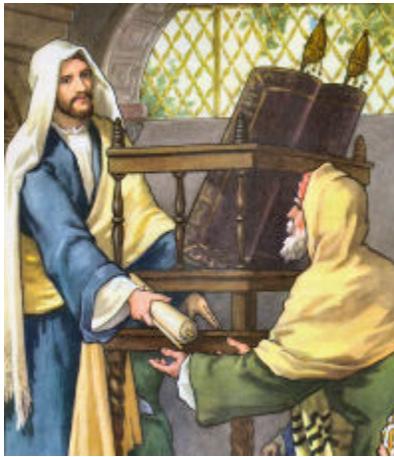


St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053
Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of Nehemiah, 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10. Nehemiah and Ezra lived in the time when the people of Israel had been returned to their land after the years of the Babylonian Captivity and it was a time of rebuilding. The people had lost their connections to their faith.

The **Second Reading** is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, 12:12-30 and refers to the Mystical Body of Christ. St. Paul concludes his description of the different parts of the body by applying it to the Church, where variety of functions does not detract from unity.

The **Gospel** is from St. Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21. In the first four verses of St. Luke's Gospel which have been read to you today, you will find reason to be grateful to him. He went to a lot of trouble in order to put in a permanent form, in a written record, the essential facts concerning Christ, his words and his works, so that we "would understand (like Theophilus) the certainty of the faith in which we have been instructed."

But while we must be grateful to St. Luke, we owe a bigger debt of gratitude still to the all-good, all-wise God who moved Luke and the other Evangelists to preserve for us in writing the essential truths of the Christian faith that has been handed down to us. The Apostles were companions of Christ. They witnessed his works and his words; they remembered most of his doings and his sayings, and what they might have forgotten the Holy Spirit recalled to their memory on that first Pentecost day in Jerusalem. The first two generations of Christians received the facts of the faith from these eye-witnesses and the miracles so frequent in the infant Church were confirmation of the truth of their teaching.

But God in his wisdom provided for the many generations to come who would not have this evident confirmation of their faith. He established a teaching body in his

Church which would safeguard the purity of the Christian truths, for "he himself would be with it all days," and he gave us a written record of the facts of the faith in the Gospels and the other writings of the New Testament.

How can we ever thank God sufficiently for his thoughtfulness in our regard? We Christians of today can be as certain, as assured, of the truth of the faith that we are trying to practice as was St. Luke who was converted by St. Paul. We have a living, teaching Magisterium in the Church, which authentically preserves and interprets for us the true facts of Christ's teaching and works as written down for us by a first-generation Christian under the impulse and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. If we needed further proof of the priceless value of our New Testament Books, the virulent attacks on their authenticity, on their objectivity, and on their veracity, by enemies of the faith down to and including our own day, should be sufficient.

But they have stood the test of time and the onslaughts of biased, prejudiced criticism, for they are the word of truth, which is eternal, and comes from God.

We have a priceless gift of God in the inspired Books of the Bible. Let us show true appreciation for that gift by using it to build up a better knowledge of the Christian faith which it teaches us. There should be a Bible, or at least the New Testament, in every Christian home. It should not be an ornament on a shelf, but a fountain and source from which we can draw strength and refreshment in the daily practice of our Christian faith. Almost two thousand years ago, God's infinite goodness provided this source of strength, the "fountain of living water," for us Christians of this century. Are we grateful for his thoughtfulness? Are we nourishing our faith at this blessed fountain of his infinite wisdom and love?

--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, January 25, 2022
SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, January 28, 2022

HGA 11:00 AM

+Kay Laben, Carl & Jane Croft

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, January 29, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+Annie & Charlie Stan Sampson

Sunday, January 30, 2022

SJB 9:00 AM

SP 10:30 AM

***Special Intentions**

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

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

January 15th (Mass cancelled)

St. Peter's

January 16, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 275.00
Candles	5.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Cemetery Road Upgrade	50.00

Total \$ 335.00

St. John the Baptist

January 16, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$295.00
Cemetery	301.00

Total \$ 596.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Knights of Columbus: 9 days of life novena will we held starting on Jan 19th and continuing daily until Jan 27th

A prayer card can be obtained at <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/novena-for-life/4237-gospel-of-life-prayercard.pdf> All parishioners are invited to join us in prayer for this worthy cause.

Thank you

Bill Coleman

BREAKING DOWN WALLS: YOUNG PEOPLE, FAITH, AND MENTAL HEALTH

Young people from all around Atlantic Canada are invited to join a special Facebook Live Event addressing issues around young people and their mental health on **Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 pm (AST)**. Special guests for this **Bell Let's Talk** event will include Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, Bishop of Antigonish; Joe Townsend, Community CARES Youth Outreach (Sydney Mines); Paige Cox, Author of "The Berlin Project: Breaking Down Walls," and John Ratchford, Faith Witness. Anyone can join the session through the website for the Diocese of Antigonish (www.antigonishdiocese.com/) or their Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/antigonishdiocese>). This event is a collaborative effort, hosted by the Diocese of Antigonish and sponsored by the Atlantic Association of Catholic Youth Ministers. For more information, please contact (*Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Norma Blinkhorn*) at 902 202 2972 or email norma@dioceseofantigonish.ca.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18-25

January 18-25

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"We saw the star in the East and we came to worship him" (Mt 2:2) is the theme for this year's event, which invites Christians around the world into eight days of prayer and celebration.

For details and resources:

<https://www.weekofprayer.ca/>

A note about synods in the Church excerpted from the January, 2022 Letter to Members, of the Institute Voluntas Dei (I. V. Dei) by Rev. Philippe Désiré

Synod of Bishops in 2023

« For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission »

Pope Francis officially inaugurated this new synod at the Vatican on Saturday, October 9, 2021. Synods of Bishops began following the II Vatican Council (1962-1965). The synod has a consultative function, a sort of "mini council" that is there to manifest the collaboration between Bishops and to deepen certain subjects. Since the beginning, the synods have broached a number of subjects important to the Church.

Synod (sunodos Greek): journeying together; a Synod is walking/journeying together. The Church is a dynamic community. It is journeying and in time and place it makes a point on the road traveled and looks at the road to take until the glorious return of Christ. The Church is naturally and fundamentally synodal.

The Synod is thus a special time where the responsible of the Church (the Pope and Bishops) make place for dialogue, listening to the Holy Spirit, the people of God (mutual listening) in order to see how to continue to journey together on the human route, the way of salvation proposed by Christ, to proclaim better Christ, the values of the Gospel and to contribute to the transformation of the world. The 2023 Synod has three main axes that are going to guide the participants in their study, research, reflections and decision-making: Communion, Participation, Mission.

THE 3 GREAT AXES OF THE 2023 SYNOD

Communion : When one breaks down the word Communion, we discover that there is the word "cum", with common, one, union. This is a word that is rich in meaning. We are all united to Jesus the Christ. He is our common point, very common. He unites us to Himself, one another already

in the mystery of the Incarnation and in a privileged way through Baptism, the Eucharist and the other sacraments and this in the force of the Holy Spirit. From this double union ensues the Church as the great family of Christ.

Participation : In the word Participation, there is the word “part”. The Church is a great family, an organized body with different members (parts). Each has his/her place and a part of responsibility in the Church. There is no place in the Church for exclusion or marginalization. The Church is the affair of all and requires the involvement of all.

Mission : In Mission, there is the sense of sending, a charge given to someone to do. The Church does not exist for herself and does not define its mission, but receives it from Christ dead and resurrected. The Church is not its own reference. It must accomplish its mission in the world just until the glorious return of Christ. Also, the Church must render account to the Lord of its management of the affairs of the Lord.

Through this Synod that is in preparation, the Church reminds us of these three great truths. We will be consulted in the framework of this preparation. A questionnaire will be submitted to us. In team or alone to respond to the questions, is already a beautiful way to show this communion that characterizes the Church, to offer our participation and to be recognized as disciples—missionaries. Let’s pray for the success of this Synod which is already in preparation and which will last for two years. There is a beautiful prayer on the Synod that is proposed to us. It is good to recite it from time to time.

We are before You, Holy Spirit: in Your Name we are united. You, our only Counsellor, come to us, remain with us, deign to dwell in our hearts. Teach us toward what goal to orient; show us how we must journey together. We, who are weak and sinners, do not allow us to provoke disunity. Make in kind that ignorance does not leads us down the wrong path, nor partiality influence our actions. May we find in You our unity, without wandering from the path of truth and justice while advancing together toward eternal life. We ask this of you Who acts in all times and places in communion with the Father and Son forever and ever. Amen.

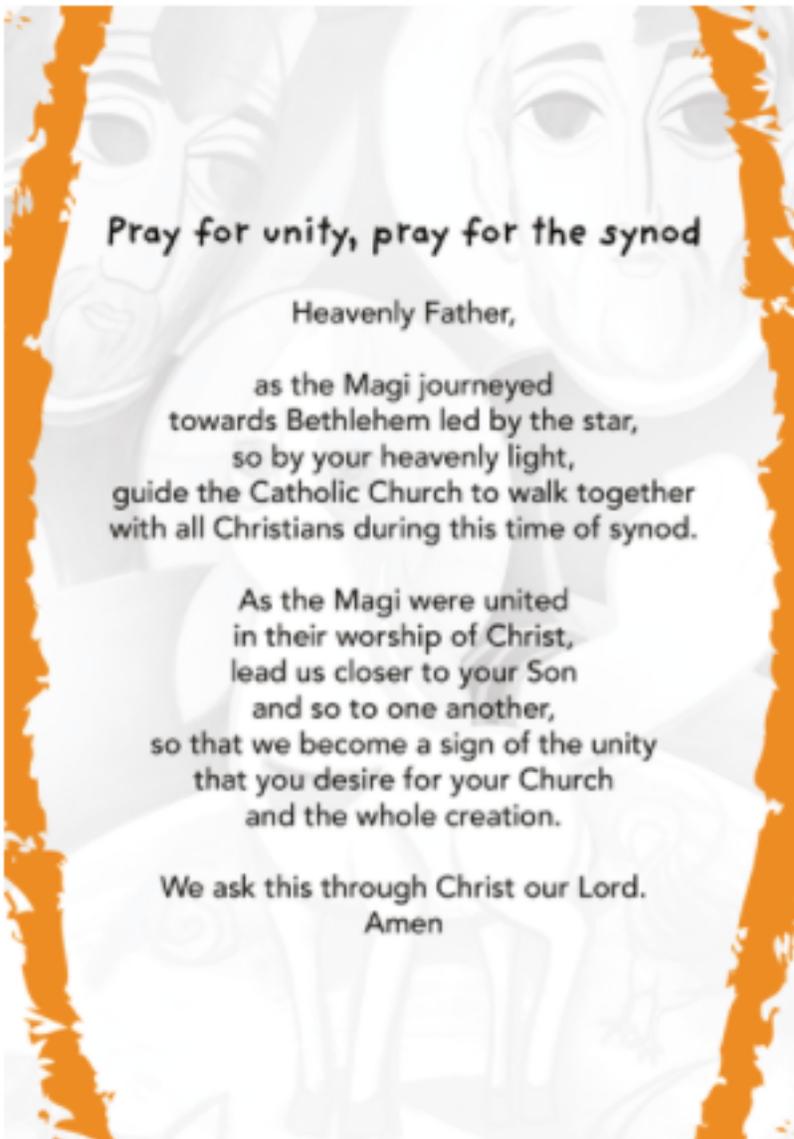
Fundamental Questions of the Synod:

- 1) In our Church what is the present state of our “journeying together,” and what steps does the Spirit invite us to accomplish in order to grow toward this objective?
- 2) In placing ourselves to listen to the world that surrounds us what calls are the Spirit sending us to orient our missionary action?



Pray for unity, pray for the synod

For the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Cardinal Mario Grech and Cardinal Kurt Koch invite all Christians to pray for unity and to continue to journey together. Cardinal Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Cardinal Grech, General Secretary of the Synod of the Bishops, wrote: “Both synodality and ecumenism are processes of walking together.” The theme “We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (Mt 2: 2) prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches, offers an occasion to pray with all Christians that the Synod will proceed in an ecumenical spirit:



The Synod

#ListeningChurch

Pray Connect Share Your Story

The Synod is an invitation from Pope Francis for us to journey together in conversation about our faith, our church, and the future.

We are invited to engage as parishes, families, individuals and community groups - reflecting, discussing, and sharing our experiences, thoughts and views.

Our website has information, including the Synod questions, to help launch your journey.

www.antigonishdiocese.com/ListeningChurch