

**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, Sacred Heart and  
St. John the Baptist Parishes**

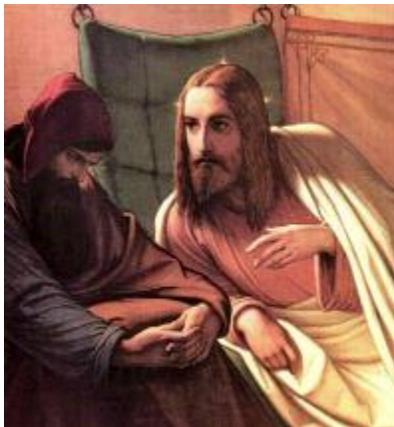
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**March 14, 2021**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei**



This Sunday is called "Laetare Sunday" in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite since its mood and theme is one of hope and rejoicing that Easter is near. In the Ordinary Form this Sunday is not different from the other Sundays of Lent even though the entrance antiphon for the day still begins with the Latin word "laetare" and the vestments worn by the celebrant are rose-colored, not violet. The day is important because it is the day of the second scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

[Click here for commentary on the readings in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.](#)

[Stational Church](#)

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**Sunday Readings**

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Chronicles 2 Chron:36:14-16, 19-23. It refers to the edict of Cyrus, the king of Persia, permitting the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, which had been burned by the Chaldeans as a punishment from God for the infidelities of the Chosen People.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10. In today's extract St. Paul is emphasizing the gratuitousness of the gift of faith which the Ephesian converts have received. This gift which God gave them, *even when they were sinners*, had united them to Christ, and has given them the right to share in His glorious resurrection and inherit heaven with Him and through Him.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 3:14-21. This man Nicodemus had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God,



that he had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word, "believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, are not many of us often like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to our following of Christ? There are Catholic men who would like to, and should, go much more often to Holy Communion but are afraid of what their fellow-parishioners, who receive but rarely, would think of them. There are many, far too many, Christians who will not defend or stand up for their religion when it is insulted and attacked in their place of work or in a saloon. There are Christians who stand idly by, and give at least tacit approval, when grave injustices are being carried out by individuals or by local or national groups. These and many more like them are Christian types of Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval, the worthless esteem, of their sinful associates, are prepared to forfeit the esteem of God and their own eternal welfare.

Nicodemus probably thought he had made reparation for his lack of openness to Jesus when he assisted at his burial. What value, however, had that work of mercy for one of his frame of mind? There are amongst us today, humanists, most of them ex-Christians, men and women who make assisting their neighbor, while excluding Christ and God, the essence of religion. While the assistance the neighbor receives will benefit him materially, what spiritual or religious value can it have for the humanist who excluded God and our Savior Jesus Christ? Humanism or concentrating on our neighbor to the exclusion of God, is an imitation of religion and a very false imitation at that. Helping our neighbor because he is a son of God is part of our true religion, and the second of the two great commandments of love; but helping a neighbor from whom we have effaced the image of God has not and cannot have any religious value or significance whatever. It is as meaningless as lighting a candle before the photograph of a wife one has deliberately deserted.

Thank God, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole mind. It is through him that we have been made sons of God. It is through him that we have learned to love God and learned of God's infinite love for us. Because all men are

God's sons also, and our brothers in Christ, we will gladly help them whenever and wherever we can because God has commanded us to do so. This is true humanism which sees in the neighbor the workmanship of the almighty Creator, and what is more important still, the elevating effects of the divine Savior, as well.

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

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**Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday), Station with *Santa Croce in Gerusalemme* (Holy Cross In Jerusalem):**

This church is one of the seven pilgrim churches in Rome. St. Helen, mother of the emperor Constantine, had a church built in Rome to house the relics of the Passion of Our Lord which she had obtained during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. St. Helen discovered the true Cross of Our Savior with its title and the instruments of His death such as the nails and the crown of thorns. She had the top layer from Mount Calvary removed and placed in barges that carried this material to Rome. She then had the builders use this soil as the ground on which she had the basilica built for the sacred relics. The true Cross and other holy items have been kept in this basilica since its consecration in the fourth century and can be visited to this day. Because of the great relic enshrined there, the basilica is called the Holy Cross and because it is built on the soil from Mount Calvary it is said to be in Jerusalem.



**Sacrament of Baptism**

**please call:**

**Rev. John Yake, I.V.Dei**

**902-535-2231**

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 previous to the scheduled marriage date.

**Pre-Marriage Program**

**May 29, 2021**

Offered by Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia, Glace Bay.

Register by phone: 902-849-4772

For more information, contact:

Tasia Boucher

EAP/Pre-Marriage Program Coordinator & Admin Support

[tboucher@fsens.ns.ca](mailto:tboucher@fsens.ns.ca)

Website: <http://ensfamilyservice.ca/>

**WEEKDAY LITURGY**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

Funeral for † Mary Ann Marshall

SP 11:00 AM

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

HGA Way of the Cross 10:30 AM  
Mass 11:00 AM

SJB Way of the Cross 4:00 PM  
(in church)  
Mass 4:30 PM

**Friday, March 19,, 2021**

SP 9:00 AM

**WEEKEND LITURGIES**

**Saturday March 20, 2021**

SH 4:00 PM  
HGA 5:30 PM  
† James & Elizabeth Martell  
Deceased members of Peters (Diane)  
& Logan family members  
Requested by Martell & Peters families

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

SJB 9:00 AM  
†Martha Goyetche  
(requested by Henrietta & Arthur Doary)  
SP 10:30 AM

**March 7, 2021 receipts**

**Correction for February 28, 2021 receipts:** Should have read \$750. for cemetery fund and not \$50. for cemetery road upgrade.

**St. Peter's**

Envelopes & Loose	\$1,180.00
Candles	\$ 14.00
Altar Society	\$ 30.00

**Total** **\$ 1,224.00**

**Holy Guardian Angels**

Envelopes & Loose	\$559.80
Candles	\$ 34.00
Share Lent	\$ 124.00

**Total** **\$ 717.80**

**St. John the Baptist**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 940.00
Cemetery	\$ 50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 990.00</u></b>

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**, March 28 Regular Sunday Schedule  
Palm branches could be distributed by someone with gloves, in this way no one is directly touching the branches as they are distributed.

**Chrism Mass** – St. Ninian’s Cathedral, Monday, March 29 3:00pm  
Due to COVID, 100 priests only and no socials.

**Chrism Mass** – In order to accommodate a large number of clergy socially distanced, the Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral. Given the present situation, no other gatherings are planned for that day apart from celebrating the Mass.

**Thursday of the Lord’s Supper (Holy Thursday)** April 1

4:00pm HGA  
5:30pm SP  
7:00pm SJB

There will be no foot-washing.

**Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)** April 2 3:00 PM Service

(Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday Service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.)  
Since there can be no contact with the Cross, the Veneration of the Cross will be by a simple but reverent bow. Genuflecting remains a possibility, as long as people do not need to touch anything that would then need to be sanitized.

**Schedule TBA**

**The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)**

There remains some doubt about the Rite of Sprinkling throughout the Church on Easter Sunday. The concern is for those cleaning and sanitizing the church.

**At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night:** Saturday, April 3

6:30pm SH

**The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday):** April 4

8:30 am SJB  
10:00 am SP & Chapel Island

11:30 HGA

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **From Ann Cooke: St John the Baptist Parish**

This week **Development and Peace** is focusing on the theme of “Community development work”. D&P helps fund local grassroots organizations and social movements that have demonstrated the ability to address the needs of their community. We do not dictate what they should do, or how they should do it, but provide the financial means for them to carry out their work. In this way, D&P respects the rights and dignity of the people involved and allows for local participation and decision making, following the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. To learn more visit: [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)

**SJB:** Way of the Cross during lent will be **prayed at 4:00 PM** followed by Mass at 4:30 P M **in the church.**

**HGA:** We have a limited number of leftover Evema prayer cards from Chalice. “I prayed for you today” cards are suitable as Get Well, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, or Easter cards. If you would like to have some (they come in bundles of three), please contact Maureen at 902-587-2517. There is no cost for the cards but if you wish, you may make a donation to Chalice at 101 - 26 Union Street, Bedford, N.S. B4A 2B5

**Missionary Families of Christ** (MFC) is an international Catholic lay organization whose mission is the re-evangelization of the Church that St. John Paul has emphasized. MFC typically sends teams to parishes but with COVID they continue their mission virtually. They are offering us a workshop for next **Saturday, March 20 to begin at 9:00am.** More information will be forthcoming next week and the link to the Zoom Meeting will be sent to you *via* e-mail.

**Please note:** When requesting Masses please state at which parish Mass is to be said , who is requesting Mass, and whether or not you want Mass intention published in bulletin and announced at Mass. Thank you.

**The next St. Peter’s Parish Council meeting** will be on **Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM** in the glebe basement. We welcome our two new parish council members, Bernie Landry and Pierre Lacroix to council.

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## In the Diocese: From Seven Ears of Grain

### **Corporal Works of Mercy:**

#### **New Blog Series and Resource for Home and Family**

Starting Ash Wednesday and each Sunday of Lent, a new reflection on each Corporal Work of Mercy will be posted to our website. Posts will include videos from the youth of our diocese on living the Corporal Works of Mercy. The Resource for Home and Family, developed by the Atlantic Liturgical Commission is available for download, and features contributions from throughout Atlantic Canada.

#### **Join the journey:**

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/corporal-works-of-mercy/>

### **Deacon Hyland Fraser**

#### **"modelled a life of service, charity and justice"**

Deacon Hyland was born in Heatherton, NS and moved to Alberta in 2006, where he was ordained a deacon in 2014 and served until his death on Feb. 5. This story and tribute speaks of his leadership, guidance and passion for service:

<https://grandinmedia.ca/hessel-deacon-hyland-fraser-modelled-a-life-of-service-charity-and-justice/>

### **NET Do Something Amazing Retreat**

is a virtual retreat day filled with fun, prayer, information on NET, and next steps for discernment and deepening your faith. It's a taste of what a year with NET Canada would look like!

Open to Catholic young adults in Grade 12 up to age 30

#### **Retreat dates:**

Saturday, February 27th, 12:00pm to 6pm AST

Saturday, March 20th, 12:00pm to 6pm AST

#### **To attend, submit an application through this link:**

[netcanada.ca/apply](https://netcanada.ca/apply)

#### **Questions or want to speak with a recruiter?**

Call or text 613-292-9991 or email [recruit@netcanada.ca](mailto:recruit@netcanada.ca)

### **Centering Prayer Workshop**

**Mar. 15, 10 am - 4 pm**

#### **Bethany Resource Centre, Antigonish**

Offered by the Martha Ministry of Spirituality, for those who may wish to learn about Centering Prayer or deepen in the practice.

Cost: \$20/day, please bring your own lunch

**Registration:** Call Sr. Claire MacNeil at 902-863-4726 or 902-863-4822. The registration is on first come, first serve basis. We will be observing Covid-19 health protocols. Current participant limit: 10.

#### **One Retreat Date Left:**

**Saturday, March 20th, 12:00pm to 6pm AST**

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### Facebook Sundays at 7 pm

#### **Live with Fr Patrick O'Neill and John Ratchford**

Fr. Patrick and John will host a 30-minute presentation of spirituality, talks and taking questions from viewers. Fr. Patrick is pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney River, as well as producer of Mass for Shut-Ins and chaplain for the Canadian Armed Forces and CBRM police. John Ratchford is a renowned photographer from North Sydney who has shared his personal experiences of faith and mental illness as part of our Youth Ministry Let's Talk events in 2020 and 2021.

**To view the livestream:**

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

### Northside Victoria Deanery Mission

Friday, March 19, 2021 from 7 to 8 pm live on Saint Joseph Parish North Sydney facebook page. Pope Francis declared this year the year of St. Joseph for the universal church. For the Solemnity of the St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph Parish in North Sydney will host a Northside Victoria Deanery Holy Hour live on facebook. Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick is our homilist for the Deanery Lenten Mission. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated by priests and deacons of the diocese.

7 pm - O Salutaris Hostia with Exposition 7:05 - Scripture readings

7:15 - Mission talk, Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick, Diocese of Antigonish.

7:40 - Silent Adoration

7:50 - Tantum Ergo, Benediction, Divine Praises, Reposition to Holy God We Praise thy Name. 8 pm - Litany of St. Joseph.

We are inviting parishioners in all parishes in the deanery to pray with us and your bishop on line on Friday, March 19th at 7 pm from your home. Given the pandemic we advise people to watch and pray from home, but a maximum of 100 people are permitted in the church on a first come basis.

Please consider saying the Novena to St Joseph using the Litany in the bulletin nine straight days before March 19th, starting Wednesday March 10th.