



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

January 10th & 11th, 2026 – Baptism of the Lord (Year A - Gospel of Matthew)

(1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today brings to an end our Christmas celebrations. We see the third and last of the three great manifestations by which were made known to us that our God had come among us in a very special way.

Of the three, **the first of these manifestations** was through the story of the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. The first people privileged to experience this manifestation were the shepherds, representing the poor, the sinful, and the social outcast on whom Luke's Gospel is especially focused.

The **second manifestation**, the Epiphany, celebrated this past week, reflects Matthew's emphasis that Jesus was born not only for his own people, but for people of every country and every race everywhere.

This **third manifestation** of God's presence among us through Jesus, depicted in today's Gospel, is found in all four Gospels. While the first two manifestations are linked with the birth of Jesus, this one comes at a much later date, at the moment when Jesus is about to begin his public life.

WHY BAPTIZE JESUS?

We might very well wonder, like John the Baptist did, why Jesus needed to be baptized, John said to Jesus: **I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?** All those others being baptized in the Jordan by John were doing so as a sign of repentance for their sins, and as an expression of their desire to turn around their lives. How could Jesus, the Son of God, be part of this?

The first answer to this question is that Jesus, in so doing, was expressing his total solidarity with the human race, of which he was a member. He identified with them, not as a sinner, but as a fellow human being. The expression of that solidarity is a much higher priority for him than any social status he might lose by being seen in the close company of confessed sinners. It was a risk he would constantly take because the needs of the sinner were more important to him than his reputation with the self-righteous. It will have its final dramatic expression as Jesus dies on a cross, executed with, and like, two convicted criminals.

A 'MISSIONING' EXPERIENCE

However, in order to understand what is happening at the River Jordan, we have to go far beyond seeing Jesus's baptism as a matter of dealing with sinfulness. What is being emphasized here is the positive element of Jesus being totally accepted and confirmed by his Father. Jesus, as he stands there in the river Jordan, is being 'missioned' by the Father for the work he is just about to begin. He is here getting the total endorsement of his Father for that work.

As he steps out of the water, the heavens open and the Spirit of God comes down on Jesus to fill him with all God's fullness. **This is my Son, the Beloved (Greek, *agapetos*, the object of God's agape, his outpouring love), with whom I am well pleased.**

This, we might say, is Jesus's Pentecost experience. It is what the baptism in the Jordan is really about. And it is something that only those with eyes of faith can see. We might also add that this is what our Baptism is really about.

BAPTISM AND ANOINTING

In the Second Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter in his sermon to Cornelius, the first Gentile to be baptized by the Apostles, says that: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. In the case of Jesus's baptism by John, the anointing is by water. The anointing of Jesus by God, of which Peter speaks, implies that Jesus is being made King and Lord, and Kings were typically anointed with oil. The title "Christ" (Greek-Christos) which we give him, means 'The Anointed One', and corresponds to the Hebrew word we write as Messiah. Finally, as we said earlier, this scene is also a 'missioning' ceremony for Jesus as he embarks on his public life.

MY SERVANT

All this is beautifully described in the passage from Isaiah in today's first reading. The opening words echo Matthew's description of the baptism scene: *Here is my servant, my chosen, in whom my soul delights, I have put my spirit upon him.*

OUR OWN BAPTISM

Finally let's reflect on the meaning of our own baptism and how it relates with that of Jesus. We often hear a very simplistic description of the efforts of the Sacrament of Baptism as "taking away original sin and making us children of God". Many, especially those baptized as infants, may see it as a one-off ceremony, imposed on them by parents to bind them to a way of life in which they have no further say. Baptism is not, as is true of all the Sacraments, an isolated ritual. It takes place in the context of our whole life. Whether we are baptized as children or as adults, what primarily is happening is that we become, 'embodied' into the Christian community. We become, not passively, but active members of the Body of Christ. It can never be something imposed on us against our will. This is why, for adults, there is now a long process of initiation leading up to Baptism and, hopefully community support after the Baptism takes place. It is why adult baptism is now celebrated in the presence of the whole parish community and at the Easter Vigil. 'Original sin' is taken away, not so much by some spiritual sleight of hand or by the mumbling of some magic formula. Rather, if one becomes truly incorporated into a living Christian community, the sinful influences that pervade our world become reversed by our exposure to the vision of Jesus and the lived experience of a community based on love, justice and sharing.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Michel Proulx Bible Workshop: Happy and Holy New Year wishes. The new Bible sessions will begin soon. It's definitely time to register. You'll find all the information and the registration form at diocesebathurst.com. If you have already registered, please do not register again.

Pre-Authorized Donation Program



Ignite the reality
of the
Church

Pre-Authorized Donations Program

Thank You to all who have registered. You can find forms to set up for this program at your parish church and the parish office. Any concerns please call 506-546-1420 or email donation@nb.aibn.com.

The pre-authorized program does not include special envelope donations such as Christmas, Easter, heating etc. Please continue to use your paper envelope for these very important donations.

•**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.

•**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:** Bible class will resume January 16th at Holy Family Church, Friday morning at 10:00 am.

•**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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Family Knights of Columbus - Chicken Bouillon



Join us on Sunday, January 18th after the 11:00 am mass for delicious Chicken Bouillon from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm at Holy Family Church in Bathurst. Cost is free will offering.

Ecumenical Worship Service: Open to all Christian faiths on Monday, January 19th at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bathurst. This is part of **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** as we are all invited to come together for a time of united prayer and music. A light reception will follow the service in the Cathedral basement.

IN LOVING MEMORY

- ✠ **Ann Daigle** (Donnie & Cheryl Gallen) **OLV-Cemetery**
- ✠ **Cecelia Gauthier** (Theresa McDonnell) **SG**
- ✠ **Pearl Guitard** (Peggy Daigle) **SJE**
- ✠ **Bertha Hachey** (Steve & Jeannine White) **HF**

RECOMMENDED TO YOUR PRAYERS

May the Lord console their families and lead them safely home . . .

- † Please pray for **Aubrey Firth** of Glen Levit who passed away on December 14th at the age of 87. Funeral arrangements are in the care of Savoie Funeral Home.
- † Please pray for **Ann Daigle** of Benjamin who passed away on December 27th at the age of 74. A Chapel Service was held at MacMillan & Drapeau Funeral Home.
- † Please pray for **Gilberte MacLean** of Atholville who passed away on December 26th at the age of 93. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Monday, January 12th at 11:00 am.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18TH TO 25TH

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated around the world January 18th-25th, which are also the dates recommended by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. However, there has also been a long-standing practice by a number of communities to celebrate the Week of Prayer on optional dates, in order to include two Sundays.

This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires.

The importance of unity among Christians and the responsibility of the people of each parish to work for this unity should be emphasized throughout the week. All members of the parish should seek to have a deeper understanding of ecumenism. **As noted under community announcements all are invited to Sacred Heart Cathedral on Monday, January 19th at 10:00 am for a time of united prayer, music and a light lunch.**

Let there be
peace
on
Earth
& LET IT BEGIN
with me

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
123 Saint Andrew Street, Bathurst, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Personal Intentions (*Jean Yves Gaudet*).

St. Brother Andre Candle: Frederick Stever (*His Wife*).

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.

Mass Book 2026: Mass book is now open. Masses can be requested in person at the Parish Office (645 Murray Ave.) or by using an envelope provided at church and placed in the regular collection.

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

Ecumenical Worship Service: Open to all Christian faiths on Monday, January 19th at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart Cathedral. This is part of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18th-25th) as we are all invited to come together for a time of united prayer and music. A light reception will follow the service in the Cathedral basement.

HOLY FAMILY

430 St. Peter Ave. Bathurst, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Rose Marie Ste. Croix (*Sandra MacKenzie*).

Catechism Class: Class is on Sunday, January 18th at 2:00 pm in the church basement.

Prayer Shawls: If you are a knitter and are interested in knitting prayer shawls, please contact Sharon Smith at 431-997-2344. She is organizing a group that would meet once a month for two hours in the basement of the church.

Holy Family Knights of Columbus: Meeting on Wednesday, January 14th at 2:00 pm with the executive meeting at 1:30 pm.

Holy Family Knights of Columbus - Chicken Bouillon



Join us on Sunday, January 18th after the 11:00 am mass for delicious Chicken Bouillon from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm. Cost is free will offering.

Artificial Christmas Trees: We are looking for a few trees to add to our collection in preparation for next year's Christmas decorations. If you are looking to dispose of your tree after taking it down this year can you please contact Cletus Boucher at 506-548-9232 to arrange a convenient time for pick up.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

43 Andrew St. Campbellton, NB

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.

ST. ANTHONY

14000 Route 17 Glen Levit, NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Bruce Campbell (*Shelagh*).

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

ST. JOHN BOSCO

470 Victoria St. Dalhousie NB

Catechism Class: Class begins Sunday, January 11th at St. John Bosco church hall at 2:00 pm. You can register on our website at goodshepherdparish.faith. Cost will be \$20.00. Please contact Deacon Chris at 506-686-1676 if any questions. If baptized outside of our parish, please bring a copy of your baptism certificate.

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 Food Drive & Flowers: Once again our food drive was a huge success! A big heartfelt thank you to all for your generous donations of non perishable food items and cash. Our Sanctuary was beautiful with all the lovely poinsettias and altar arrangements.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

2601 Main Street, Belledune, NB

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

ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL

4118 Main St. Belledune NB

Sanctuary Lamp: Jane Duivenvoorden (*Arthur & Sharon Winton*).

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 Sanctuary candle is lit for a full week. Please complete the donation envelope along with your special date and your phone number.

Sacristans, Readers and Altar Servers List for 2026: The annual lists are ready for the above volunteers and can be picked up at mass this weekend. We are always looking for **Volunteers** to assist with Reading, Serving at Mass or Funerals. If interested, call Karen Roy at 506-237-3811. A sincere **Thank You** to all who volunteer.

FAMILY CONNECTION



Gospel Reading-Matthew 3:13-17
The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus
as he is baptized by John

At Jesus's baptism, God affirms his Son's mission for salvation. God announces his pleasure with Jesus and, in Mathew's Gospel, announces to all that, "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17). With this affirmation, Jesus is able to resist the temptations described next in Matthew's Gospel and to begin his public ministry. As family members, we can support one another in our Christian living by affirming the importance of each person in our eyes and in God's. Confident that through our Baptism we, too, were made children of God, we can resist temptation and share in Christ's mission.

Gather as a family to read today's Gospel, Matthew 3:13-17. Recall that God's message about Jesus was meant for us, "This is my beloved Son". It was also an affirmation for Jesus about his role in God's plan.

Place each family member's name on a slip of paper and put the names in a bowl. Invite each person in the family to choose another family member's name and to prepare a message for that person, affirming their importance in God's eyes and in your family life. Pray together that your family will continue to support one another in your baptismal promises to be disciples of Jesus and then invite each person to read aloud the message they prepared. **Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

<u>Dec. 31st/January 1st</u> <u>January 3rd/4th</u>	Holy Family	Sacred Heart Cathedral	Saint Gabriel the Archangel	Saint John the Evangelist	OLV Cemetery	Saint John Bosco	Saint Thomas Aquinas	Saint Anthony
Collection	580.60 1378.40		270.00 391.75	400.00 375.00		777.25	1250.00	111.00
Solemnity of Mary	525.00 210.00		280.00 170.00	230.00 10.00		661.25	815.00	15.00
Christmas	20.00 50.00		20.00 20.00	20.00		170.00	25.00	40.00
Initial Offering	480.00 325.00		205.00 85.00	95.00 30.00		440.00	606.00	60.00
Fundraising	15.00 5.00 (Christmas)						2200.00 (Yard Sale)	
Dues/Donations	60.00/20.00		150.00	40.00/			20.00/	15.00
Cemetery/Memorial	/10.00		20.00/10.00	/10.00	20.00/			10.00
Heating	130.00 275.00							
Candles	264.05		10.00	51.00 30.00		77.00		
Living Christ/Missal	/5.00		/10.00			/5.00		

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS (JANUARY 10TH - JANUARY 18TH)

Holy Family	Sunday, January 11th at 11:00 am + Annette Imhoff (<i>Art Legacy</i>)	Sunday, January 18th at 11:00 am + Mabel Murphy (<i>Marion & Byron McLean</i>)
Sacred Heart Cathedral	Saturday, January 10th at 4:00 pm + Deceased Parents (<i>Linda MacDonald</i>) + Timmy Garrett (<i>Nancy Boucher</i>)	Sunday, January 11th at 9:00 + Deceased Grandparents (<i>Nancy Boucher & Family</i>)
Weekly Masses	Tuesday, January 13th at 12:00-noon (<i>English</i>) + Soul of Paulina Bunya	Thursday, January 15th at 12:00-noon (<i>English</i>) + My Family's Conversion (<i>M. Doucet</i>)
	Wednesday, January 14th at 9:00 am (<i>French</i>) + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)	Friday, January 16th at 9:00 am (<i>French</i>) + Thanksgiving (<i>Gerard & Josephine Roy</i>)
	Saturday, January 17th at 4:00 pm + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)	Sunday, January 18th at 9:00 am + Mireille Carrier (<i>Diane Doucet</i>) + Thanksgiving 69 th Wedding Anniversary-Albertine & Leo Morais (<i>Your Family</i>)
St. Gabriel the Archangel	Saturday, January 10th at 4:00 pm + Krystal MacLellan (<i>Dennis & Roxanne Killoran</i>)	Saturday, January 17th at 4:00 pm + Marinus DeGroot (<i>Gertrude Killoran & Family</i>)
St. John the Evangelist	Saturday, January 10th at 6:00 pm + Ada Lawlor (<i>Kim & Abby & Libby</i>)	Saturday, January 17th at 6:00 pm + Rose Boulay (<i>St. John the Evangelist CWL</i>)
St. John Bosco	Sunday, January 11th at 9:00 am + Martha McLaughlin (<i>Bunny Sterling</i>) Tuesday, January 13th at 9:30 am + Denis Duguay (<i>May & Omer</i>)	Sunday, January 18th at 9:00 am + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>) Tuesday, January 20th at 9:30 am + Suzanne Poirier (<i>Danny & Diane Leger</i>)
St. Thomas Aquinas	Sunday, January 11th at 11:00 am + For All Parishioners (<i>The Pastor</i>)	Sunday, January 18th at 11:00 am + Austin Levesque (<i>Ann-Marie, Linda, Martyne & Jocelyne</i>)
St. Anthony	Sunday, January 11th at 1:30 pm + Larry Felix (<i>Cynthia Felix</i>)	Sunday, January 18th 1:30 pm + Aubrey & Frances Firth (<i>Georgina Babcock</i>)

Pope's Prayer Intention January / 2026	Weekly Readings January 12th – January 17th	Quote of the Week
<p align="center">For Prayer with the Word of God-</p> <p align="center">Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.</p> <p align="center"><i>AMEN</i></p>	<p>Monday – St. Marguerite Bourgeoys • 1 Samuel 1:1-8 / Mark 1:14-20</p> <p>Tuesday – Weekday • 1 Samuel 1:9-20/ Mark 1:21-28</p> <p>Wednesday – Weekday • 1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20/Mark 1:29-39</p> <p>Thursday – Weekday • 1 Samuel 4:1c-11 / Mark 1:40-45</p> <p>Friday – Weekday • 1 Sameul 8:4-7,10-22a/ Mark 2:1-12</p> <p>Saturday – St. Anthony • 1 Samuel 9:1-4,7-19: 10:1a/Mark 2:13-17</p>	<p align="center">Through salvation</p> <p align="center">our past has been forgiven, our present is given meaning, and our future is secured.</p>