

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 27, 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus told his disciples a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye" (Luke 6:39-42).

Sunday Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of Sirach 27:4-7. The author was a wise and pious Jew who lived about 200 B.C. His purpose in writing was to encourage his fellow Jews to live devout lives following the Law of Moses and the pious traditions handed down to them. He treats of the individual, of the family and of the community, of their relations with one another and with God. In these verses he emphasizes how a man's speech shows up his character and his religious outlook.

The **Second Reading** is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58. St. Paul is speaking of the resurrection of the dead which the death and resurrection of Christ have won for us. In these verses St. Paul ends his discussion on death and resurrection with a hymn of triumph.

The **Gospel** is taken from St. Luke (6:39-45). These statements of Christ spoken centuries ago to his fellow Jews of Palestine are as true and as crystal clear today as they were in the year 29 A.D. They are the words of him who was the Truth. They are put before us today for there are few amongst us who do not need to be reminded of their lesson. We are all so prone to see the neighbor's faults and shortcomings and so inclined to cover up or deny our own.

While we ourselves are blind to, or wanting in, many necessary virtues, yet we can spot this lack in our brother Christian and have the audacity to offer to lead him on the right road. We are often lacking in the basic knowledge of the teachings of our faith and yet we can find a thousand faults in the official doctrine of the teaching Church. We can all criticize minor defects in our neighbor's Christian behavior whilst our own Christian way of living is giving far greater scandal.



In other words, most if not all of us, are to some degree hypocrites. We pretend to be what we are not, but should be. We pretend to be producing good fruit: figs and grapes, whereas

we are only thornbushes and brambles which produce nothing but harmful thorns which sting and poison ourselves and our neighbors. And while I am making these comments I shouldn't be at all surprised if some of my listeners are saying in their hearts: "Mrs. X or John Y is getting it today, I hope they are taking it in," when what we should all be saying is: "How truly our Lord read my heart. How many times in the past week have I criticized my fellow men without knowing all, or any perhaps, of the true facts. How seldom have I honestly examined my own conscience to see my own more serious defects and tried to correct them?"

When our Lord spoke these words, his purpose and intention was not to condemn his hearers, the vast majority of whom were guilty of the defects he mentioned, but rather to open their minds and their hearts to their shortcomings so that they would change for the better and learn to live with their neighbor's faults, and do all in their power to correct their own.

It is for the very same purpose the Church has selected this particular lesson for us today. We are all guilty of rash judgment and unjustified criticism, to a greater or lesser degree. Let us turn this criticism on ourselves rather, and judge ourselves honestly and sincerely and in a short while we may, with God's grace helping us, notice a change in our Christian conduct. We shall not become saints in a week or a month but little by little, imperceptibly at first perhaps, we shall find ourselves becoming more Christian and therefore more charitable towards our neighbor and less critical of the faults of others. —Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan,

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 1, 2022

SJB (no Mass) 4:00 PM

Wednesday

March 2, 2022 (Ash Wednesday)

SP 9:00 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

SJB 4:00 PM

Friday, March 4, 2022

HGA (No Mass) 11:00 AM

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, March 5, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+Robert P. Sampson

Sunday March 6, 2022

SJB 9:00 AM

+Chad Landry

SP 10:30 AM

+Rose & Ambrose Sutherland

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

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

Saturday, February 20, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$860.00

Candles 9.75

Total **\$869.75**

St. John the Baptist

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$ 640.00

Property Maintenance 20.00

Total **\$ 660.00**

St. Peter's

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$595.00

Altar Society Dues 15.00

Cemetery road 25.00

Missals 5.00

Total **\$ 640.00**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

SP & SJB: Ash Wednesday Mass and distribution of ashes will be held in the church at 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, respectively on Wednesday, March 2.

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

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

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

My Dear People,

Traditionally the Season of Lent is a time for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. The exercise of these virtues keeps us close to God and keeps us focused on service to others. Fasting is an act of self-denial and a way of directing our thoughts away from ourselves and towards our God. Almsgiving is the act by which we give of ourselves in order to assist someone in need. Prayer should be the centre of our Christian lives lifting up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our God who loves us.

The word Lent comes from the Old English word, 'lencten' referring to the lengthening daylight hours as we move to springtime, a time of renewal and new life. Our Season of Lent may begin with ashes on our forehead but the place to begin is not our forehead but our heart. "Come back to me with all your heart."

This Lenten call to renewal of our hearts is also a public call for renewal in the heart of the Church. Last October Pope Francis called a Synod and unlike other Synods, he has invited all the people of the world to provide input. He wants the Church to be a listening Church; to have a listening heart. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he wants people everywhere to share what is in their hearts and how the heart of the Church could respond better to the needs of our world. The word Synod means journeying together and Pope Francis has made 'synodality' the theme of this Synod. He wants us to focus on how we journey together as we pray, connect and share our story.

As a diocese, we want to focus on the Synod during this Season of Lent. I encourage our parishes to display the Synod poster and offer the Synod Prayer at Sunday Mass, perhaps after the Prayers of Intercession or following the Prayer after Communion. With the easing of COVID restrictions, we hope that we can gather and share our thoughts in person. Our Synod team has expertise and resources to support you in hosting these conversations, for details contact Debbie Aker at the Emmaus Centre. We have also provided many online resources for parish and personal engagement, including an online survey that may be of particular interest to those who are unable to gather. You can find the survey in English and French and other resources on our website: www.antigonishdiocese.com/listeningchurch.

I invite you to pray, connect and share your story as people of the local church sharing with the universal church during this Season of Lent.

Fraternally,

+ *Wayne Kirkpatrick*
Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

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.”

'Come back to me with all your heart': Lent 2022

"This Lenten call to renewal of our hearts is also a public call for renewal in the heart of the Church," Bishop Kirkpatrick says in his Lenten letter, inviting us to journey with the Synod this Lenten season. There are many ways to journey with the Synod, such as: offering prayer, reflecting on issues of importance to you in the church today, filling out a survey, or hosting a conversation. learn more about what is available by contacting Debbie at the Emmaus Centre (daker@dioceseofantigonish.ca, 902-539-6188 or toll-free 1-800-656-5311 ext 226) or visiting our website:

www.antigonishdiocese.com/listeningchurch.

