



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 27th & 28th/2025 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year A - Gospel of Matthew)

(1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23)

DID YOU KNOW

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE SONG ‘THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS?’

The religious wars in sixteenth century England made it dangerous to be a Catholic. Many people practiced their faith in secret. As the legend goes, Catholic families courageously developed unique ways to secretly pass the faith onto their children, like “*The 12 Days of Christmas.*” The well-known song was used to teach children about the Catholic Church. Although the lyrics may sound like nonsense, the song actually contains hidden references.

THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS: A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

A partridge is a bird that is known to sacrifice its life for its babies. This bird represents Jesus, who is willing to give his life for us. The pear tree symbolizes the Cross.

THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS: TWO TURTLE DOVES

Did you know that turtle doves often mate for life? Because of this, they are seen as symbols of love, fidelity, and connection. In “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” the two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testament, which are deeply connected and meaningful.

THE THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS: THREE FRENCH HENS

The three French hens signify the three theological virtues: faith, hope and love.

THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: FOUR CALLING BIRDS

The four calling birds symbolize the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which spread the good news of Jesus’s life and teaching.

THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: FIVE GOLDEN RINGS

The five golden rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Pentateuch or the Torah. These include: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

THE SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: SIX GEESE A-LAYING

The six geese a-laying symbolize the six days of creation, emphasizing God’s power as the creator of the world.

THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING

The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

THE EIGHT DAY OF CHRISTMAS: EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING

The eight maids a-milking symbolizes the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: NINTH LADIES DANCING

The nine ladies dancing represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: TEN LORDS A-LEAPING

The ten lords a-leaping signifies the Ten Commandments, which provide guidance for how to be the best version of yourself.

THE ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING

The eleven pipers represent the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the younger, Simon, and Jude.

THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING

The twelve drummers drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.

The Octave of Christmas



Christmas Octave starts on December 25th (Christmas) to January 1st, (The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God). Unlike the Easter Octave, it includes feasts like St. Stephen, St. John, and the Holy Innocents.

In the Catholic Church, an Octave is an extended, eight-day liturgical celebration of a major feast, treating each day with solemnity, with the feast day as Day 1 and the eighth day as the “Octave Day”. The word comes from Latin for “eighth,” and it signifies prolonging the joy and significance of events like Easter (ending on Divine Mercy Sunday) and Christmas (ending on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God). This tradition dates back to the 4th century, inspired by Old Testament feasts and Jewish customs, allowing deeper contemplation of the mystery celebrated.

Key Aspects of an Octave:

•Duration: Eight days, counting the feast day as the first.

•Significance: Each day within the octave holds the same liturgical weight as the feast day itself, often with special readings and prayers.

•Major Octaves: Today, the primary octaves are Easter and Christmas

•Origin: Grew from early Christian practices, influenced by Jewish feasts and the dedication of early churches, extending single-day celebrations.

•Purpose: To allow more time to absorb the profound spiritual meaning of the central feast.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Office: The office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas season and many blessings in the New Year.

2025 New Year's Mass Schedule

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



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!**

Pre-Authorized Donation: I give for the vitality of my church. We invite anyone who would like to set up their pre authorized weekly, monthly donation to do so at any time by completing the donation form found at your church.

•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.

•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.fai.th.

•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 **Marilyn Benwell** of Tide Head who passed away on December 15th at the age of 79. A Chapel Service was held at Maher Funeral Home.
- † Please pray for **Joseph Roger Pitre** of Campbellton who passed away on December 16th at the age of 74. A Chapel Service was held at Maher's Funeral Home.

IN LOVING MEMORY

- ✠ **Freda & Edgar Hynes** (Elaine & Barry Gauthier) **SMG-Cemetery**
- ✠ **Jane Duivenvoorden** (Carmel & Allan Roy) **SG**
- ✠ **Pearl Guitard** (Carmel & Allan Roy) **SG**
- ✠ **Loretta Firlotte** (Carmel & Allan Roy) **SG**
- ✠ **Helen Case** (Frank & Karla Culligan) **SJE**

PRIVATE MASSES BY FATHER KEITH - NOV/2025

- † **Ada Lawlor** (Charlotte & Williard Miller) **SJE**
- † **Krystal MacLellan** (JR Lions Club) **SG**
- † **Martha McLaughlin** (Helen Carrier) **SJB**
- † **Norman Mallais** (Gerald & Coon Benoit) **SJB**
- † **Wilfred Arseneau** (Glen Levit Fire Dept) **STA**
- † **Brice Hornbrook** (Darlene Labonville) **HF**
- † **Vivian Aubie** (Mary Williamson) **HF**

CHURCH TODAY

POPE LEO XIV CONVENES HIS FIRST CONSISTORY OF CARDINALS

The Holy See Press Office released details of Pope Leo XIV's first Extraordinary Consistory of Cardinals, which will be held in the Vatican on January 7th/8th, 2026.

"The meeting will unfold over two days and will be marked by moments of communion and fraternity, as well as times dedicated to reflection, sharing, and prayer," read the statement released on Saturday.

As the Cardinals pray and reflect together with Pope Leo XIV, the encounter will seek to foster discernment and offer "support and counsel to the Holy Father in the exercise of his lofty and weighty responsibility in the governance of the universal Church."

The Consistory is set within the context of the life and mission of the Church," read the statement, "and it intends to strengthen communion between the Bishop of Rome and the Cardinals, who are called to collaborate in a particular way in solicitude for the good of the universal Church."

What is a Consistory of Cardinals?

The Consistory will take place just a day after Pope Leo closes the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on January 6th, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

A Consistory, which comes from the Latin "consistere" meaning "stand together," is a formal meeting of the College of Cardinals.

They can be either Ordinary, which are largely ceremonial in nature and attended by Cardinals residing in Rome, or Extraordinary.

Extraordinary Consistories, such as the one held in January, include all Cardinals throughout the world able to travel, and allow the Pope to consult with the entire College on various issues that affect the life of the Church.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
123 Saint Andrew Street, Bathurst, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Arthur Mallais (*Paulette*).

St. Brother Andre Candle: Personal Intentions (*Daniel Doucet*).

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.

Heating Collection: Weekend of January 17th & 18th.

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:

Prayer Board: All the 2025 intentions on our prayer board will be removed and a special celebration recognizing those intentions will be held on January 1, 2026 at the 11:00 am mass. If you have a special intention that you would like prayers for, you are invited to include it on our prayer board in the entrance of the church.

Toonie Weekend: Sunday, December 28th.

Catechism Class: Next class will be on Sunday, January 18th at 2:00 pm in the church basement.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
43 Andrew St. Campbellton, NB

Sanctuary Lamp:

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.

Toonie Weekend: Sunday, December 28th.

ST. ANTHONY
14000 Route 17 Glen Levit, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Clarence Adams (*Family*).

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: Betty Ann Chevalier (*Sandra MacKenzie*).

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.

Toonie Weekend: Sunday, December 28th.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
2601 Main Street, Belledune, NB

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

Toonie Weekend: Saturday, December 27th.

50/50 Draw: Congratulations to *Sharon Winton* winner of the December 50/50 draw in the amount of \$1400.00

ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL
4118 Main St. Belledune NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Bert Lavigne (*Wife, Noella & Family*).

Toonie Weekend: Saturday, December 27th.

Sanctuary Lamp: Anyone wishing to light a Sanctuary Candle "In Memory of a Loved one", can do so by completing the donation envelope found on the entrance table in our church. The candle is lit for a full week. Please complete the donation envelope along with your special date and your phone number. We are hoping to have it in memory of someone every week of 2026.

St. Gabriel's CWL: I would like to thank all the volunteers and members of the CWL for your continued support over the past year, all of your help is appreciated beyond words. I wish you and your family a joyful holiday and many blessings in the New Year. I would also like to say thank you to St. John the Evangelist CWL for the wonderful Christmas get together. God Bless everyone.

Patsy Roy Turple, President of St. Gabriel's CWL.

FAMILY CONNECTION



Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-25 (or the shorter form, Matthew 1:18-25)

After being visited by an angel in a dream, Joseph takes Mary as his wife.

Knowing your family history is important in establishing your identity. The longer form of today's Gospel lists many of the ancestors of Jesus and serves to establish Jesus' place in the history of Israel. Many important figures from the Hebrew Scriptures are named in this genealogy: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David, and Solomon, among many others. From among these names, however, two are highlighted: **Abraham**, the father of the Israelites because of God's promise to raise from his descendants a great nation, and **David**, the king who united the tribes of Israel and from whose descendants the Messiah would arise.

After you gather as a family, talk about the importance of your family's history. Recall where your ancestors came from. Tell some important stories from your family's history. In today's Gospel, we hear about Jesus' ancestors. Read today's Gospel, Matthew 1:1-25. Which names do you recognize from Hebrew Scripture? What do you know about these people? From this family history, we learn that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to raise up a savior from the people of Israel. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the gift of our Savior, Jesus, who saves us from our sins. Sing together one or more favorite Christmas hymns. Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

☆
*O holy night!
the stars
are brightly
shining. it
is the night
of our dear
savior's birth*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

	Holy Family	Sacred Heart Cathedral	Saint Gabriel the Archangel	Saint John the Evangelist	SMG Cemetery	Saint John Bosco	Saint Thomas Aquinas	Saint Anthony
December 20th & 21st								
Collection	1777.65	2753.20	346.75	535.00		1056.60	1338.50	65.00
Christmas	295.00	225.00	20.00	75.00			105.00	
Christmas Flowers	10.00	110.00		630.00				
Fundraising	2000.00 (C- Concert)			1400.00 (50-50 Draw)				
Dues/Donations	/85.00	/10.00				50.00 (Foodbank)		
Cemetery/Memorial		40.00/	/30.00	/10.00	50.00			
Heating		190.00		75.00		25.00		
Candles	134.00	295.10	10.00	12.00		63.25	207.25	
Living Christ/Missal		58.70	/20.00			/25.00		

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS (DECEMBER 27TH - JANUARY 4TH)

Holy Family	Sunday, December 28th at 11:00 am + Mildred, Harvey & Clary Wilbur (<i>Marilyn Morgan</i>) Thursday, January 1st at 11:00 am + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)	Sunday, January 4th at 11:00 am + Laura Lavoie (<i>Diane White O'Malley</i>)
Sacred Heart Cathedral	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 + 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>)
Weekly Masses	Tuesday, December 30th at 12:00-Noon (English) + Bresnahan Family (<i>Ann Marie & Family</i>) Wednesday, December 31st at 4:00 pm (New Year's Eve -English Mass) + Gérard & Mary Vienneau (<i>Family</i>) + Gerard & Evelyn Gionet (<i>Love Lorrie & Shirley</i>) + Donald Buttimer (<i>His Wife and Family</i>) + Evelyn & Art Glazier (<i>Daughter, Gayle & Ashley</i>)	Thursday, January 1st at 11:00 am (New Year's Day -French Mass) + Benoit L'heureux (<i>Soeur, Suzanne & Donald</i>) + Raymond McNight (<i>Denise et Louis</i>) Friday, January 2nd + No Mass Friday, January 2 nd
	Saturday, January 3rd at 4:00 pm + Gérard Vienneau (<i>Family</i>) + Brian Carrier (<i>Diane Doucet</i>) + Nieces & Nephews (<i>J. Theriault</i>)	Sunday, January 4th at 9:00 am + Sacred Heart (<i>Prayers Obtained</i>) + Denis Thibodeau (<i>Raymond & Claudette</i>)
St. Gabriel the Archangel	Saturday, December 27th 4:00 pm + Tom Luczanko (<i>Mary Young-Luczanko</i>) Thursday, January 1st at 11:00 am (New Year's Day) - -	Saturday, January 3rd at 4:00 pm + Erwin Donnelly (<i>Wife, Brenda</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. John the Evangelist	Saturday, December 27th at 6:00 pm + Everett Boulay & Esther Roy (<i>Georgette & Family</i>) Wednesday, December 31st at 6:00 pm (New Year's Eve) - -	Saturday, January 3rd at 6:00 pm + Francis Fournier (<i>Family</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. John Bosco	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>) Thursday, December 31st at 6:00 pm (New Year's Eve) - -	Sunday, January 4th at 9:00 am + Wallace Guitard (<i>Joan & Family</i>) Tuesday, January 6th at 9:30 am + Guy LaPointe (<i>Sandy MacLean</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. Thomas Aquinas	Sunday, December 28th at 11:00 am + Francis Firth (<i>Antoinette Boudreau</i>) Wednesday, December 31st at 4:00 pm (New Year's Eve) - -	Sunday, January 4th at 11:00 am + Jean Claude Lanteigne (<i>Alain Doucet</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)
St. Anthony	Sunday, December 28th at 1:30 pm + Eleanor Kiss (<i>St. Anthony's CWL</i>)	Sunday, January 4th at 1:30 pm + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)

Pope's Prayer Intention December/2025	Weekly Readings December 29th – January 3rd	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 – Octave Weekday • 1 John 2:3-11 / Luke 2:22-35</p> <p>Tuesday – Octave Weekday • 1 John 2:12-17/ Luke 2:36-40</p> <p>Wednesday – Octave Weekday • 1 John 2:18-21 / John 1:1-18</p> <p>Thursday – The Solemnity of Mary • Numbers 6:22-27/ Luke 2:16-21</p> <p>Friday – St. Basil • 1 John 2:22-28/ Matthew 1:19-28</p> <p>Saturday – Weekday • 1 John 2:29 3:1-6/ John 1:29-34</p>	 <p>The blessings of peace, the beauty of hope, the spirit of love, the comfort of faith <i>May this be your gift this Christmas season.</i></p>