of \$1,390.00.

Food Drive: Once again, throughout Advent, we will collect non-perishable food items as well as cash donations and gift cards for the local food bank. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

2601 Main Street, Belledune, NB

Advent Food Drive: We invite all parishioners to bring a non-perishable food item to church during Advent for our local food bank.

Card Play: Card play will resume in January/2026.

ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL

4118 Main St. Belledune NB

50/50 Draw: Congratulations to Ann Firlotte winner of our December draw in the amount of \$2,070.00.

Christmas Flowers: Anyone wishing to make a donation towards Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one can do so by placing your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers. Record your name and name of who is being remembered and place in the collection basket.

Christmas Church Decorating: We will be decorating our Church for Christmas on **Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 am**. Appreciate anyone who can spare the time to help.

Blessing the Advent Wreath at Home

*Prayer for Fourth Week
for Advent Candle Lighting*



Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN



*"Flower of the Holy Night – Poinsettia"
It has been a fabled origin:*

Long ago, on Christmas Eve, a poor child made his way to church in great sadness because he had no gift to offer the Christ Child. Not daring to enter the church, he knelt humbly on the ground outside and prayed, tearfully telling the Lord of his great desire to offer a gift.

Unwilling to approach with empty hands, he finally rose only to behold springing up at his feet a plant with dazzling red, spectacular blooms. This was the answer to his prayers. These blossoms he took to the feet of the Christ child.

Since then, the "Flower of the Holy Night" has spread through the whole country, blooming each year at Christmas with such glorious abandon that the very sign of it fills believers with the spirit of this season of the Saviour's birth.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

December 13th & 14th	Holy Family	Sacred Heart Cathedral	Saint Gabriel the Archangel	Saint John the Evangelist	Cemetery	Saint John Bosco	Saint Thomas Aquinas	Saint Anthony
Collection	2442.25	1750.15	577.00	340.00		814.80	1033.35	270.00
Pre-Auth-October	2340.00		1020.00	610.00		2370.00	380.00	40.00
Christmas	120.00	20.00	40.00				600.00	55.00
Christmas Flowers	80.00		75.00			50.00		
Fundraising	1500.00 (Window Project)		2070.00 (50/50 Draw)	124.70 (Returnable)		1390.00 (50/50 Draw)		
Dues/Donations	1005.00			/100.00		40.00/75.00		/500.00
Cemetery/Memorial	20.00	30.00/	/130.00				/30.00	
Heating	25.00	25.00	20.00			100.00		
Candles	121.75	252.25	10.00	68.00		88.75	20.00	20.00
Living Christ/Missal	55.00	42.60	/10.00			/55.00	/15.00	

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 20TH - DECEMBER 28TH)

Holy Family	Sunday, December 21st at 11:00 am + Doug Kyle (<i>Vi Kyle & Family</i>) Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 pm (Christmas Eve) + The Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)	Thursday, December 25th at 11:00 am (Christmas Day) + The Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>) Sunday, December 28th at 11:00 am + Mildred, Harvey & Clary Wilbur (<i>Marilyn Morgan</i>)
Sacred Heart Cathedral	Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 pm + Norman Lavigne (<i>Jean, Eleanor & Patti-Jo</i>) + Jean Caissie (<i>Claudette & Darlene</i>) + Doucet & Lavigne Family (<i>Claudette & Darlene</i>)	Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 + Deceased Parents (<i>Ralph McGrath</i>) + Gerard Boucher (<i>17th Ann</i>) (<i>Nancy & Family</i>) + Deceased & Living Members of HF & SHC CWL (<i>Mary Cormier</i>)
Weekly Masses	Tuesday, December 23rd at 12:00-Noon (English) + Cletus Doucet (<i>Anne Marie & Family</i>) Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm (Christmas Eve -English Mass) + Gérard & Mary Vienneau (<i>Family</i>) + Gerard & Evelyn Gionet (<i>Love Lorrie & Shirley</i>) + Donald Buttimer (<i>Wife & Family</i>) + Evelyn & Art Glazier (<i>Daughter, Gayle & Ashley</i>)	Thursday, December 25th at 11:00 am (Christmas Day -French Mass) + Arthur Doucet (<i>Angélie et Famille</i>) + Raymond & Hectorine Lavigne (<i>Emile Lavigne & Angélie Doucet</i>) + Blanche Duguay (<i>Wayne, Shirley & Family</i>) Friday, December 26th + No Morning Mass
	Saturday, December 27th at 4:00 pm + Freda McGrath (<i>Husband, Ralph</i>) + Albert Lavigne (<i>Claudette & Darlene</i>) + Percy Wilbur (<i>Wilbur Family</i>) + LaCroix Family Deceased Members (<i>Jeannine, Jason & Todd</i>)	Sunday, December 28th at 9:00 am + Loretta & Wilfred Roy (<i>Ralph McGrath</i>) + Hector & John Duguay (<i>Wayne, Shirley and Family</i>) + Daniel Vienneau (<i>Love, Lorrie</i>) + Norman Ian Cormier (<i>Mary Cormier</i>)
St. Gabriel the Archangel	Saturday, December 20th 4:00 pm + Gordon Pitre (<i>Wife, Jeannette & Girls</i>) Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm (Christmas Eve) - -	Saturday, December 27th at 4:00 pm + Tom Luczanko (<i>Mary Young-Luczanko</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. John the Evangelist	Saturday, December 20th at 6:00 pm + Jeanne Guitard (<i>Bertha Guitard</i>) Thursday, December 25th at 10:30 am (Christmas) - - - -	Saturday, December 27th 6:00 pm + Everett Boulay & Esther Roy (<i>Georgette & Family</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. John Bosco	Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 am + Keith Guitard (<i>Mom, Joan</i>) Tuesday, December 23rd at 9:30 am + Rena Rackley (<i>Gerard Doucet</i>) Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 pm (Christmas Eve) - -	Sunday, December 28th at 9:00 am + Debbie Malley (<i>Sister, Linda, Aurele & Family</i>) Tuesday, December 30th at 9:30 am + Marinus DeGroot (<i>Donna DeGroot & Kids</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. Thomas Aquinas	Sunday, December 21st at 11:00 am + Reginald Murphy (<i>Willis & The Girls</i>) Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm (Christmas Eve) - -	Sunday, December 28th at 11:00 am + Francis Firth (<i>Antoinette Boudreau</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. Anthony	Sunday, December 21st at 1:30 pm + Jan Guitard (<i>Mike & Family</i>)	Sunday, December 28th at 1:30 pm + Eleanor Kiss (<i>St. Anthony's CWL</i>)

Pope's Prayer Intention December/2025	Weekly Readings December 22 nd – December 27 th	Quote of the Week
<p align="center"><i>For Christians in areas of conflict</i></p> <p>Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.</p> <p align="center">Amen</p>	<p>Monday – Advent Weekday • 1 Samuel 1:24-28 / Luke 1:46-56</p> <p>Tuesday – Advent Weekday • Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-6/ Luke 1:57-66</p> <p>Wednesday – The Nativity of the Lord • Isaiah 62:1-5 / Matthew 1:1-25</p> <p>Thursday – Christmas Day • Isaiah 62:11-12/ Luke 2:15-20</p> <p>Friday – St. Stephen • Acts 6:8-10 7:54-59/ Matthew 10:17-22</p> <p>Saturday – St. John • 1 John 1:1-4 / John 20:2-8</p>	<p align="center">LET YOURSELVES BE TAKEN OVER BY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, AND SPREAD THAT LIGHT WHEREVER YOU ARE.</p>  <p align="center">POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II</p>