

Our Sacred Stories

Faith: Small is Great

Not long ago I had the honour of being part of a wedding. The couple were called upon to express their commitment, their faith in each other. That faith which expressed their relationship was remarkable. It was expressed in the words that every couple declares to each other at their wedding: "I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life." What a declaration of the faith, the trust they have in each other. What a declaration of love!

Faith or trust is relational. It serves as a bond between persons. It is also dynamic. Its beginning is normally limited and tentative. But it has great potential for growth. Experience together, openness to one another, generosity and readiness to change and adjust for one another, these all allow what begins small to grow, becoming the stuff of dreams. Such faith can become what we refer to as the bond of love.

Faith the size of a mustard seed – what an image Jesus uses as he responds to his disciples! (Luke 17:5-10) They ask him to increase their faith. Faced with what they hear are the demands of discipleship, they feel inadequate, too limited in their ability to respond to his call. His response is to tell them that they do not need *more* faith. What they need is to recognize the power of *small* faith and its capacity to grow and become the kingdom. What they are called to is the universal and open reflection of God's unconditional love. What a declaration of love!

Faith is not about power and the capacity to accomplish great or marvelous deeds. It does not take away our human weaknesses or increase our human strengths. Faith results in the energy and power of God working with our humanness. It is a gift that is unearned, unmerited and freely given to all. When accepted it can lead to great things as we cooperate with God's presence. It can lead to discipleship lived.

So often, great faith can be an impediment to discipleship. It can be rigid and domineering. It can blind us to the reality that we live in a messy world, full of paradoxes and unresolved questions, marked by questions and doubts. Life is complex. It is in the midst of this messy world, that faith is expressed in discipleship, with simple care, open concern for the small and the weak. It is in this messy world that we recognize that we fail and fall. It is in this world of contradictions and paradoxes that we so often need to be reconciled and forgiven. As disciples of Jesus, this is what we can offer to others.

The gift of faith with the divine presence that results, allows our weakness to become strength. It allows us to listen, to respond, to reach out in love in the midst of a messy, wounded world. This brings reconciliation and healing to our brokenness. Faith the size of a mustard seed – what a difference it can make! Small is, indeed great.

John Jennings

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time



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.sjwoodstock.com

Facebook page : <http://www.facebook.com/st.g.church.1>

Mass Times:

Pastor: Fr. Martin Arputham
Parish Administrator: Patricia Harding-Chase
Pastoral Council Chair: Sylvie Dempsey
Property & Finance Chair: Marg McCallum
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 am -12:00 pm

St. Gertrude: Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am
Reconciliation Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm
St. Simon & Jude: Sunday 9:00 am
Reconciliation Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

October 02, 2022

Time

Saturday	Oct. 01	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	John Gallagher
Sunday	Oct. 02	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude.....	Francois Thebeau
Sunday	Oct. 02	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners
Monday	Oct. 03	No Mass
Tuesday	Oct. 04	10:00 am Adoration, 11:00 Mass St. Simon & Jude.....	Joyce Gordon
Tuesday	Oct. 04	12:15 pm St. Gertrude.....	Rosary.....
Wednesday	Oct. 05	9:00 am Adoration, 10:00 Mass St. Gertrude.....	Ivy Poulin
Thursday	Oct. 06	12:15 pm St. Gertrude.....	Jeannie Bridgeo & DMF
Friday	Oct. 07	9:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Alice Kidney
Saturday	Oct. 08	4:00 pm St. Gertrude.....	Parishioners
Sunday	Oct. 09	9:00 am St. Simon & Jude.....	Janice Morrison
Sunday	Oct. 09	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	Alphee Dube

27th Sunday in Ordinary

Please have items for the bulletin by Wednesday

Please pray for the sick:

Nora Gagnon, Pat & Ed McGuire, Margaret Bridgeo, Janice Ryan, Anne Marie Voutour
 Sarah Ann Wright, Brody Brown, Barb McIntosh, Reg & Ruby King, Cindy Ouellette
 Eldon MacDonald, Carmelita Sacal (mother of Ides Villabeto), Stephen Wood, Chris Gaston

For those who have died:

Nicole Connor, James Paul, John Hallihan, Brent Collier

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 – Sept. 26, 2022– Non Winner 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 Ann 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
Oct 08	4:00 PM	Kristine Anne Miguel	Nellie Gallagher	Vicki Mclean	Kristine Anne Miguel
		Liam Miguel		Eileen Harrison	Ides Villabeto
		Ben Kilfoil			Ning Van Rhijn
Oct 09	11:00 AM	Diane Dube	Anne McEvoy	Patricia Paul	Carole Polches
		Debi Rae		Rudy Nadeau	Aaron...Brittany Sprague
		Michelle Nowlan			
Oct 09	9:00 AM	1st Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of Faithful	
		Dilys	Bernadette	Bernadette	



**Listen to the
Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022**



The Burning Bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. In Exodus 3:5, God said to Moses, "Take off your sandals because you are standing on Holy Ground." St. Francis knew all creation was holy. The Season of Creation ends Oct 4th, the feast of St. Francis. It is an annual ecumenical celebration that unites the world's 2.4 billion Christians in prayer and action for our common home. Christians from all over the world gave witness to, listened and responded together to the cry of creation and as we care for our common home (oikos). The Canticle of the Sun in its praise of God thanks Him for such creations as "Brother Fire" and "Sister Water". It is an affirmation of Francis' personal theology as he often referred to animals as brothers and sisters to Mankind, rejected material accumulation and sensual comforts in favor of "Lady Poverty". Let us pray with St Francis the Canticle of the Sun.

CANTICLE OF THE SUN (PRAISE OF THE CREATURES)

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honour, and all blessing.

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which you give your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those she finds doing your most holy will. The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve him with great humility.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY - October 7 (Franciscan Media)

Saint Pius V established this feast in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716.

The development of the rosary has a long history. First a practice developed of praying 150 Our Fathers in imitation of the 150 Psalms. Then there was a parallel practice of praying 150 Hail Mary. Soon a mystery of Jesus' life was attached to each Hail Mary. Though Mary's giving of the rosary to Saint Dominic is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of Saint Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "the apostle of the rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century. In the 16th century, the rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries: joyful, sorrowful and glorious. In 2002, Pope John Paul II added the five Mysteries of Light to this devotion.

The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. Pius XII called it a compendium of the gospel. The main focus is on Jesus—his birth, life, death, and resurrection. The Our Fathers remind us that Jesus' Father is the initiator of salvation. The Hail Mary reminds us to join with Mary in contemplating these mysteries. They also make us aware that Mary was and is intimately joined with her Son in all the mysteries of his earthly and heavenly existence. The Glory Be remind us that the purpose of all life is the glory of the Trinity.

The rosary appeals to many. It is simple. The constant repetition of words helps create an atmosphere in which to contemplate the mysteries of God. We sense that Jesus and Mary are with us in the joys and sorrows of life. We grow in hope that God will bring us to share in the glory of Jesus and Mary forever.

National Catholic Health Care Week

From October 2 to 8, 2022 we mark National Catholic Health Care Week across Canada, recognizing the important work of Catholic health care organizations in our province and across Canada. We pray for health care teams who have given much over the past years and continue to walk with all those who are ill, deeply troubled, weary and struggling. Holding all those who are hurting in our hearts, we ask God to bless the work of Catholic health care and we offer our prayers, support, and encouragement for the people of our Catholic health organizations who serve with compassion and courage. You are encouraged to mark National Catholic Health Care Week with daily reflections and prayers. Please visit the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada website at www.chac.ca.



Blessing of Pets

On Sunday, October 02 at 6 pm, you can bring your pets to the parking lot at St Gertrude's church for a special blessing.

This date marks the end of the Season Of Creation and also celebrates the feast of *St. Francis of Assisi* (Oct 04) *the patron saint of animals and animal lovers, as well as the environment*. Our pets bring us much joy and this is an opportunity to bless our beloved four-legged companions.

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI - October 4 (National Today)

Saint Francis of Assisi, the acclaimed Catholic friar, philosopher, mystic, and teacher, is celebrated by the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi every October 4. He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor and the women's Order of Saint Clare, among many others. This saint led a colorful and interesting life before devoting his life to God and becoming one of the most renowned Christians of all time. To celebrate him and commemorate his journey to the afterlife, the town of Assisi lights oil lamps for two days. Religious services are held and some children even bring their pets to be blessed on this day. In 1979, Pope John Paul II designated Francis as the 'Patron Saint of Ecology'. For two years before his death, St Francis bore the marks of the Lord's Passion (stigmata) upon his hands, feet and side. These bodily wounds correspond to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ.

Food Bank

St Gertrude's Church donated 73 pounds of food to the Food Bank for a value of \$189.80. Thank you to everyone who kindly contributed.

Shrine Sunday

The collection taken on Shrine Sunday at St. Francis of Assisi celebrations totalled **\$2178.82**. These monies will be used towards repairs and painting needed at the Shrine. We are grateful to the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus for their donation of \$1000.00 which will be used to update the ramp and floor in preparation for Shrine Sunday this year. Thank you for your support.

Restore Communication

You will discover new ways to love, listen and share with each other...with the **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**. A weekend is scheduled for October 28, 29, 30, 2022 at Villa Madonna in Rothesay N.B. Call Ron and Joanne Arsenault at 506 451-8489 for more information and to apply prior to October 15th or email us at renewmarriage@gmail.com

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose Envelops	112 495	15 468	90
PAD	1,392	222	77
Candles		10	
E-Transfer	<u>10</u> 2009	<u>—</u> 715	<u>—</u> 167
Evangelization of Nations	4		
Lynn lake	250	Dev & Peace	20
Little Church	22.25	St. Bonaventure	530
Global South	40	St Bonaventure Cemetery	500

GUARDIAN ANGELS - October 2 (Franciscan Media)

Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." Devotion to the angels began to develop with the birth of the monastic tradition. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12th-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day.

A feast in honor of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16th century. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar.

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, an annual campaign to raise awareness of this complex disease and fund research into its causes, treatment, and cure. Since 1985, individuals, businesses, and communities have come together every October to show their support for the many people affected by breast cancer. Breast Cancer Awareness Month can be a time to reflect, give back, or even celebrate.

Ukrainian Peace Prayer...

(Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family)

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God."

In this time of great worry, we fervently pray that Your Holy Spirit sustain all the people of Ukraine to be vigilant and dedicated to peace and justice. Grant their leaders wisdom and prudence. Yet, may they also have the strength and perseverance to defend their land from all adversity and foreign attacks. Help us all to live according to your Divine Will.

O God, our Father, in the days to come, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the faithful departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask also that the Most Holy Mother of God extend her blessed mantle of protection over the Ukraine.

Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH, WOODSTOCK

FALL FASHION SHOW

October 15th, 2 pm, tickets \$10.00 each (fashions courtesy of 'Fashion Today' clothing store)

FALL CHURCH SUPPER, October 20th. More information to follow on these events.

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.catholicnewagency.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)