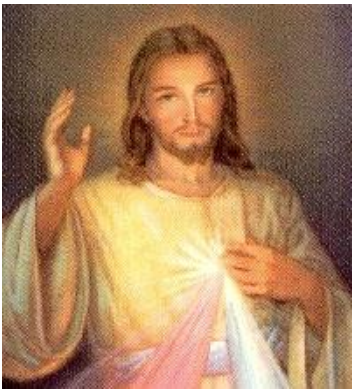




Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

The **First Reading** is taken from *Acts 4:32-35*. In this brief glimpse of the life of the first Christian community in Jerusalem, St. Luke (the author of *Acts*) emphasizes the ideal of Christian brotherhood, which animated the first Christians so much that many gave their possessions gladly for distribution among those of their brothers. While our Christian religion does not demand of all of us that we should follow the example of the first Christian community in Jerusalem, we still have an important lesson to learn from today's reading. While we can, and the vast majority of us must, retain our personal possessions, we must still be always ready to share them with those in need. We are not the real owners of what we possess; we are only the administrators of the property God has given us. He is the real owner, and he expects us to use what he has give us justly and charitably.

The **Second Reading** is from the *1 John 5:1-7*. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith." In one short sentence, St. John, the beloved disciple of Christ, expresses the profoundest philosophy ever put before thinking man. We have had many philosophers and many searchers after the meaning and purpose of rational life on earth. We have had many attempts at explanations, but all have failed, for none of them satisfied the innate desires and total capacity of human nature. Of all the beings on our planet, man alone has the faculties for

perceiving the truth and for enjoying the beautiful. While he shares with the animal kingdom the impulse to self-preservation, and the perpetuation of the species, he has within him powers that surpass all animal instincts and raise him above the material world where he lives and moves. He can perceive beauty, truth, love, joy and happiness. With his will, which is motivated by the good, he can and does desire to possess these supra mundane "goods," not only for a few short years but forever.

The **Gospel** is read for all years (Cycles A, B and C) and is taken from *John 20:19-31*. Last Sunday's gospel, also taken from St. John, described the first hint at the resurrection which the Apostles received. Peter and John, convinced that the body had not been taken away, because the winding sheets were left behind, were beginning to believe. But the others were skeptical, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus paid no heed to the women's story, and Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the other ten, even when this present appearance of our Lord had convinced them.

It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the old covenant had some such powers also. Christ had "emptied himself" of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgment, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already excepting and hoping for the *imagined fact*.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading because its author was none other than Christ "our Lord and our God." How prophetic were the words of the Gamaliel at the meeting of the Sanhedrin which tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the new Christian faith: "if this plan or work is of men, it will overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it" (*Acts 5:38-39*).

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings*, Cycle B, by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection

March 31/2024

Envelopes	\$270.00
Loose	\$135.00
Good	
Friday	\$50.00
Heat	\$20.00
	\$475.00

Notices:

- 1: Community Drop-in** All are welcome on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am - 11:30 am at the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department for a social gathering. The coffee pots will be hot and the conversation will be flowing. Sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lakers Club.
- 2: Last Community Drop-in Breakfast.** The last (until the fall) Community Drop-in will be held on Wednesday April 17th. This will be a pancake and sausage breakfast. Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 pm. All are welcome.
- 3: The final Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group** get together (until the fall) will be held on Thursday April 11th, at the District 10 Fire Hall from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.
- 4: Food Handler's Certification** course for seniors over 55 in the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department area around the end of April 2024. Date and time to be announced later. No charge for this course. Limited seating available. Call Debbie Johnston at 902-304-0558 to confirm your attendance.
- 5: Beginner - intermediate Gaelic workshop** Red Islands Firehall Saturday, April 13 10-3 Instructor: Stacey MacLean (head teacher of the Gaelic elementary school in Mabou) \$10 , lunch included Register: Cathy at 902-217-2088
- 6: Beginner Gaelic classes** Red Islands firehall 6 weeks, Tuesdays April 16 - May 21 1- 3:30 \$30 Register: Cathy at 902-217-2088
- 7: Chair Yoga:** Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, for 8 weeks, beginning April 10 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm, Fee: \$25 Instructor: Lynne Doucette
Registering & Payment Options → Register online by visiting <http://www.richmondcounty.ca> → Register by phoning 902.226.0663 → Pay online via credit card or hybrid card → Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office → Pay via credit card over the phone
- 7: Scottish Country Dancing:**
The Fleur de Lis Seniors Club is hosting an instruction for beginners in Scottish Country Dancing for 4 weeks on Wednesdays. April 10 & 17 and May 8 & 15 from 1 - 3 pm at the Louisdale Parish Hall. Diane Landry is the instructor. Come and try this wonderful exercise for mind and body. No charge.
- 8: The Easter Triduum 2024** Our first experience of holding the Triduum, that is one liturgical experience; Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday, went very well due to the leadership of SJB’s Liturgy Committee Chairperson, Deidre Boyd. With her committee we saw a fine example of teamwork as each of the days of the Triduum included members from all four parishes: Sacred Heart, Holy Guardian Angels, St. Peter, and St. John the Baptist. The many details of each day were successfully addressed as Deidre invited the participation of many parishioners. Thank you to Deidre and the Liturgy Committee.
- 9: Tentative List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall**

Sunday July 7 - Strawberry Festival - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday July 7 - Guadalupe Mass - 2:00 pm
Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am
Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am
Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am