

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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August 29, 2021

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



And he called the people to him again, and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him." For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man (Mark 7:14-15, 21-23)."

Today is the feast of [the Passion of St. John the Baptist](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 in which the chosen people are urged to carry out the laws God gave them. If they do, they will give good example to the pagan peoples among whom they live, and will make these pagans see how good God is to His chosen people.

The **Second Reading** is from the Letter of James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27. St. James exhorts us to be Christians in practice, not in theory; to "do", to live according to the law laid down for us.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. When Christ came on earth the Scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders of the Jews. The Scribes, so called because of their knowledge of the Mosaic Law and the traditions added on to it, were the elite among the Pharisees who prided themselves on their strict, rigorous observance of the Law and the human traditions. The Pharisees had no time or no understanding for their fellow-Jews who often violated the scribal traditions — and even the Law of Moses itself sometimes. For this reason they kept themselves apart from the ordinary people and developed a proud superiority complex. They

performed many acts of virtue but their pride and sense of self-sufficiency vitiated their good deeds (see the description of the Pharisee and the tax-gatherer in the temple, in Lk. 18: 10-14). The opposition of the Pharisees and Scribes to Jesus began very early in his public life. It grew in strength daily until, with the help of the Sadducees, their arch-opponents, they finally nailed him to the cross.

The main reason why they opposed him so bitterly was his mercy, kindness and understanding for sinners. He ate with tax-gatherers and made one of them, Levi, an Apostle. He forgave the adulteress and many, many others. While he certainly did not approve of sin, he never uttered a hard word against any sinner. He had come, as he said, to call sinners to himself and to repentance. This he did all through his public life. He objected to the Pharisees, not because of their strict observance of the Mosaic Law nor of their insistence on human traditions — although they sometimes carried this to an intolerable extreme. He objected because they despised the lowly people, the uneducated in the law and traditions — those, in other words, who did not belong to their own exclusive class. To the Pharisees all these were "sinners," while they themselves had the worst sin of all — the original sin of mankind, the sin of pride.

In today's encounter with the Pharisees, Jesus tells them that they are hypocrites: "they honor God with their lips but their heart is far from God"; they obey the Law and the traditions, not to please God, but to be seen and admired by men; their motive, self-glorification, vitiates every otherwise good act they perform. Christ then addresses the people — the crowds who most likely had overheard his dialog with the Pharisees — and he tells them that it is not legal or cultic uncleanness that matters, but cleanliness of the heart before God. Eating with unwashed hands, or using unwashed vessels for drinking, does not defile a man, this does not make him less worthy before God. It is not from things outside him that a man incurs defilement but from his own innermost self. Every serious sin against God and neighbor has its beginning within a man, in his intellect and will; the evil design is the forerunner and instigator of the evil deed.

The Pharisees should have known all this. They did know it. They knew very well that before a man breaks any of the commandments of God he must first plan and decide to break it; it was not their theology that was defective but their practice. They despised their neighbors and called fellowmen "sinners," because through ignorance they violated many of the man-made precepts the Pharisees had added to the Law of Moses. There were also fellow-Jews of theirs who violated the law itself, but it was not their right to judge or condemn much less excommunicate them, as they so often did in practice.

Christ condemned the Pharisees by word and deed. He was merciful, kind and understanding to all sinners. He forgave sin and promised forgiveness to all who would repent of their past misdeeds. Not only that: for he left to his followers for all time his sacrament of mercy and forgiveness, by means of which they could have their sins forgiven by his minister, acting in his name. Should we ever forget all he has done for us and disobey in a serious way any of his commandments, let us remember that we are not excluded from his company as the sinners were excluded by the Pharisees: we have banged the door on ourselves but he has given us the key with which to reopen it. Let us never be so foolish as to fail to use that key.

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

Rev. Peter J. Baccardax has died. Father Peter was taken by ambulance to St. Martha's hospital where he died. He leaves to mourn his sister, Estelle,

D'Escousse, and many extended family and friends in the Pomquet area and throughout the Diocese. Father Peter was 92 years old – would have turned 93 on August 29th. He was ordained on June 4, 1955 and was the Parish Priest at Ste. Croix, Pomquet from 1957 until 2015. Wake and Funeral Mass arrangements will be shared when available.

Weekday Liturgy

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

HGA 11:00 AM

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Richmond Villa 10:30 AM (Not open to public)

SJB 4:00 PM

+ Patrick Konning

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mass of the Resurrection

SJB 11:00 AM

+Mary Dorothy Burke & Lillian Emilda Gerrior

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, September 4, 2021

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+ Irene Sampson & Minnie Gracie

Sunday, September 5, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Charles "George" Landry

SP 10:30 AM

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

(August 22, 2021 receipts)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes \$1,007.00

Candles 14.50

Total **\$ 1,021.50**

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Envelopes & Loose \$ 815.00

Cemetery Road Upgrade 50.00

Total **\$865.00**

Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 585.00
Roof Fund	920.00
Total	\$ <u>1,505.00</u>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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>

The St John the Baptist CWL in River Bourgeois regrets that they will not be able to host funeral receptions until COVID restrictions have been eliminated.

12th Annual Boat Poker Run

Saturday, September 4, 2021 rain/wind date Sept. 5th or 11th

Registration at 10:00 AM at River Bourgeois floating dock

Hamburgers, hot dogs, pop/water available

All cards must be turned in by 2:30 PM

Prizes: 1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$100

All Covid-19 protocols will be followed.

Events at Johnstown

The following is the schedule for the summer and fall season. Some events are tentative at this time and more information will be forthcoming closer to the event. These events are subject to change due to Covid restrictions:

1. Saturday September 4th: Take-out Supper 2. Sunday November 21st: Christmas Bingo.

A New Resource for Faith Development

Shalom World is a 24/7, family-friendly, Catholic TV channel whose mission is to bring the peace of Christ to all nations. The channel is a recipient of the U.S. Catholic Press Association's many Gabriel Awards, including one for the 'Best TV Station'. This commercial-free, high-definition network appeals to all ages, young and old alike. Shalom World is an official partner of the Vatican and is authorized to telecast all papal events and liturgies.

Apart from Shalom World (SW) being freely available in Canada, USA, Australia, and Europe, Shalom Ministries also offer SW Prayer, a channel dedicated exclusively for prayer. Through SW Prayer, viewers can participate in Holy Mass, various prayers, and daily devotions. Viewers become spiritually enriched and engaged, as they unite their prayers with those being offered across the globe. This prayerful momentum invites God's blessings into our hurting world.

All of this nourishing content is now easily available at SW+, a small button that brings all of Shalom World to your website. Parishes that already use SW+ have commended the ease with which they are able to use and engage with the tool. If

you would like to see how it works, here are a few websites on which SW+ is installed:

Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, AB - <http://archgm.ca> (press on the round icon at the bottom right of the website)

<https://stlukerchamilton.org/> - **St. Luke Roman Catholic Parish, Hamilton, ON** (This has the icon at the center right of the website)

<https://stjamesparishokotoks.ca/> - **St. James Parish, Okotoks, AB** (This has the icon at the bottom left of the website)

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>

Season of Creation

begins Sept. 1

on the World Day of Prayer for Care of our Common Home

In his encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis connects our relationship with animals to our relationships with each other:

"... when our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one. It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings. We have only one heart and the wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people."

To learn more about the Season of Creation:

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

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/>