

**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

March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent



The scene of the temptation, which opens the public life of Jesus, declares in the Gospels in a very forceful manner the great change in our lives that He introduces into the world by His work of redemption. Where Adam fell, Christ, the new Head of humanity, triumphs over the power of Satan: at the time of His passion "the prince of this world" will be cast out. The Gospel of the temptation heralds Christ's victory in advance.

By appointing this Gospel for the beginning of Lent the Church proclaims that this victory should be ours also. In us, as all around us, it is Christ's temptation, Christ's struggle, Christ's victory which is prolonged; our effort is His and so is our strength; His will be our victory at Easter.

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is from Deuteronomy 26:4-10. In these verses we have the ritual prescribed by Moses for the feast of the harvest thanksgiving. The people once settled in the Promised Land are to show their gratitude to the good God who brought them out of the slavery of Egypt and gave them this good land to be their home.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the Romans 10:8-13. He is discussing the sad fact that Israel (as a whole) rejected Christ as the promised Messiah and the Son of God.

The Gospel is from St. Luke 5:1-11. Christ's voluntary self-mortification of forty days' fast, with its accompanying temptations, was but part of the self-

mortification, with its climax on the Cross, which He gladly underwent for our salvation. He did not need to fast in order to keep the inclinations of the body in subjection, He did not need to allow the insult of temptation. He could have said, "begone Satan" at the beginning as easily and as effectively as he said it at the end. But He willingly underwent this humiliation in order to set us an example and to prove to us the infinite love He bears us and the value, the priceless value, He sets on our eternal salvation. He became like us in all things (except sin) in order to make it possible for us to become like Him—the beloved of his Father—and co-heirs with Him in the kingdom of heaven.

With this example given us by Christ no Christian can or should expect to travel the road to heaven without meeting obstacles and temptations. Our weak human nature is of itself, even without any external tempter, a source of many temptations to us, especially of those three illustrated in the case of Christ. Our body desires all the pleasures and comforts that can be got out of life and resents any curtailment of these desires even on the part of our Creator and Benefactor. Our gifts of intelligence and free-will often tempt most of us to look for power, political or economic, over our fellowmen. We want to be better off than others in this world, when our purpose in life is to help ourselves and our fellowmen to the better life. Finally, so fully occupied are many in the mad rush after pleasure and power that they have no time to devote to the one thing that matters, the attainment of eternal life.

Yet, through some foolish logic of our own, we expect God to do for us what we refuse to do for ourselves. We are tempting God by presuming he will save us if we have deliberately chosen the road to perdition.

There are few, if any, amongst us who can honestly say: "I am free from such inclinations or temptations." The vast majority of us can and should beat our breasts and say with the publican: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." And merciful he will be if we turn to him with true humility. He may not remove all our temptations, all our wrong inclinations, but he will give us the grace to overcome them if we sincerely seek his aid.

—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

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

SP 9:00 AM

*Special Intentions

Friday, March 11, 2022

HGA 11:00 AM

+ Irene Briand

In Thanksgiving & for the Souls in Purgatory

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, March 12, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+ Beattie Martell

Sunday March 13, 2022

SJB 9:00 AM

+Wallace Casey

SP 10:30 AM

+Donna Boudreau

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

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

Saturday, February 26, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$750.00

Total **\$750.00**

St. John the Baptist

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$ 935.00

Total **\$ 935.00**

St. Peter's

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,175.00

Altar Society 70.00

Cemetery road 50.00

Candles 3.00

Total **\$ 1,1298.00**
COMMUNITY EVENTS

HGA: During the Fridays in Lent, HGA will be praying the Stations of the Cross at 10:30am followed by our regular weekday Mass at 11am. We welcome you to join us.

Knights of Columbus officers' meeting will be held Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 9:30 AM St. Peter's Glebe House

The St. Patrick's Day Tea and Sale has been canceled this year ...our plan is a "BAKELESS" Bake Sale.....please make a donation and drop the attached envelope in the collection box... Thank you for supporting our fundraiser.....See you next year. **ST. PETER'S ALTAR SOCIETY.**

St. Peter's Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday, March 21, 2022** at 6:00 PM at **glebe house meeting room.**

SJB: During lent the Way of the Cross will be prayed on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM in the main part of the church followed by the regular weekday Mass.

SJB: Lenten folders will be made available in the church entrance.

A Lenten Reflection from Father Yake

The gospel-word that the Church has chosen to introduce the holy Lenten Season on *Ash* Wednesday is from St. Matthew. (6: 1-6, 16-18) There Christians are offered advice on how to engage and deepen the Christian life through prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Herein I would like to focus on prayer, and specifically, the perfect prayer of Holy Mass.

The Fifth Mystery of St. John Paul's Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary is the Last Supper. It has as its intention that we may participate in true worship of God. Originating from Old Testament worship that consisted of God's word followed by the bloody sacrifice, God has revealed how divinity is to be ritually worshipped and Holy Mass is so structured: The Liturgy of the Word and the perfect but un-bloody sacrifice of the Cross. Overcoming sin that alienates persons from God was the mission of Jesus Christ and so we may understand his zealous enthusiasm to celebrate the Last Supper wherein he could give humanity the vehicle by which they may access redemption. We read, "When the hour came he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God'" (Lk. 22: 14-16)

The old Baltimore Catechism states clearly how to understand the logic of the Mass: "Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist to continue the sacrifice of the cross in His Church. In the Mass Jesus offers Himself to God in an un-bloody manner. He does this under the appearances of bread and wine.

"The Mass is the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the cross. The manner in which the sacrifice is offered is different. On the cross Christ really shed his blood and was really slain. In the Mass there is no real shedding of blood nor real death. On the cross Christ gained merit and made up for the sins of man. In the Mass Christ applies to us the merits of His death on the cross." (p. 94) When we realize the redemptive effects of the Mass we may understand why the Church places an obligation on Catholics to receive this sacrament.

The first precept or law of the Church, taken from the Baltimore Catechism, commands Catholics, “To assist at Mass on all Sundays and holydays of obligation.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church, (1994) #1129, reads, “The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are *necessary for salvation*. “Sacramental grace” is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament. The Spirit heals and transforms those who receive him by conforming them to the Son of God. The fruit of the sacramental life is that the Spirit of adoption makes the faithful partakers in the divine nature by uniting them in a living union with the only Son, the Savior.” (p. 292) The command of Jesus at the Last Supper, “Do this in memory of me,” invites us to contemplate the secret of the saints on their journey to holiness where Holy Mass was central to their spirituality.

The visionary, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, communicated her appreciation of Holy Mass; “I have had a great vision on the mystery of Holy Mass and I have seen that whatever good has existed since creation is owing to it.” Holy Mass is the chief prayer because in the prayer of the Mass we pray with Jesus to the Father. If prayer is the focus of our Lenten practice the Mass has to be our priority.

Fr. Greg MacLeod Lecture Series - Bringing the University and Community together through Faith and Reason

Recognizing truths and balancing knowledges in the decolonization of education

Mi’kmaq elders: Dr. Albert Marshall and Dr. Marie Battiste will unpack the structures of Eurocentric colonialism in institutions and government structures

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action for reconciliation create the necessary decolonial Indigenization in education, churches, media, justice, and governments.

They will share their stories of struggle, change, activism and scholarly work aimed at alleviating institutional ignorance of Indigenous Peoples.

Dr. Albert Marshall is a Mi’kmaq Elder and knowledge holder from Eskasoni First Nation and one of the imaginative thinkers behind Two-eyed seeing – Etuaptumk, a theory and method for Indigenization and reconciliation.

Dr. Marie Battiste is a Mi’kmaq educator from the Potlotek First Nation and Aroostook Band of Micmacs in Maine. She holds degrees from Harvard, Stanford and University of Maine and is now a special advisor at CBU on decolonizing the Academy. Widely published author.

Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 7:30 pm on zoom

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/98024605576> Meeting ID: 980 2460 5576

+1 587 328 1099 Canada Find your local number:
<https://zoom.us/u/acwho8yZ9z>

Sponsored by: CBU Chaplaincy and the Newman Society

In the Diocese

We hold in prayer

Fr. Vincent van Zutphen

who died peacefully at home on Monday, Feb. 21 surrounded by his family, who were praying the Rosary. Fr. Vincent was ordained in 1963 and served as a pastor and teacher in Canada and the United States. He taught for many years at St.

Peter's Seminary in London, ON and served his last years of priestly ministry in Lucan, ON, Margaree and Port Hood.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday, Feb. 26.

For the obituary and livestream links:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/in-memoriam-fr-vincent-van-zutphen/>

The Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has condemned the escalation of tensions and violence in the Ukraine marked by Russia's invasion February 24.

"In solidarity with the Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, in unison with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with the people of Ukraine as well as with Canadians of Ukrainian origin and descent, we encourage the faithful and all people of good will to pray for the imminent restoration of peace, dialogue, and human fraternity."

Read the statement:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/prayers-for-the-ukraine/>

COVID Restrictions easing as of February 28

Premier Tim Houston and Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health have announced that effective February 28, the requirement for proof of vaccination to attend discretionary gatherings / events / activities ends. This means that as of this date, all activities held by a faith organization will no longer require proof of vaccination.

Phase two of reopening will begin on March 7.

On March 21, all current Public Health restrictions and mandates will end.

Read Bishop Kirkpatrick's letter:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/covid-19/>

Lenten Calendar for your Synod Journey

March 2-8

Fast from Indifference, Feast on Love

Engaging in the Synod journey gives voice to your story, wisdom and dreams for our church and God's people. This week, learn more about the Synod and begin (or continue) your journey

Almsgiving:

Take the Synod survey

Explore our ListeningChurch web page to learn of Pope Francis' invitation and ways to connect

Prayer:

Say the Synod prayer

Calendar, survey and prayer are available at:

www.antigonishdiocese.com/listeningchurch.