



Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

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

September 8, 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah* 35:4-7 and contains the beautiful verse, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. James* 2:1-5. "It was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him." The subject is that we should not grade people according to external appearance, for a person's quality is something that derives from his union with God—the more humble and understanding he is, the more honor he deserves.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark* 7:31-37. During his discussion with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, our Lord told her that "salvation was to come from the Jews" (Jn. 4 : 22). This was in accordance with God's plan when he took Abraham from his pagan family and surroundings, and elected him to be the father of a Chosen People from whom God's blessing would come for all nations (Gn. 12: 1-4). This was the historic beginning of "salvation" for men. It was, as yet, a vague generic promise but down through the following eighteen-century history of the Chosen People (Abraham's descendants) this blessing eventually became

crystallized in the Messiah — the anointed and holy one of God. It was He who would introduce the messianic age of which the prophets so often had spoken, and it was in Him that all peoples, Jews and Gentiles, would find their true "blessing."

It was right and fitting, therefore, that Christ should proclaim his kingdom and his Gospel among the Jews and in their promised land. Those who would accept him and his message would later spread the good news among the Gentile nations. This is what happened. His Apostles, including St. Paul, and the faithful disciples having done their best for their fellow-Jews, left Palestine and carried the great news of the incarnation — a blessing greater than any man could have imagined — to the pagan peoples of the then-known world. It was surely from the Jews that salvation came to us Gentiles.

While Christ reserved his preaching to the Jews according to God's plan, he visited some of the Gentile lands bordering on Palestine — Tyre, Sidon, Phoenicia, the Decapolis — and worked some miracles there. However, he did not preach to them. This exception — going into pagan lands — was evidently important to St. Mark, for he goes into details in describing the faith of the people of the place who asked for a miracle, and their enthusiastic reaction to Christ's power when he did what they requested. Mark himself knew very well that Christ was fulfilling the divine plan when he restricted his preaching to the Jews, and that he had given a command to his Apostles to bring his Gospel to all nations (Mk. 16: 16). Possibly, however, some of his Gentile converts were questioning why Christ had not come to the Gentiles but spent all his public life in Palestine. In this short episode, Mark shows that Christ was interested indeed in Gentiles and showed his compassion for them by working miracles for them.

We have much for which to thank God the Father, Christ and the good Jews who preached the Gospel to our ancestors. We should not think of questioning why Jesus spent his short public life trying to convert his fellow-Jews. God thought of us from all eternity — the incarnation was his way of giving a truly satisfying meaning to the life of man — the masterpiece and master of all his creation. It has given us a new status in life, a new purpose and an end worth every effort we can muster to gain. Life, with its trials and troubles and its brevity, has a meaning, a profound meaning, for Christians — it is a short period of preparation for the future which awaits us after death if we use it properly.

Christ who carried out his Father's will even unto the death on the cross, deserves our unending gratitude. Eternity will not be long enough for us to thank and praise him. If ever we are tempted to be in any way anti-semitic let us first remember those of God's Chosen People who preserved the knowledge of God and trust in his promises until the time of their fulfillment had come. Secondly, we must never forget the Apostles and disciples of Christ who devoted and gave their lives in order to bring the Christian faith to us. The best way to show appreciation of a gift is to use it fully and gratefully. Let us make full use of the divine gift of salvation by living according to its teaching all the days of our lives.

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

Collection

September 01, 2024

Envelopes	\$260.00
Loose	\$35.00
Cemetery Fund	\$305.00
Donation	\$56.27
Cemetery Fund Donation	\$100.00
Shrine Fund	\$10.00
	\$766.27

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer’s Market: Sunday September 08, will be our last market of the 2024 season (10:30 am - 1pm). What a fabulous, sunny, successful market season we have had. We are fortunate to have such a stellar group of vendors throughout the summer. Thank you! Also, a huge thank you to the members of the community who attended and those who managed the market each week. In appreciation and celebration of our final market of the year we will be offering a treat to those who attend this Sunday. JCDC

2: Mass intention: Mass intention for September 8, will be for Isabel Johnston

3: FYI: The winner of the quilt at the Milling Frolic was Mary Currie from Howie Center. We are still selling tickets on the BBQ and will be drawing at our Christmas Bingo later this fall.

4: Funeral: The funeral service for Isabel Johnston will be held on Tuesday September 24th, at 11:00 am, with lunch to follow in the hall.

5: Eucharist Minister – Part Time: We are looking for people to serve as Eucharist Minister on an as needed basis. Mostly in the summer or at funerals, anytime that the church has a crowd. Please think about this.

6: 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

7: Comfort Tea Come For Tea : Throughout our lives we experience many types of losses. We wish to promote awareness of the impact of grief on our lives. All are invited for a beverage and sweets in a supportive setting. You may wish to bring along a friend, memento, photo, or experience to share. You may have words of support to offer or sit quietly in the company of those who understand.

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024 1:30 - 4:00 pm
Isle Madame New Horizons Senior Citizens Club, 2373 Route 206, Arichat, N.S.

Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society celebrating our 30 th anniversary and Grief Gatherings 2024 srpalliativecaresociety.com griefmatters.ca

8: Visit of A Representative from CHALICE Betty Jane Cameron will visit our parishes to inform us about the mission of CHALICE according to the following schedule:
4:00PM Mass at SJB, River Bourgeois, on Saturday, Sept. 21.
9:30 AM Mass at SH, Johnstown, on Sunday, Sept. 22.
5:30PM Mass at SP, on Saturday, Sept 28.
11:00AM Mass at HGA, L’Ardoise, on Sunday, Sept. 29

CHALICE is a child sponsorship program begun by Nova Scotia priest, Rev. Patrick Cosgrove. The sponsored children typically face extreme poverty and need healthcare and financial support for an education to enable them to achieve their potential for the future. Public education in North America may be taken for granted but for children from impoverished families education is an unattainable luxury. CHALICE also provides healthcare, nutrition, and proper hygiene to ensure that children are healthy and strong so they may attend the educational task. Betty Jane Cameron will offer information about CHALICE while inviting sponsors for specific needy children.