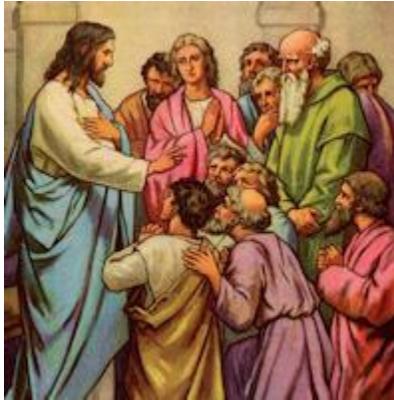


St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053
Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter



Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." (Luke 24:35-39)

Sunday Readings

The **first reading**, taken from the Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19, relates the story of Peter and John's meeting with a man crippled from birth who asked them for alms. Peter said he had neither gold nor silver, but he would give him something better and proceeded to heal him.

The **second reading** is from the first Letter of John 2:1-5. In this extract the Apostle is urging his fellow-Christians to avoid sin. If they should sin, they are to admit their fault and seek pardon, which will be given in abundance. He has in mind the Gnostic heretics of the time who did not keep God's commandments and yet held that they were not sinning by violating them. John exhorts Christians not to imitate these heretics.

The **Gospel** is from St. Luke 24:35-48. Our Lord's glorious resurrection is the crowning miracle of his sojourn on earth among men. It is the foundation and cornerstone of our Christian religion. His death on Calvary proved that he was really human; his resurrection proved he was also divine. During his public life he had claimed to be God. Had that claim been untrue God the Father could not have

raised him from the dead. By his death he made atonement for the sins of the world — "he nailed them to the tree of the cross"; by his resurrection he opened the gates of death for all men and made them heirs to the eternal life.

We need hardly delay to prove the fact of the resurrection of Christ, for without it there would have been no Christianity, no Christian Church. In the story of the appearance which precedes today's Gospel, we are told how two of Christ's disciples were so depressed and disorientated by his death that they were giving up all interest in the dead Master and were returning home at the first opportunity (the Sabbath, Saturday, had intervened and they could not travel on that day). The Apostles were no better since Good Friday. They had remained behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They had no hope left. They too would have left Jerusalem that Sunday were it not for the story brought by Mary Magdalene that Christ's body had been taken from the tomb. When the risen Christ appeared to the ten Apostles (Thomas was absent) they thought he was a ghost, so far were their thoughts from a possible resurrection.

When the truth sank into their minds, however, they became changed men. After Pentecost day they fearlessly proclaimed to the Jews, of whom they had been frightened, that Christ whom those same Jews had crucified, had risen and was now glorified by the Father. Thousands of Jews in Jerusalem had come to believe in Christ, because they were convinced he had risen and was the Messiah and the Son of God, as he claimed to be. The four Evangelists testify to the truth of the resurrection and we have the exceptional witness of St. Paul whose radical change of life can have only one explanation — he saw the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

Of the fact of the resurrection we can have no doubts; Christianity is inexplicable without it, and Christianity has existed for almost two thousand years. A more important point for consideration today is what this resurrection means to us. "If Christ has not risen," says St. Paul (1 Cor. 15:17), "vain is your faith, for you are still in your sins." But "Christ has risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Our faith then is not in vain, for the founder and foundation of our faith is the Word of God who cannot deceive or be deceived, and his resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection. He is the "first fruits," the earnest of the full harvest that was to follow after our earthly death. We shall all rise again, in glory if we have been faithful during our time on earth, in a less pleasant state, if we have not followed Christ here below.

Human life has always been the great enigma for philosophers down through the ages. The resurrection of Christ, which causes and guarantees our resurrection, is the one and only explanation of that enigma. If death were the end of man, with all his gifts of intellect and will; if the grave were to enclose forever this noble being whom God has raised above all other earthly creatures and has endowed with super-mundane gifts and aspirations, then indeed man's sojourn on earth would be an inexplicable enigma. But the gifts God gave to man were not simply to help him to make a precarious living and enjoy a fleeting happiness, interspersed with much

sadness, for sixty, seventy or even a hundred years. No, they were intended to last for eternity and to reach their real fruition in eternity.

With St. Paul then, we may well sing out today: "O death where is thy victory, O death where is thy sting?...thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15 : 55-57). Yes, Easter time is a time of rejoicing for every true Christian. It is a time for Alleluias, for praising and thanking God. Our happy future is within our reach. Our eternal happiness has been won for us by Christ and is within our grasp, if only we hold fast to the true faith of Christ, taking the rough with the smooth, going through our lesser Gethsemanes and Calvaries as Christ went through his great ones. If we do this we can hopefully await the angel who will roll back the stone from our grave one day, and allow us to enter into the glory of the eternal Easter in heaven.

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

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 prior to the wedding 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

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

Year of 'Amoris Laetitia Family'

March 19, 2021 - June 22, 2022

March 19 was the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the joy and beauty of family love and the start of the year 'Amoris Laetitia Family', a 15-month journey leading to the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome, June 2022.

Read *Amoris Laetitia* on Our Bookshelf:

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

Weekday Liturgy

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

HGA 11:00 AM

† Ambrose & Tony Stone

Thursday, April 22, 2021

SJB 4:00 PM

† Emerise Gagnon

Friday, April 23, 2021

SP 9:00 AM

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, April 24, 2021

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

† Catherine, Charlie & Walter Bona

Sunday, April 25, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

SP 10:30 AM

† Kemp LaRade

April 11, 2021 receipts

St. Peter's

(Not available this week)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 648.00
Candles	\$ 27.15
Missals	\$ 15.00

Total **\$ 690.15**

St. John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 695.00
Easter	\$ 40.00
Lenten Folders	\$ 25.00
Cemetery	\$ 175.00

Total **\$ 935.00**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HGA: L'Ardoise Parish Council has recently approved some Cemetery Guidelines to assist in the proper maintenance of our Cemetery properties. A copy of the new brochure has been sent out. It indicates plot fees for residents and non-residents as well as various fees for funeral services. Financial donations to our Cemetery Fund are encouraged and welcomed. Tax receipt will be issued for donations.

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office. Thank you

In the Year of St. Joseph ---

Prayer to St. Joseph

(This prayer, now published by the Knights of Columbus in their March, 2021 *Columbia* magazine, is from a Nineteenth Century French prayer book. It has been recited by Pope Francis every day for more than forty years. (cf. *Patris Corde*, #10.)

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.

Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome (*here make your request*).

My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.

Amen.

Facebook Live with Fr Patrick O'Neill and John Ratchford Sundays at 7 pm

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>

May 2

Deacon Recognition Sunday

The Permanent Diaconate is ordained men fulfilling a three-fold ministry of Altar, Word and Charity.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in our diocese. On May 2, Deacon Recognition Sunday will be observed in our parishes and on Mass for Shut-Ins, airing on CTV 11:30 am and available to watch on our YouTube Channel. Throughout the year, there will be celebrations to honour and promote the Permanent Diaconate.

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/diaconate-program/>