

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

Sept. 5, 2021

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they besought him to lay his hand upon him. And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, "Eph'phatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly (Mark 7:32-35).

Sunday Readings

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.

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

Weekday Liturgy

Monday, September 6, 2021

SJB 11:00 AM

Mass of the Resurrection

+Frederick Joseph Richard

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Richmond Villa Mass 10:30 AM

Not open to the public.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

HGA Mass 11:00 AM

Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, September 9, 2021

SJB Mass 4:00 PM

Friday, September 10, 2021

SP Mass 9:00 AM

SP 2:00 PM

Mass of the Resurrection

+ Evelina Mancini

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, September 11, 2021

SP 11:00 AM

Memorial Mass and Burial

+ Anna Mae Stone

SH Mass 4:00 PM

HGA Mass 5:30 PM

+ Albany Sampson & deceased family members

Sunday, September 12, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Peter Bourque

SP 10:30 AM

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

(August 29, 2021 receipts)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes \$932.00

Candles 29.50

Total \$ 961.50

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,161.00

Cemetery Offering 40.00

Parish Dues 20.00

Total \$1,221.00

Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose \$ 910.00

Roof Fund 2,650.00

Cemetery 710.00

Property Maintenance 65.00

Total \$ 4,335.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. Peter's Parish Council Meeting

Monday, Sept. 6, 2021 at 7:00PM.

A general meeting of the Richmond Branch of the RTO will be held at Louis Cosy Corner Restaurant on September 14th at 9:30am. Covid 19 protocol is in effect.

Good Morning,

Phyllis Cote, President

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>

On Sunday, September 12th the Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine annual celebration takes place.

At 1:00 pm the Continuous Rosary starts at the Shrine and continues until Mass time 4:00 pm at St. Mary's Parish Church in Mabou.

There will be refreshments at the Parish Hall after Mass with current COVID protocols in place.

Everyone is welcome!

Call 902-945-2221 for any inquiries

Betty Ann

In the Diocese

Restoration Project Update:

St. Ninian Cathedral

The cathedral walls contain a unique and prized collection of murals painted by Ozias Leduc in 1902. Since 2012, anonymous donations have funded restoration of seven saints in the nave, and the two angels over the sanctuary's arches. This summer, Michelle Gallinger and her team are working on four more saints: Saint James the Lesser, Saint Simon, Saint Thaddeus, and Saint Thomas. Removing layers of paint, plaster and time are a painstaking and expensive task, but the reward is a priceless collection of sacred art and a piece of our history in a condition and space we can all enjoy.

To learn more and support the restoration:

<https://saintninian.ca/restoration-project>

September 20

is Federal Election Day

Catholic Conscience is a new online resource with information on both provincial and federal election processes and how to select the candidate for your vote. From the website:

"Catholics are called to participate, in accordance with the full measure of talents entrusted to them by God. At a minimum, this means voting wisely after having considered all relevant issues, the positions of each of the candidates and parties, and relevant Church teachings."

Read more on the website:

<https://catholicconscience.org/>

Encountering St. Hildegard of Bingen

Earlier this year, Pope Francis added the Feast of St. Hildegard of Bingen, Sept. 17, as an Optional Memorial in the General Roman Calendar. Learning more about St. Hildegard and her life from several centuries ago offers an interesting connection to life today. By Karol Brown Summer Communications Assistant Identified as a

mystical visionary from the age of three, St. Hildegard of Bingen experienced the world and God's grace with potent spiritual awareness. Her visions provided incredible insights into the balances of creation, life, divinity, and healing. "I do not hear them with my outward ears, nor do I perceive them by the thoughts of my own heart or by any combination of my five senses, but in my soul alone." This young girl had a great gift. Despite her weak health and meek appearance she was chosen by God to be a vessel of vivid depth and wisdom. As people of the church today, our vocations are just as important. By trusting our individuality and personal talents, we can discover God in the things we love doing by using them as an outlet for prayer and as assets in God's plan. Just as Hildegard did, we can step away from our earthly senses to experience God with our souls alone. She tuned to the wisdom of The Holy Spirit, and expressed her visions through her writings and art. Hildegard was a poet, painter, healer and composer. She knew music to be the language of heaven and believed any expression of human creativity to be the highest form of intuitive prayer. In my personal experience as a songwriter, the most powerful music is never intentional, rather inspired by the peaceful surrender of thought and imagination. I find it helps to touch the pulse in my wrist, to ground myself in the presence of my own life, and remember that where there is life, the spirit will also be. This allows me to trust my music is authentic to my own mind and influenced by my experience with God. Hildegard struggled to explain her visions in earthly terms "I call it 'the reflection of the living Light.' And as the sun, the moon, and the stars appear in water, so writings, sermons, virtues, and certain human actions take form for me and gleam." Her works were a reflection of God's infinite wisdom as well as a guide to faith and healing in the natural and spiritual worlds. Let us never forget the importance of staying connected to God's grace, in whatever form it may take. We can be sure that in our souls, there is always a home for The Spirit. St. Hildegard - Pray for Us!

Sept. 1-Oct. 4 is the Season of Creation

This year's theme: A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God From the Season of Creation Advisory Committee: "In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth. The word "dome" is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' — in other words, God puts us all in — all people, all life — under the same domed roof — we are all in the house, the oikos of God... God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this oikos of God. The oikos is a home for all but it is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation... Today only scraps of the human consciousness recognize God acting to restore and heal the Earth. We have forgotten that we live in the household of God, the oikos, the Beloved Community... It is our hope and prayer that we can become again this beloved community of intentional discipleship." For more reading and resources: <https://seasonofcreation.org/> Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si challenges us to engage in environmental education and action inspired by a Christian spirituality of Creation. Two free online courses are available in English and French: one on the encyclical Laudato Si, and Greening Your Church: 10 proven steps to inspire your faith toward sustainability. Creator and instructor is Norman Lévesque, Diocesan Officer for Creation Care Ministry, Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil (near Montreal). To learn more: <https://creationcare.teachable.com/>

From David Kilby and the entire CitizenGO Team

I would really appreciate having Canada's help in fighting against an absolutely insane idea that's being considered by the American Medical Association:

The American Medical Association is out of its mind. **They want to remove sex from birth certificates because they believe it indicates sex on such an official document could lead to discrimination.**

To them, sex isn't that important anyway.

The LGBTQ Advisory Committee of The American Medical Association is trying to remove the male or female designation from birth certificates. We need your help to fight this extreme resolution being pushed by the LGBTQ community.

We expect the AMA to make a decision on the resolution within the next few weeks, so it's important for you to sign the petition now:

[Tell the AMA that a child's sex is too important to be excluded from his or her birth certificate.](#)

We need to stop them from making such a vital part of a child's identity seem like a matter of personal choice.

In the resolution to remove sex from birth certificates, it states, "Gender is a social construct that describes the way persons self-identify or express themselves." Existing AMA policy further states, "the AMA supports every individual's right to determine their gender identity and sex designation on government documents and other forms of government identification."

The AMA suggests keeping sex on the Standard Certificate of Live Birth and claims that the indication of sex on that document is enough for medical and statistical purposes. This illogical statement fails to consider how important a birth certificate is to a person's identity. A human person deserves to have their sex recognized for more than just medical and statistical purposes.

The AMA claims that including sex markers on birth certificates "perpetuates a view that [sex] is immutable." That's because it is immutable. We need you to be active in our fight against the pressure of the LGTBQ lobby. Please sign our petition now:

[Add your name: Demand that the AMA keep a child's sex on his or her birth certificate.](#)

The AMA is using fake science in an attempt to change indisputable biological facts on the birth certificates of innocent babies. The baby has no choice in this matter.

In the rare cases where a newborn has ambiguous genitalia, one can argue that the child's sex should be indicated as neither male nor female, but to make a sweeping generalization for all newborns by excluding sex on all birth certificates makes no sense. The LGBTQ Advisory Committee of the AMA wants to make these exceptions seem like the norm. For the vast majority of newborns, the sex is conspicuous and it is therefore an integral part of who they are.

The AMA wants to give the child the opportunity to "choose their gender" when they are older and more aware of themselves, but in the process the AMA

is taking from them a sense of identity during the most formative years of their lives.

[Sign the petition and tell the AMA that a birth certificate should indicate whether a child is male or female when the anatomy of the child makes its sex evident.](#)

The UN Agenda has changed

Over the last two decades UN agencies have shifted from addressing crucial needs like food, health, water, and sanitation, to a broader Western social engineering agenda that includes abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, and LGBT rights. These controversial social issues are promoted in UN agency programs in development and humanitarian assistance. This overreach threatens the institutional integrity of UN agencies and the UN system more widely. It creates mistrust among Member States and violates national sovereignty.