



Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

December 08, 2024

Our Christmas Mass will
be on Christmas Day,
Wednesday December 25th,
at 9:00 am. We will not
have a Christmas Eve
service

Second Sunday of Advent

The **First Reading** is from *Baruch* 5:1-9. To help us prepare for the commemoration of Christ's coming on earth at Christmas the Church has chosen these words of the Old Testament which spoke of the new Jerusalem, the new kingdom which the Messiah would set up when he came. As the Jews of old looked forward with hope to that day, we now should look back to it with joy and especially with thanksgiving. God created us, he gave us great gifts, we abused these gifts to insult him, yet he not only was willing to forgive us but he went to the length of sending his divine son to become like one of us, to live with us and die for us. Only God could have such love, such mercy, such a forgiving spirit.

The **Second Reading** is from *Philippians* 1:4-6; 8-11. The "day of Christ," the day of the parousia or of his coming in glory to judge the whole world, was anxiously looked for in the early Church. Many of the first generation Christians thought it would come in their life-time. Christ did not reveal when his Second Coming would be, but he did tell us to be always ready. This much we know, each one of us will appear before him to be judged at the moment of our death and that moment will decide for us how his Second Coming will affect us. And the decision, granted God's grace, is up to each one of us.

The **Gospel** is from *Luke* 3:1-6.. The preaching of John the Baptist, quoting Isaiah, which echoed and re-echoed around the Jordan valley nearly two thousands years ago, should ring in our ears today too. We are preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and the prophet tells us how we should prepare ourselves if the welcome we give our Sanrio's is to be sincere and true. Even the best and the holiest amongst us will have to admit that our paths—our dealings with God—over the past twelve months have been far from straight and smooth.

Alas, looking back over the past year, most, if not all of us, will have to feel ashamed of our meanness, our ingratitude towards the good God, to whom we owe everything we have. However, Christmas is the commemoration of that greatest gift of his mercy which God bestowed on this world, and if we but humbly beat our breasts and admit our meanness—if we lower the mountains of selfish pride and fill up the valleys of laziness and forgetfulness by turning to him with hearts full of gratitude and repentance, there will be mercy in abundance even for the greatest sinner amongst us. Christ will come to us with the "salvation of God" and we can confidently hope to live the coming year as we should, as grateful children of our Loving Father in heaven.

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

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. “As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.

“And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behavior in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

“Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.” —Pope Benedict XVI

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email
louisecampbel@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to the parish, but do not have an envelope you can e-transfer to
sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. A receipt will be provided.

Collection:
December 01, 2024

Envelopes	\$205.00
Loose	\$25.00
	\$230.00

Notices:

1: Christmas Toy Drive: It’s time for our annual collection of toys and children’s clothing to be donated to the St. Peters Food bank, for distribution to their client families in time for Christmas. We are requesting unwrapped new toys and new children’s clothing to be dropped off at the Red Islands Fire Hall, on Saturday, December 7th, between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. We will have tea and light snacks. We hope you can support this effort again this year. On behalf of their client families, the Food Bank management have expressed great appreciation for our efforts in past years. So please mark your calendars. We will see you at the Red Islands fire hall on December 7th.

2: Book Launch: The launch of Sgurra Breac And A Little More by Donald (Brother) MacNeil at the Big Pond Hall. We'd love to see you for a cup of tea and a light lunch at Brother's book launch party. Saturday December 07, between 2 and 4.

3: The Annual General Meeting for District 10 Volunteer Fire Department, Red Islands, will take place Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 1 pm at the fire hall. Nominations for Election of Officers can be sent to Julie Jesso, Vice Chair - 902-535-3387.

4: Pancake Breakfast - Wednesday, December 11, 2024 - 9:00 to 11:30 – District 10 Fire Hall in Red Islands All are welcome. Small donations are appreciated but certainly not necessary. Gluten Free options will be available. No need to reserve a spot, just show up.

5: Classical Christmas Concert will be held Dec. 15, 2024 at St. Mary’s Church, East Bay at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature Katheryn Gordon on piano and Barbel Albert on violin and special guest Geoffrey Lee-Dadswell on cello.
Admission donation at the door for St Mary’s Parish and Loaves and Fishes.

6: Advent Mission with Father Bill Burke, OSA - Dec. 9-11
Our Lady of Grace Monastery
Mission will begin with Holy Mass at 7 pm each evening.
Father Burke, a native of Main-a-Dieu, has an MA in liturgical theology from the University of Notre Dame. After 29 years in the diocese, he was appointed director of the National Liturgy Office for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2006. In September 2013, he returned to become pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys parish in Sydney. Light refreshments available in the Retreat House Dining Room following each presentation. Anyone wishing accommodations may contact Lucille Fougere at (902) 623-0075 or by e-mail: ladyofgracemonastery@gmail.com

7: 75th Anniversary Mass: The Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Sydney River invite you to attend our 75th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, December 15th at 2 PM. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick and Pastors of the parish. All are most welcome to help us celebrate this milestone. A time of fellowship will follow. We hope you can come and celebrate with us!

8: Breath of Heaven
A Concert of Sacred Christmas Music
Dec. 14, 7 pm, St. Ninian Cathedral, Antigonish
Experience the magic of the season with the St. Ninian's Cathedral choir, alongside the Antigonish Choral Ensemble, directed by Janice Alcorn.
Also featured performances by Mary Beth Carty, John Pellerine, and Heather MacIsaac, and members of Antigonish's own Rose Quartet. Artistic Director, Emery van de Wiel
This year’s concert promises to be an enchanting evening filled with beautiful, traditional, and emotional choral music that will uplift your spirits.

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