

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053
Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

October 3, 2021

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Old Calendar: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to put her away." But Jesus said to them, "For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mk 10:2-9).

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of Genesis, 2:18-24, "So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: 'This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called *woman* for out of *her man* this one has been taken.'" This reading has been chosen to show the origin of the Church's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage.

The **Second Reading** is from the Letter to the Hebrews, 2:9-11, "He who 'for a little while' was made 'lower than the angels', that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." Today's reading talks about Jesus' exaltation through abasement.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark, 10:2-16. On the "divorce" section of this Gospel see today's first reading. Christ clearly states that from the very beginning, God's plan for marriage was that it should be a life-long unity of one man and one woman. Its

purpose is the procreation of children and their education, as well as the mutual love and fulfillment of the husband and wife. These demand this life-long bond. Divorce, which tries to break this bond, breaks the law of the Creator who decreed what was best for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the human race.

The last four verses of today's Gospel describe an incident which is in no way connected with the previous discussion but which has a very useful lesson for all Christians. It describes Christ's love for children and while manifesting this love he stresses the need for all his true followers to be childlike. "I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." To receive the kingdom of God is to accept the teaching of Christ and live according to it in his kingdom on earth. He who does this will enter, after death, into the eternal kingdom of heaven. Christ says, however, that we must accept "like a child": his kingdom on earth, his teaching and the Church he founded to carry on that teaching. It does not mean: in a childish way, an unthinking, uneducated way, but in a child-like way—a humble, grateful, receptive way. A child is unselfconscious, content to be dependent on others' care and generosity. Christianity is a gift of the generous God to us, we have done nothing and never could do anything to merit it. We must accept it simply and gratefully as a gift; we could never deserve it.

While Christianity is a religion of reason and conforms in all its aspects to the rational nature of man—its basis is the revelation of God who is the author and foundation of all rationality—yet it is the heart of man rather than his intellect which Christ means to capture. The assent of the intellect to the doctrine revealed by Christ is not sufficient of itself for a Christian to earn the eternal kingdom; faith is the total acceptance and commitment of the believer to God through Jesus Christ. The man of true faith commits himself to God with a filial childlike trust, assured that if he does all that he can God will do the rest.

Therefore, our Christian faith must be childlike, a trusting, humble and obedient faith. This is the kind of faith that will move mountains—the mountains that loom so large in the vision of too many Christians today—the mountains of doubt, selfishness, unwillingness to be subjected to authority. Christ asks us, if we would be his followers: to take up our daily cross and climb the way to Calvary after him. This daily cross is made of the troubles and trials of life from which no one can escape. They can be borne with reluctance and grumbling or they can be accepted as the loving God's means of training us for the future life. Every true Christian accepts his trials in the latter way, for if he is true to his faith he knows that his years on earth are his apprenticeship to prepare him for his eternal life.

God is surely not asking too much of us when he asks us to live our Christian faith in childlike humility, candor and confidence during the days of our pilgrimage on this earth.

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

Sacrament of Baptism

**please call the office:
Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei**

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.

Call Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia to register for upcoming courses 902-849-4772. Ask for Tasia Boucher, tboucher@fsens.ns.ca

Change in Weekday Masses

The following announced changes begin this week, Tuesday, October 5. As previously stated, “No Mass is ever the same experience.” This is due to the fact that the readings shed new light on the Christian mystery and because we are different as we journey through life’s ups and downs we need to feel the Lord’s active presence. The Fifth Luminous Mystery of the Holy Rosary reflects upon the Last Supper and we pray there that we might participate in true worship of God. Holy Mass is a privilege of our faith and a vital opportunity to grow in love of Jesus who renews his sacrificial gift of self to us and those who are present may offer themselves in love to him. Funeral prayers draw our attention to the fact that the Eucharist provides us with food for the journey but God may only feed us if we come to the table. Blessed Carlo Acutis put this fact clearly when he said that the Eucharist is the highway to heaven.

Tuesdays – SJB 4:00PM

Wednesday – SP 9:00AM

Thursday – Villa 10:30AM

Friday – HGA 11:00AM

- Note that on Friday, October 8 at 10:00AM the funeral for Marcel and Emerise Gagnon will be celebrated at HGA.
- Note also that the Villa Mass for Thursday, October 14 is changed to Tuesday, Oct. 12 and the Villa Mass for Thursday, October 21 is changed to Tuesday, Oct. 19.

Weekday Liturgy

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

SP 9:00 AM

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Richmond Villa 10:30 AM

(Not open to the public)

Friday, October 8, 2021

HGA +Mass of the Resurrection

Emerise & Marcel Gagnon 10:00 AM

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, October 9, 2021

SH Mass 4:00 PM

HGA Mass 5:30 PM

+George & David Sampson

Requested by Eva Sampson

Sunday, October 10, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

SP 10:30 AM

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office, not with Fr. Yake.

On this tenth anniversary of the Diaconate in the Diocese of Antigonish deacons will be preaching in parishes throughout the months of September and October. Rev. Mr. Berkley Guthro will be preaching in all Fr. Yake's parishes on the weekend of October 16-17.

September 26, 2021 receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes & Loose \$761.00

Candles 32.85

Total \$ 793.85

St. Peter's

Envelopes & Loose \$ 920.00

Candles 6.00

Cemetery Road Upgrade 25.00

Needs of Can. Churches 220.00

Total \$ 1,171.00

Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose \$ 595.00

Cemetery 470.00

Needs of Can. Church 115.00

Total \$ 1,180.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

To view updated information for East Richmond Catholic Parishes please use eastrichmondcatholicparishes.com rather than searching for St. Peter's Parish.

Harvest Festival L'Ardoise Community Center October 23 4:30 pm. Variety of soups, roll/biscuits & desserts \$10.00 per person. **NO ADVANCE** tickets will be sold. First come first serve basis, with a limited amount of seating available. All COVID protocols at this time will be in effect.

- **Giant Yard Sale:** After 2 years of Pandemic Shut Downs the Knights of Columbus will once again sponsor a Giant Yard Sale on the Thanksgiving weekend (October 9/21) from 9:00AM to 4:00PM, weather permitting (rain date October 11/21). Anyone who can help set up and clean up tables are asked to assemble before and after the event. Donations of gently used items would be much appreciated and can be delivered to the St. Peter's Glebe Basement the day before the sale or any member of the K of C. All proceeds will be used for local charities
- **Pro-Life March:** The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Pro-Life March on Sunday October 11/21, at 2:30PM from the St. Peter's Catholic Church to Denys Street and return. Members of all faiths concerned with the value of Human Life are invited to join in and increase awareness of this needless loss of life.
- **Life Chain:** The **campaign for Life Coalition** will sponsor a "LIFE CHAIN" on Sunday October 3rd 2021 at the Day Park, Port Hood (8657 Trunk 19). Please join in and support this last Life Chain on Cape Breton Island.

Knights of Columbus officers meeting Friday October 8th at 9:30 am in the basement of the glebe house. See you there

Parishioners wanting to host family funeral receptions –

Food caterers in the St. Peter's area are listed below, **please notice this corrected list:**

- Louie's Cosy Corner Restaurant, 9985 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, 902-535-3195
- Foodland Supermarket, 10004 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, 902-535-2277
- Tim Hortons, 9966 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, 902-535-3773
- Robins Donuts, 10041 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, 902-623-0259
- Bras D'Or Lakes Inn, 10095 Grenville St., St. Peter's, 902-535-2200

Sundays with Fr Patrick and John Ratchford

7 pm on Facebook Live

Featuring conversations about church teachings and issues

Join live or watch later on Fr Patrick's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill>

Mass For Shut-Ins

59th Season Begins Oct. 17

Mass on Oct. 17 will air on CTV at **9:30 am for that week only.**

The regular schedule of Sundays at 11:30 am will resume Oct. 24.

Clergy, groups, and music ministers interested in recording episodes are invited to book their time by contacting Nick Vince, Mass for Shut-Ins Coordinator, at 902-

539-6188 or toll-free 1-800-656-5311 ext 222, or email nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca
Questions? Contact Fr. Patrick O'Neill, producer, Mass for Shut-Ins, at (902) 562-9810

Celebrate the Season of Creation! Martha Justice Ministry invites you to join us at St. Theresa's Garden, Bethany, on October 3, 2-3 pm, to for a prayerful celebration as we mark the Feast of St. Francis and the Season of Creation. We will celebrate our understanding of home and radical hospitality in care for creation. To RSVP, contact Darlene at justice@themarthas.com or 902-863-3218 (in raining, we'll be at the Bethany Resource Centre Gathering Room – Covid-19 restrictions will be in place).

From Bishop Kirkpatrick

September 24, 2021

My Dear People,

The Bishops of Canada are profoundly saddened by the Residential Schools legacy. This subject has been central to our annual plenary, which took place this week. We know that no single measure will alleviate the historical and ongoing trauma caused by the residential school system and the legacy of suffering that persists to this day. We also understand the power of contrition and hope that a collective apology from the Bishops of Canada will help to advance the trusted collaboration between Indigenous leaders and the Bishops of Canada.

To that end, I solemnly submit the attached apology on behalf of the Bishops of Canada. As an assembly, we are fully committed to listening, learning, and taking meaningful measures that can advance the healing journey.

Fraternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

Statement of Apology by the Catholic Bishops of Canada to the Indigenous Peoples of This Land

The Catholic Bishops of Canada, gathered in Plenary this week, took the opportunity to affirm and acknowledge to the Indigenous Peoples the suffering experienced in Canada's Indian Residential Schools. Many Catholic religious communities and dioceses participated in this system, which led to the suppression of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality, failing to respect the rich history, traditions and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples. They acknowledged the grave abuses that were committed by some members of our Catholic community; physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and sexual. They also sorrowfully acknowledged the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples that continue to this day. Along with those Catholic entities which were directly involved in the operation of the schools and which have already offered their own heartfelt apologies, the Catholic Bishops of Canada expressed their profound remorse and apologized unequivocally. Together with the many pastoral initiatives already underway in dioceses across the country, the Bishops pledged to undertake fundraising in each region of the country to support initiatives discerned locally with Indigenous partners. Furthermore, they invited the Indigenous Peoples to journey with us into a new era of reconciliation, helping us to prioritize initiatives of healing, to listen to the experience of Indigenous Peoples, especially to the

survivors of Indian Residential Schools, and to educate our clergy, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful, on Indigenous cultures and spirituality. They further committed to continue the work of providing documentation or records that will assist in the memorialization of those buried in unmarked graves. A delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders/knowledge keepers, and youth will meet with the Holy Father in December 2021. Pope Francis will encounter and listen to the Indigenous Peoples, so as to discern how he can support our common desire to renew relationships and walk together along the path of hope in the coming years. The Bishops of Canada have pledged to work with the Holy See and our Indigenous partners on the possibility of a pastoral visit by the Pope to Canada as part of this healing journey. We are committed to continue the journey with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of this land. For more information, please contact the diocese or visit www.cccb.ca.

Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30 will become an annual federal statutory holiday to help educate us by focusing our awareness throughout our country. Each province will determine how they will honour this day. Our diocesan and parish offices will be closed as a day of reflection for our staff. I invite you to engage in this day of reflection as well, and offer this new web page as a place to start. I also invite your comments and suggestions about this page and our journey. As a diocese, we must determine what we can do to promote “Truth and Reconciliation” not only on one day, but throughout the year.

Now on the diocesan website:

Truth and Reconciliation page, with suggested activities, links, and resources: first steps in an evolving diocesan plan to engage and support individual and collective healing.

You are invited to visit, explore, and connect:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/>



Antigonish Diocesan Society • La Société Diocésaine d'Antigonish

Under the Patronage of His Excellency the Bishop of Antigonish • Sous les auspices de son Excellence l'Évêque d'Antigonish

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Tuesday September 28th 2021

Dear Parish Priests of the Diocese of Antigonish

Would you be so kind as to instruct your parish staff to include the following very important notice in your parish bulletin for the next **FOUR WEEKENDS**. We would like to see a good turnout of your parishioners at this Annual General Meeting of the Antigonish Diocesan Society & so we very much appreciate your help in publicizing this important event.

ANTIGONISH DIOCESAN SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Antigonish Diocesan Society will take place in St. Joseph's Parish Hall, located in the basement of St. Joseph's Parish Church in Port Hawkesbury on Sunday October 24th 2021 at 2.30pm. The Antigonish Diocesan Society was formed in 1942 with the help of the Knights of Columbus of the various Councils within the Diocese to provide financial assistance to young men wishing to study for the Priesthood. Since that time, the Society has helped hundreds of young men, by providing thousands of dollars for their Educational Priestly Training. At the present time, the Diocese of Antigonish have two seminarians. David Rankin, a native of Mabou Inverness County is completing his Pastoral Year at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Glasgow, where Fr. Tom MacNeil is the Pastor. The second seminarian is Joe MacMaster, a native of Troy Inverness County, who has begun his first year of studies in St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. Please keep David & Joe in your prayers, as you continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life.

The Annual Campaign for funding for the Antigonish Diocesan Society is an ongoing annual event & many Parishes now include an envelope for the Society in their regular box of church envelopes. If your Parish does not have an envelope for the Antigonish Diocesan Society, would you consider placing one within your box of Parish Envelopes for next year. In recent years, contributions to this Annual Campaign are down & yet costs to educate these seminarians continue to rise each year. We need your Parishioners' prayers for more vocations & their financial support for those already enrolled as Seminarians.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in publicizing this notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Yours Sincerely

Donald M. MacLellan (Secretary)

Oct. 7, 6:30 pm

Caregiver Information Event

St. Joseph, Port Hawkesbury

Are you or someone you know responsible for the care of a loved one?

Are you feeling supported in your journey?

Are you aware of the resources that are available in the community?

St. Joseph Parish, Port Hawkesbury, with funding in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, has invited Maggie Roach-Ganaway of Caregivers NS to speak.

Please register by calling 902-625-1045 during office hours.

COVID protocols will be in place.

Oct. 10

Pope Francis to inaugurate the 26th Synod

The theme is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”

From Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick:

"There are three phases for this synod, the diocesan, national and international. All dioceses throughout the world are invited to open the diocesan phase of the Synod on Sunday, October 17. This means we will offer a special Mass and hopefully commission the volunteers we need."

For the Synod process and resources:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/synod2021/>

From the Catholic Register

Understanding ‘synodality’

BY [MICHAEL SWAN, THE CATHOLIC REGISTER](#)

• September 17, 2021

Church governance is not about command and control. It’s about who we are and who we aspire to be as a Christian community, as the body of Christ. Since 2013, Pope Francis has been teaching this lesson in all that he does and says. Lately he’s been saying synodality just about every time he opens his mouth.

He knows it’s a risk, but even in 2013 in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), it was a risk he was willing to take.

“The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction,” he wrote.

If synodality does not trip lightly off the tongue of modern English speakers, perhaps we have been living too far removed from the life of the Church. In its official handbook for the two-year process of the 2023 Synod on Synodality, which begins on Oct. 17, the Holy See offers Catholics a catechism lesson on the true nature of the Church.

“Synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church,” reads the Sept. 7 *Vademecum* (Latin for handbook or guide). “Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church’s ordinary way of living and working.”

It’s clear that Vatican officials are not talking about the usual synod of bishops — gatherings in Rome that fly under the radar and over the heads of many Catholics. But Canadian theologian Adam DeVille doesn’t think we quite get it, especially in the modern Church of North America.

“I get clergy and bishops saying, what is this thing? What does it mean?” DeVille, director of humanities and professor of theology and psychology at the University of St. Francis in Ft. Wayne, Ind., told *The Catholic Register*.

Synods have been held in the Church since the middle of the second century — that is, from about the year 150. The two-part Greek word: *συν* (meaning “with”) and *ὁδός* (meaning “path”) was a natural for a growing movement of the Mediterranean world that was known as “The Way.” This combination of togetherness and moving forward is an “integral part of her (the Church’s) very nature,” reads the Vatican handbook.

The General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops defines the purpose of the next two years of consultation, dialogue and discernment with a fundamental question: “How does this journeying together take place today on different levels (from the local to the universal one) allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? And what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?”

The answer to this two-part question won’t be found in any mere majority, but rather “by listening to one another, and especially to those at the margins,” the Vatican office for synods declared.

Canadian bishops have appointed five participants who will attend the synod’s opening celebrations — CCCB President and Archbishop of Winnipeg Richard Gagnon, Saint-Jerome and Mont-Laurier bishop and CCCB president-elect Raymond Poisson, Archdiocese of Vancouver chancellor Barbara Dowding, CCCB theology and social doctrine advisor Patrick Fletcher and Sr. Chantal Desmarais of the Sisters of Charity of Sainte-Marie.

Now that they’ve got their basic instructions from the Vatican, Canada’s bishops are ready for open dialogue and wide consultation, the CCCB Communications Service told *The Catholic Register*.

“The upcoming synod is very important in the life of the universal Church and during this initial phase, all people of God — laity, religious, clergy — will be called to engage and dialogue on the synodal journey,” CCCB spokesperson Lisa Gall wrote in an e-mail.

After an initial phase of consultation in dioceses, the CCCB will be ganged with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the continental phase of the synod. Canadian dioceses have varying degrees of experience with synodal processes. As the Archdiocese of Halifax merged with the Diocese of Yarmouth, Archbishop Anthony Mancini led Nova Scotians through a two-year, synod-like consultation that ended in a far-reaching reorganization of parishes. The Archdiocese of Vancouver finished up a synod in 2006. Between 2016 and 2018 the Archdiocese of Winnipeg ran a synod under the title of “Established, Anointed, and Sent in Christ.” In 1998 the Archdiocese of Montreal courted headlines when 600 delegates voted 56.4 per cent in favour of ordaining women to the priesthood and 73.3 per cent in favour of ordaining women deacons.

DeVille points out that synodality may not be a comfortable fit for many in the Church hierarchy.

“Synodality means people in the Church have much greater decision-making power at all levels,” DeVille said. “That’s the starting premise I would go with.”

For DeVille, a more synodal Church would have to mean that parish councils aren’t merely mandatory, and they are far more than advisory. They could have a say in hiring and firing pastors and all parish personnel. They would set budgets.

Diocesan synods should meet annually with the bishop, not just to hear from the bishop but to have a meaningful say on diocesan budgets and priorities, said DeVille. When the bishop retires or dies, the synod would have the power to elect his successor.

If this sounds outlandish to modern Catholic ears, they should know that centralized, Vatican control over appointing bishops dates only from after the First Vatican Council in 1870. Through most of Church history, bishops were locally elected only to be later confirmed by the Pope.

Synods and synodality have long been the rule of the Church. The Council of Trent (1545–1563) mandated diocesan synods every year and provincial or metropolitan synods every three years. That was winnowed down to diocesan synods once every 10 years in the 1917 Code of Canon Law. By the time we get to the 1983 code, Canon 461 makes synods entirely dependent on the wishes of bishops and priests.

“The current system is a distortion — which I regard as a monopoly, whereby all significant decision-making power is in the hands of ordained clerics,” DeVille said, adding that the old, highly centralized way of doing things cannot survive the challenges the Church now faces.

“Well enough alone right now doesn’t exist. We’re in a situation of disaster in a lot of places and I think it’s going to get worse,” he said. “Well enough alone means continued decline as far as I can see. Well enough alone is a recipe for further stagnation and decline and disappearance of the Church in a lot of places.”

The abuse crisis, reconciliation with Indigenous people, widespread rejection of Church teaching on sexual ethics, an almost complete divorce between the Church and urban, educated women, ground lost to Evangelical and Pentacostal movements and internal Catholic and the polarization of Catholic culture wars has left Catholics without a voice in the public sphere, said DeVille.

“I don’t think bishops, especially, have realized just how completely shattered any authority they once had now is,” he said.

The Vatican clearly isn’t interested in making this synod an exercise in producing a teaching document.

“The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents,” said the *Vademecum*.

“Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.”