

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

February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus said to his disciples: *To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.* (Luke 6:27-31)

Sunday Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the First Book of Samuel (1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23). The prophet Samuel, on the instruction of God, anointed David to be the second king of Israel. Saul the first king, because he had displeased God, was to lose his kingship. His throne was to pass not to his son, but to David, an unknown stranger from the village of Bethlehem. This reading describes the event that occurred during Saul's search for David.

The **Second Reading** is taken from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15:45-49). In this Chapter of Paul's first letter to Corinthians the Apostle is speaking of the resurrection of all men from the dead.

The **Gospel** is taken from St. Luke (Luke 6:27-38). It would at first sight appear that the demands that Christ makes on our charity here are anything but easy. Loving one's enemies is asking a lot. Blessing them and praying for them might be all right for St. Francis but expecting it of us seems to be going very far. Asking for a blow on the second cheek while the first is still twinging with pain seems fit only for a martyr. Not to try to take tack what was stolen from us looks very foolish. Yet it was Christ who made all these demands.

However, before we give up in despair, and decide that this type of Christianity is not for us, let us look a little more closely at the demands that are made. To love our enemy does not mean we must throw our arms about him every time we meet him (he would not let us anyway !). It means we must do all in our power to rid our minds of any hatred of him, and try to see the good that is in him. Not judging and condemning comes under this heading. Human sinful beings that we are, our faculty for seeing in our neighbor the real man as he is before God, is very limited and very prone to error. There are justly convicted robbers and murderers in our jails, in whom God can see a lot of goodness even now, and perhaps future citizens of heaven later on.

Not demanding back what was unjustly taken from us does not mean that we may not have recourse to the legal or other means available to us for obtaining compensation in such cases. What it does forbid is personal (generally forceful) restoration of our rights and property.

Another consoling point to bear in mind is that the vast majority of our fellowmen have no inclination to injure us in our person or our property and will never do so. If we feel we have a lot of enemies only waiting for the chance to pounce on us, we would do well to examine our own consciences very carefully and then look for the many good points there are in our neighbour's character.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, life for life" was the practice amongst the Jews at the time of Christ and for centuries before (Ex. 21 :23-25). Christ sets up the "golden rule" of fraternal charity in place of this Law of Talon. Every man should truly love his neighbor for he is his brother. What is more, Christ's mission on earth has made him a son of God and an heir to heaven. Our chief interest in our neighbor must therefore be a spiritual interest. If he offends us, he offends God which is much more serious. Our charity should help him to seek God's forgiveness. That he should seek ours is of very minor importance in comparison with that.

You would like your neighbour to help you to reach heaven. "You go and do likewise" to your neighbor, and you will both get there.

—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, February 22, 2022

SJB 4:00 PM

+ Scott Fougere

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, February 25, 2022

HGA 11:00 AM

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, February 26, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+Beattie Martell

Sunday, February 27, 2022

SJB 9:00 AM

+Mary Bernice (Paté) Richards

SP 10:30 AM

+Walter Martell

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

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

Saturday, February 13, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$700.00

Candles 26.75

Total \$726.75

St. John the Baptist

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,226.00

Property Maintenance 150.00

Cemetery 20.00

Total \$ 1,396.00

St. Peter's

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$1,185.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Candles	3.00
Altar Society Dues	104.00
Donation	30.00
New Year's Day	55.00
Cemetery	400.00
Memory Tree	100.00

Total **\$ 1,887.00**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

KNITS FOR THE NORTH is our Lenten project. Parishioners are asked to donate mitts, hats, caps, socks, gloves, scarves, etc. Items will be sent to our Canadian Missions in the north for indigenous communities. Help from other parishes would be greatly appreciated. There is a box at church entrance or call (902) 535-2827 or (902) 535-2785. Ours thanks and God bless. **SJB Liturgy Committee**.

L'Ardoise Acadian Festival meeting will be held on Sunday February 27 @ 1 pm. Please come and join us as we are in the early stages of planning.

From the Office of the Bishop

February 11, 2022 (Our Lady of Lourdes - World Day of the Sick)

My Dear Clergy and My Dear People,

In providing a COVID-19 update on Wednesday, Premier Tim Houston and Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that the province will enter Phase One of a three phase re-opening plan with less restrictive measures effective Monday, February 14, 2022.

We will need to continue wearing masks and maintain physical distancing but now faith gatherings indoor and outdoors may have up to 50 % capacity. Congregational singing is permitted with masks. Wearing a mask is required when performing except when musicians are singing or playing a wind instrument. Masks are recommended for choirs.

Weddings and funerals may be celebrated following the same protocols of 50% capacity including visitation and receptions with social distancing and masks. Congregational singing is permitted with masks. Masks are recommended for choirs.

Our regular faith services do not require proof of vaccination but weddings and funerals still do, unless there are only 25 people or less in attendance. Proof of vaccination is not

required for officiants. Receptions and visitation are only permitted with proof of vaccination.

I support these directives and I instruct that our churches follow these provincial protocols. Please find details of this re-opening plan with the following link at <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/>

Let us entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who assist the suffering to Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm.

Fraternally in Christ,
+ Wayne Kirkpatrick
Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

The Holy Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2. It is a time of spiritual renewal and preparation for our encounter with the Risen Lord; a time of repentance, change of heart, and prayer.

A reflection from Fr. Joseph at EWTN on Lent:

The Church gives us the liturgical year — complete with memorials, feasts, solemnities, and special seasons — to help us to grow spiritually and to live our Christian lives more fully.

This is especially true during Lent.

In this season, we willingly join Jesus in His sacrifice. He has given us the dignity to be able to share in His work of redemption, a redemption accomplished through sacrifice and love. That's what gives meaning to our Lenten observances, penances, and sacrifices.

Our Christian life is not just following the Bridegroom and enjoying the Wedding celebration. It's also joining Him in the Cross with the sacrifices that we make during the season of Lent. When we make this journey — a journey of love — we can grow in a life of union with the Beloved of our souls, Jesus.

Join me this season of Lent, as we journey together with Christ on His way to the Cross. You can sign up to receive weekly Lenten meditations and this year's Lenten eBook here: ewtn.com/lent.

I pray that these Lenten reflections will help us all to grow in love and understanding of the Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Father Joseph,

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES

(Ash) Wednesday, March 2, 2022

As with last year the three parishes will celebrate Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday at the time of their usual weekday Mass as follows:

St. Peter's – 9:00am
Holy Guardian Angels – 11:00am
St. John the Baptist – 4:00pm

The (Ash) Wednesday Mass takes the place of the regular weekday Mass for that week only.

Assuming that the distribution of ashes will be the same as last year we are reminded of the following:

“The CCCB General Secretariat received from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments Note (N. 17/21) of 12 January 2021, concerning Ash Wednesday (17 February 2021) and the Distribution of Ashes in the Time of the Pandemic. In accordance with the Note from the Congregation, this year the ashes are to be imposed by sprinkling them on the head of the faithful. The rite of sprinkling ashes on the head of penitents is already a well-established and common practice in many countries across the world. The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes, he sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything, then he addresses all those present and **only once** says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him. The Priest or Deacon takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.”

The Synod

Pray - CLICK - Share Your Story

with our online Synod survey, available in English and French.

Between the pandemic and this stormy winter, connecting with each other in prayer, words and actions is more challenging than ever. Your participation in this survey will provide valuable information for the Synod and an opportunity for you to be heard.

This survey is anonymous. Information collected in this survey will be compiled with data acquired through all individual and group engagements during the Synod journey into a 10-page summary report that will become part of Canada's submission to the Synod of Bishops meeting in Rome in 2023.

Find the survey, in English and French, on our website:

www.antigonishdiocese.com/listeningchurch.

How Do We Walk Together as Church?

Embracing Pope Francis' New Call to Synodality

Online event with speakers Dr. Moira McQueen and Dr. Massimo Faggioli

Wed., Feb. 16, 12 -1 pm (Atlantic time)

What is synodality, and why does it matter to ordinary Catholics today?

Join authors Moira McQueen and Massimo Faggioli for a robust conversation on the topic of Synodality and how the faithful at all levels can participate in Pope Francis' call to solidarity and contribute to a rich reflection on a vibrant future for the Catholic Church.

Event is free with registration:

[https://mailchi.mp/bayard-inc/explore-bidens-first-100-days-rsvp-today-830723?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/bayard-inc/explore-bidens-first-100-days-rsvp-today-830723?e=[UNIQID])

Walking Together: A Primer On The New Synodality, by Dr. Moira McQueen can be purchased from the Emmaus Centre bookstore.

To place your order, email: irene@dioceseofantigonish.ca
or phone 902-539-6188 or toll free 1-800-656-5311 ext 241