



Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

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

September 22, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Wisdom* 2:12, 17-20. Against the background of Egyptian worship of animals and mockery of Jewish trust in God, the author devotes much of chapters 1 - 5 to the ineffectiveness of such mockery when God has promised immortality to those who remain faithful.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. James* 3:16, 4:3. "Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask." In this reading St. James tells us to recognize the source of our disagreements.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark* 9:30-37. The Apostles were still very worldly-minded. They were full of the hope that Christ would establish an earthly messianic kingdom, that he would not only free their holy land from the hated pagan rulers but that he would set up a worldwide empire for the people of God. Many of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament spoke of a worldwide kingdom; all nations would submit to the descendant of David; Jerusalem would be the magnet which would attract all peoples. The prophets, however, were speaking of the true messianic kingdom, the spiritual kingdom that Christ would establish. The Apostles were as yet unable to see the true meaning of these prophecies. They took them as referring to a worldly kingdom. They had come to believe that Christ was the promised Messiah, therefore, he would overcome all enemies and all opposition and set up this kingdom. How, therefore, could his enemies overpower him much less put him to death before he had accomplished his task? Thus they refused to believe his prophecies concerning his coming tortures and death.

Now, either in trying to understand what he had so plainly told them, or maybe in putting this disturbing thought far from their minds, they began disputing with one another as to which of them would have the highest post of honor in the earthly messianic kingdom which they had envisaged. How worldly but how human they were! We must not forget though, that they were not yet really Christians — they needed the death and resurrection of Christ to make them what they became — His true followers and loyal disciples.

There was in the unformed Apostles a desire to turn Christ's kingdom into an earthly welfare state, rather than into a preparation for heaven. All Christians know that Christ suffered and died for their salvation, and that he asked his followers to take up their cross and follow him if they wished to be his disciples. The first generations of Christians fully understood this and faithfully followed him even to martyrdom. However, as time went on and opposition to the Christian faith disappeared, so too did the zeal and fervor of many Christians. For centuries we have had nominal Christians in Christ's Church -- men and women who tried to make their paradise in this world, and forgot the everlasting heaven.

Many of these people who in practice have abandoned Christianity, try to salve their consciences by devoting any time they can spare to making this planet a better place in which to live. It is an excellent aim with a possibility of success — if the Fatherhood of God and the true brotherhood of man are upheld. But otherwise it is a vain Utopia. If God, and Christ's teaching are left out of our reckoning, we shall ever have jealousies, enmities, hatred and wars. Christians have made war on Christians because neither side in the struggle was truly Christian. What chance then has the world when Christ and Christianity are banished from it?

Today's thought for each one of us is this: Christ became man, suffered and died as man, for our sakes. By his resurrection He conquered death and opened heaven for us. Heaven is our true destiny. Loving God and our neighbor and carrying our cross is the only way to reach heaven. Forget this "heaven on earth" doctrine; it does not and never will exist! Accept Christ and you are accepting the Father who sent Him. He in turn will accept you.

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

Collection

September 15, 2024

Envelopes	\$785.00
Loose	\$50.00
Donation	\$100.00
	\$935.00

Notices:

1: 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.

2: 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.

3: 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.

4: Baptism: The baptism of our newest community member “Charlotte Louise” will take place on Sunday September 29th, at 9:00 am. A half-hour before the regular mass at 9:30. All are welcome

5: Parish Council: Sacred Heart Parish Council met this week, and we are looking for new members to join. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please let me know. Technically Sacred Heart Parish boundaries go from the bottom of Middle Cape Hill, in Cape Breton County, to MacNabs Cove but over the last number of years we have welcomed new parishioners from Soldiers Cove and beyond. We welcome new Parish Council members from all areas of our Parish.

6: Richmond County Programs: Registering & Payment Options Class sizes vary resulting in classes filling up prior to start date. Pre-registration is recommended
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: Chair Yoga | 55 + Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, for 10 weeks, beginning October 9
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm, Fee: \$25 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

8: Gentle Yoga 55+ Red Island Fire Hall, Red Islands Fridays, for 10 weeks, beginning October 11 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Fee: \$30 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

9: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet every Thursday from October 10 to December 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome.
Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

10: New beginner Gaelic for those with little or no Gaelic; Ages 13 to adult; Wednesday evenings, starting October 2, 6:30-9 Red Islands firehall 8 weeks, \$40 Contact Cathy Campbell for more info 902-217-2088

11: Beginner Gaelic Lessons at the Big Pond Firehall this year on Thursday evenings 6:30-9pm and the cost will be \$40 for 8 weeks. Beginning October 10th. For more information contact Cathy Campbell @ 902 217 2088.

12: Christmas Bingo. Our Christmas Bingo will take place on Sunday November 10th, at 2:00 pm at the Parish Hall. We will be drawing for the BBQ at this time. Save the date.

13: September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. October is Mi'kmaw History Month. October 5-6 is the annual collection for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. How can we journey in Truth and Reconciliation? Pray for reconciliation and healing. Read letters and documents important to the journey of reconciliation. Support the annual collection, with a parish envelope or a donation online. Visit our website: <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/>