



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

August 11, 2024

Mass this week will be the cemetery Mass. This will take place in the old/lower graveyard. We will only go to the church if we have rain.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Kings 19:4-8* and gives us the story from the life of the prophet Elijah in which it is narrated that an angel fed him miraculously.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 4:30, 5:2* in which he urges his converts to live in peace, harmony and love with one another.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 6:41-51*. The main point of doctrine in this part of our Lord's discourse, as given by St. John, is the necessity for belief in Christ who has come down from heaven. It is only in the last verse of today's text that Christ explicitly states that he is about to give his own very body as their spiritual food to those who believe in him. The description of himself as "bread from heaven" and the vital difference between the effect of this bread and the manna given to their fathers in the desert, are a definite preparation for the announcement of the doctrine of the Eucharist.

However, before they could even think of accepting this teaching on the Eucharist they had first to accept Christ as divine, as the Son of God. This was not easy for Jews, for whom strict monotheism was the center of their faith. To admit that Christ was God would at first sight seem like admitting two gods. Secondly, even though Christ had worked extraordinary miracles, to all appearances he was still a mere man—and the prophets of old had worked miracles. True, Christ was evidently claiming to be

more than a prophet; he claimed that he alone had seen the Father, that he had come from the Father. This claim of equality with the Father would be sheer blasphemy if it were not true; could God give the power of miracles to such a great sinner?

Perhaps some of them argued along these lines and accepted his claim later on. Others remained stiff-necked and stubborn and could see nothing in him but a native of Nazareth, a humble Galilean like themselves, but one who had developed strange ideas about who and what he was. These Galileans began a long line of unbelievers which has stretched down through the centuries to our own day. The reasons for the unbelief are the same today as they were in the year 29 A.D. Man is proud of his intelligence; which he did not give to himself. Whatever he cannot grasp within the limited confines of that intellect, he treats as non-existent as far as he is concerned. If a God exists, a doubtful possibility to these great thinkers, we mortals can know nothing about him; he is beyond our ken and we can be of no concern to him.

If there ever was a Jesus of Nazareth, he could be only a mere man who suffered from grave hallucinations! But his miracles? A simple answer: there never were any. His disciples invented these stories later. But these disciples were willing to die for these inventions of theirs! Thousands of Christians were martyred rather than deny the divine claims of Jesus! More hallucination, no doubt! Nineteen centuries of Christian history can be shrugged off as easily as that by those who will not believe. If certain statements do not fit in with preconceived ideas then these statements are false; if certain facts do not agree with history, as the unbelievers understand history, then these facts never happened. So man's limited, finite mind remains the sole judge and arbiter of all truth.

We believe in a loving God, and in his divine Son, Jesus Christ, who came on earth to bring us to heaven, and in the Holy Spirit who completes the work of sanctification in us. Surely, we owe this Blessed Trinity a debt of gratitude! We can never fully repay it. Because of our Christian faith which has come to us from Jesus, we know where we came from, we know whither we are going and we know how to reach that destination. Of all the knowledge a human being can acquire on this earth, the above facts are the most essential and important. Any other knowledge is of temporary value. The knowledge our Christian faith gives us concerns eternity and our journey toward it.

Today, we must thank God from the bottom of our hearts for giving us the Christian faith. This faith means that "God out of the abundance of his love, speaks to men as friends and lives among them so that he may invite and take them into fellowship with himself," as Vatican II puts it. He did not put us on earth and leave us on our own with nowhere to go except to the grave. He sent his beloved Son on earth. He made us heirs to heaven and left to us, in his Church, all the instruction and aids we need to reach our inheritance. The unbelievers and free-thinkers may feel that they are free to do what they will here on earth, but we know that we have been given the freedom of the children of God for all eternity, if only we live according to the faith given us.

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

Collection
August 04, 2024

Envelopes	\$470.00
Loose	\$40.00
	\$510.00

Notices:

- 1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer’s Market:** The Market will take place on Sunday August 11, 2024, from 10:30am – 1:00 pm. See you there.
- 2: Cemetery Mass:** The annual cemetery mass will take place on Sunday August 11th, at 9:30 in the Old Graveyard. Please bring your own chair. After the mass will be a Pancake Breakfast at the hall.
- 3: Milling Frolic:** The Milling Frolic is only a month away. Donations will be needed for the Bake Sale, Lunch, Fancy Booth, and the County Store. Workers will be needed for parking cars, bingo, lunch, fancy booth, selling tickets, straw game. and at the door.
- 4: Music for the Milling Frolic:** The music for the Milling Frolic will be Shelly Campbell, Alan Dewar and Keith MacDonald. We will also have a caller for the square dance, Helen MacDonald from River Ryan.
- 5: Burial for** Steve Donoghue will take place on Saturday August 17th, at 10:00 am.
- 6: Fr. Yake Away:** No weekday Masses are scheduled from August 19th until August 30th because Fr. Yake will be away. Weekend Masses on August 24th/August 25th will be celebrated by Rev. Charles Cameron. Previously scheduled Masses will be rescheduled. No Mass in Johnstown that week.
- 7: The CB Chorale** will be holding auditions on August 22nd and 23rd. The choir is also holding a song arrangement competition. Full details on our website <http://capebretonchorale.com>
- 8: A DATE TO REMEMBER:** A Fundraiser Concert for Stella Maris Church, Creignish will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Creignish Recreation Centre, 2123 Highway 19, from 7pm to 9pm. Performers to be announced at a later date! More details to follow! Admission: By Donation
- 9: The Sydney Mines Highland Games** Cultural Society is a non-profit and the Highland Games is offered in memory of Coal Miners who built our communities. The Highland Games takes place on **Sunday, August 18th**, 11 am - 8 pm around the Princess Colliery, 150 Pitt St. at the Pitt Street Walking Track in Sydney Mines. This area was repurposed for athletics and health.

10: List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall and Church

Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am
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