

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

**Bulletin email: [bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com)**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 21, 2022**

The Memorial of [St. Pius X](#), which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

### **St. Pius X**

The future Pope-Saint of the twentieth century was born at Riese in Venetia on June 2, 1835, his name, Joseph Sarto. After ordination at the age of twenty-three (by special dispensation), he labored for 17 years as a parish priest, then as bishop of Mantua, and in 1892 was advanced to the metropolitan see of Venice with the honorary title of patriarch. On August 4, 1903, he was elected Pope, "a man of God who knew the unhappiness of the world and the hardships of life, and in the greatness of his heart wanted to comfort everybody."



The primary aim of his pontificate Pius X announced in his first encyclical letter, viz., "to renew all things in Christ." Here we need but allude to his decree on early and frequent reception of holy

Communion; his *Motu Proprio* on church music; his encouragement of daily Bible reading and the establishment of various Biblical institutes; his reorganization of the Roman ecclesiastical offices; his work on the codification of Canon Law; his incisive stand against Modernism, that "synthesis of all heresies." All these were means toward the realization of his main objective of renewing all things in Christ.

The outbreak of the first World War, practically on the date of the eleventh anniversary of his election to the See of Peter, was the blow that occasioned his death. Bronchitis developed within a few days, and on August 20, 1914, Pius X succumbed to "the last affliction that the Lord will visit on me." He had said in his will, "I was born poor, I have lived poor, I wish to die poor" — and no one questioned the truth of his words. His sanctity and his power to work miracles had already been recognized. Pius X was the first Pope canonized since St. Pius V in 1672.

"He was one of those chosen few men whose personality is irresistible. Everyone was moved by his simplicity and his angelic kindness. Yet it was something more that carried him into all hearts: and that 'something' is best defined by saying that all who were ever admitted to his presence had a deep conviction of being face to face with a saint" (Baron von Pastor).

—Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

### **Sunday Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 66:18-21* and was written after the return from exile, 538 B.C. The aim was to console the returned exiles, who were depressed when they saw the sad state of Jerusalem and the poverty of the country. Isaiah foretold the future glory of Jerusalem to which people of all nations would come. It would be the center from which the knowledge of the true God would be dispersed.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13*. In last Sunday's lesson St. Paul encouraged Christians to be ready to face adversity and hardships. He compared them with athletes who endure so much in order to win a contest. Today he reiterates that we must expect hardship — it is part of our training. We cannot win this prize unless we undergo this training. It is God who sends us these trials. He wants us to win the eternal prize because he loves us; he is our Father.

The **Gospel** is from *Matthew 23:13-15* and concerns those who hear Christ's message but refuse to follow it. While the questioner who asked how many would be saved did not get a direct answer from Christ, nevertheless it was made very clear to him and to all of us that each one's salvation is in his own hands. All those who accept Christ, his teaching and the helps he has made available to them, will enter the kingdom of God. On the other hand, those who are excluded from that eternal kingdom will have only themselves to blame. God invites all men to heaven. He gives all the help necessary to every man, but, because men have a free will which God cannot force, some will abuse that freedom and choose wrongly.

Christ mentions the narrow door through which we must enter into God's kingdom. This means that we must exercise self-restraint and mortification and this we do when we respect and keep his commandments. When we are called to judgment it will be too late to shout "Sir, open for us." We should have sought his mercy and his forgiveness during our earthly life, and he would have granted it.

Neither will it avail us to say that we knew him in life. Acquaintance with Christ is not enough. We should have loved him and become his real friends, which we could only do by being loyal followers of his. "He taught in our streets" will only prove our guilt. We could have learned his doctrine; we could have become his disciples, but we would not. The pagan who never heard of Christ will not be condemned for not following his teaching, but the Christian who did hear his doctrine and refused to carry it out, will deserve condemnation.

As descent from Abraham was not a claim for special consideration on the part of the Jews, neither will any other circumstances of nationality, birth or earthly privilege help us on the day of judgment. Each one will stand or fall by his own mode of life during his term on earth. Nothing and nobody else can change the just judgment of God when that moment arrives for each one of us.

The thought of our moment of judgment is a staggering one even for the holiest of us. Things and actions that do not trouble us much now, will appear in a different light then. The prayers we omitted or said carelessly, the Masses we missed on flimsy excuses, the little bit of continual injustice to a workman or customer, or the dishonesty practiced by a worker against his employer, the sins of impurity of which we thought rather lightly, the bad language so freely used and the scandal we spread so flippantly, the money wasted on drink or gambling when our children needed nourishment and clothing — these, and many other such faults of which we excuse ourselves so easily now, will not be a source of joy or consolation for us on that dread day, if we arrive at God's justice-seat still burdened with them.

We are dealing with God's mercy while alive. He will forgive any sin and any number of sins if we truly repent, and resolve to correct these faults. To do this is the only one guarantee that even God himself can give us of a successful judgment. Every man who lives in God's grace will die in God's grace and be numbered among the saved. The man who lives habitually in sin, and refuses to amend his life, will die in his sinful

state, and thus exclude himself from eternal salvation.

I have a free will. I can choose to pass that final examination or to fail it. The whole of my eternity, the unending life after death, depends on my choice now. If I choose to follow Christ and live according to his laws during the few years I have on this earth, I shall pass and shall be among the saved. If I ignore Christ and his laws now, he will not know me on the day of judgment I shall be among the lost. God forbid that I should choose the latter course.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings Cycle C*, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Please call the office:**

**902-535-2053**

**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

**Weekday Masses**

**Monday, August 22, 2022**

**HGA 3:00PM**

**Mass of Christian Burial**

**+Hugette Marie Ann Martell**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2022**

**SJB 4:00 PM**

**Wednesday, August 24, 2022**

**SP 9:00 AM**

**Friday, August 26, 2022**

**HGA 11:00 AM**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022**

**SH 4:00 PM**

**HGA 5:30 PM**

**+ Patricia Samson**

**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

**SJB 9:00 AM**

**+ Lenova Sampson**

**SP 10:30 AM**

**+ Edith "Gerri" (Stone) Wilson**

**Receipts**

**Holy Guardian Angels**

**August 13, 2022**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 805.00
Candles	28.50
Missals	5.00
Priesthood Education	10.00

**Total                      \$ 848.50**

**St. John the Baptist**  
**August 14 , 2022, 2022**

Envelopes & loose       \$ 801.03  
Property Maintenance       65.00

**Total**                       **\$ 866.03**

**St. Peter's**  
**August 14, 2022**

Envelopes & Loose               \$ 1,460.00  
Cemetery Donation               10.00  
Candles                               38.05  
Old Cemetery Road               20.00

**Total**                       **\$ 1,528.05**

**Friday, August 12, 2022**

**'Disturbing': Experts troubled by Canada's euthanasia laws**

Alex Schadenberg

Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition



Maria Cheng published an investigative report for the Associated Press on August 11 titled: [\*'Disturbing': Experts troubled by Canada's euthanasia laws.\*](#)

Cheng interviews the family of Alan Nichols, Marie-Claude Landry, Tim Stainton, Theresia Degener, Trudo Lemmens, Heidi Janz, and others.

Cheng opens the article by writing about the euthanasia death of Alan Nichols. Cheng writes:

Alan Nichols had a history of depression and other medical issues, but none were life-threatening. When the 61-year-old Canadian was hospitalized in June 2019 over fears he might be suicidal, he asked his brother to “bust him out” as soon as possible.

Within a month, Nichols submitted a request to be euthanized and he was killed, despite concerns raised by his family and a nurse practitioner.

His application for euthanasia listed only one health condition as the reason for his request to die: hearing loss.

Nichols’ family reported the case to police and health authorities, arguing that he lacked the capacity to understand the process and was not suffering unbearably — among the requirements for euthanasia. They say he was not taking needed medication, wasn’t using the cochlear implant that helped him hear, and that hospital staffers improperly helped him request euthanasia.

“Alan was basically put to death,” his brother Gary Nichols said.



Alan & Gary Nichols

Trudo Lemmens, the chair of health law and policy at the University of Toronto, referred to the Nichols case as disturbing. Lemmens states:

“This case demonstrates that the rules are too loose and that even when people die who shouldn’t have died, there is almost no way to hold the doctors and hospitals responsible,”

Marie-Claude Landry, the head of Canada's Human Rights Commission tells Cheng that Nichols' euthanasia death is not unique. Landry states that:

she shares the “grave concern” voiced last year by three U.N. human rights experts, [who wrote](#) that Canada’s euthanasia law appeared to violate the agency’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They said the law had a “discriminatory impact” on disabled people and was inconsistent with Canada’s obligations to uphold international human rights standards.

Tim Stainton, director of the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship at the University of British Columbia, told Cheng that Canada's euthanasia law is “probably the biggest existential threat to disabled people since the Nazis’ program in Germany in the 1930s.”

Cheng then tells the story of Sean Tagert, who died by euthanasia in August 2019.

Cheng writes:

Some disabled Canadians have decided to be killed in the face of mounting bills. Before being euthanized in August 2019 at age 41, Sean Tagert struggled to get the 24-hour-a-day care he needed. The government provided Tagert, who had Lou Gehrig’s disease, with 16 hours of daily care at his home in Powell River, British Columbia. He spent about 264 Canadian dollars (\$206) a day to pay coverage during the other eight hours.

Health authorities proposed that Tagert move to an institution, but he refused, saying he would be too far from his young son. He called the suggestion “a death sentence” in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Before his death, Tagert had raised more than CA\$16,000 (\$12,400) to buy specialized medical equipment he needed to live at home with caretakers. But it still wasn’t enough.

“I know I’m asking for change,” Tagert wrote in a Facebook post before his death. “I just didn’t realize that was an unacceptable thing to do.”

Heidi Janz, an assistant adjunct professor in Disability Ethics at the University of Alberta, tells Cheng that:

“a person with disabilities in Canada has to jump through so many hoops to get support that it can often be enough to tip the scales” and lead them to euthanasia.

Cheng continues by telling the story of Roger Foley, who was urged by hospital staff to request euthanasia:

Roger Foley, who has a degenerative brain disorder and is hospitalized in London, Ontario, was so alarmed by staffers mentioning euthanasia that he began secretly recording some of their conversations.

In one recording obtained by the AP, the hospital’s director of ethics told Foley that for him to remain in the hospital, it would cost “north of \$1,500 a day.” Foley replied that mentioning fees felt like coercion and asked what plan there was for his long-term care.

“Roger, this is not my show,” the ethicist responded. “My piece of this was to talk to you, (to see) if you had an interest in assisted dying.”

Foley said he had never previously mentioned euthanasia. The hospital says there is no prohibition on staff raising the issue.

Catherine Frazee, a professor emerita at Toronto’s Ryerson University, referred to

Roger Foley's case as a "tip of the iceberg." Frazee told Cheng the story of Candice Lewis in Newfoundland:

Candice Lewis, a 25-year-old woman who has cerebral palsy and spina bifida. Lewis' mother, Sheila Elson, took her to an emergency room in Newfoundland five years ago. During her hospital stay, a doctor said Lewis was a candidate for euthanasia and that if her mother chose not to pursue it, that would be "selfish," Elson [told](#) the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Cheng ends the article by quoting from Marie-Claude Landry who stated: leaders should listen to the concerns of those facing hardships who believe euthanasia is their only option. She called for social and economic rights to be enshrined in Canadian law to ensure people can get adequate housing, health care and support. "In an era where we recognize the right to die with dignity, we must do more to guarantee the right to live with dignity," she said.

Canada's government has been committed to expanding its euthanasia law and is now debating expanding euthanasia to children ("mature minors"), incompetent people who requested it in their power of attorney for healthcare document, and for reasons of mental illness alone.

Canada needs to re-evaluate its euthanasia law and reverse its current permissive legal euthanasia law.

Links to more articles on Canada's euthanasia law:

- Shopping for a death doctor in Canada ([Link](#)).
- Canada: More than 10,000 euthanasia deaths in 2021 ([Link](#)).
- Canada's ever-expanding euthanasia law ([Link](#)).
- Euthanasia for disability and poverty ([Link](#)).
- Euthanasia for Long-Covid and poverty ([Link](#)).
- A message to the world. Don't legalize euthanasia ([Link](#)).
- Canada's euthanasia law is the most permissive in the world ([Link](#)).

[Email This](#) [Blog This!](#) [Share to Twitter](#) [Share to Facebook](#) [Share to Pinterest](#)

## **In the Diocese**

### **We hold in prayer**

#### **Fr. Gregory MacKinnon**

who died this past weekend.

Fr. Greg was born June 16, 1925 in Antigonish and was ordained on June 3, 1950 at St. Ninian Cathedral.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

May his soul rest in peace and the Lord give consolation to the family and loved ones during this time of mourning.

#### **Sister Mary Eileen McEachern,**

Sister of St. Martha, who died on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Sr Mary Eileen served as a teacher in many parts of Canada and locally in St. Andrew's, Heatherton and Dominion, NS. She also served as Catechetical Consultant for our diocese.

May she rest in the Peace of Christ.

<https://macisaacs.ca/tribute/details/576/Sister-Mary-McEachern/obituary.html#tribute-start>

## **August 28**

### **Information Session: Diaconate Formation Program**

#### **St. Joseph Parish Hall, Port Hawkesbury**

Fr. Bedford Doucette, director of deacons along with Deacon Berkley and Jessie Guthro and Deacon Henry and Minnie vandeWiel will be available to answer questions and give information about the Discernment year. If anyone is interested in the Diaconate, please contact Fr. Bedford at [bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca) or 902-578-4375.

**Fr. Benny Mekkat elected  
Superior General, CFIC**

Fr. Benny was formerly Superior of the North American Delegation of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC). We currently have three priests of the CFIC serving in our diocese: Fr. Joby Augustin, Fr. Silvichin Dominic and Fr. Daniel Tshimbalanga.

Fr. Benny Mekkat was born in India, studied in the Philippines and was ordained in the United States. He is the first non-Italian religious to hold the position of Superior General since the order was founded in 1857.

**September 1**

**Season of Creation Begins**

The Season of Creation is an annual ecumenical celebration extending from September 1 through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a season of learning about and advocating care for the Earth, our common home.

This year's resource guide is now available:

<https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf>