

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 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



There is a shocking turnaround in today's Gospel. The people with whom Jesus grew up were assembled in the Nazareth synagogue. After they heard him read Sacred Scripture and give a one sentence homily "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" St. Luke tells us that "all spoke well of him and were AMAZED at the gracious words that came from his mouth." But that amazement soon turned into doubt and then into fury. — *Fr. Roger J. Landry*

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-5, 17-19). Jeremiah is the second of the four great prophets of Israel; a contemporary of Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. He was born in the last part of the reign of Manasseh, about 645 years before the birth of Jesus and almost a century after Isaiah. Today's reading comes from the prologue which gives an account of Jeremiah's calling. It is a dialog between Yahweh and Jeremiah.

The **Second Reading**, taken from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:31-13:13), continues last week's comparison of the Church to the human body. Each part of the body is no greater than any other part; rather, all work together to serve the common good. The second reading also discusses the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The **Gospel** reading is taken from St. Luke (Lk 4:21-30). This rejection of Jesus by his own townfolk must have sincerely grieved him. But it was only the beginning of similar rejections. Their attempt to murder him was an indication of what was yet to come. "To his own he came but his own did not accept him" as St. John says (1:11). The reason was that the Messiah they were looking for was a political leader who would make Israel a political power not only among the nations but over the other nations. Nearly all the messianic prophecies had references to the universality of the messianic kingdom—this universality they interpreted in a political, worldly sense. Their interest in things spiritual was then at a very low ebb and therefore the message of Christ had little interest for them. They did not want a spiritual kingdom.

For seventeen centuries they had been God's Chosen People, and they were proud of their superiority over the sinful Gentiles who did not know the true God. That very pride of theirs was their undoing. The Gentiles were God's children too, and they also were to share in the new kingdom which the Messiah would establish, but the very thought of this was abhorrent to the vast majority of the Jews.

In spite of all their opposition, however, Jesus spent his public life amongst them. He gave them the first offer of entering the new kingdom. They could still continue to be God's Chosen People together with, and alongside, the other nations of the earth. They refused. And their refusal went so far as to call in the aid of the hated Gentiles to crucify the One—their own fellow Jew—who had come to bring them the message of the true kingdom and the offer of being its first citizens.

There were exceptions, of course, and honorable exceptions at that. Christ founded his Church, the new kingdom of God on the Apostles, who were Jews, and through their noble sacrifices and efforts, the kingdom spread to all the Gentile nations of the earth. Because of their sacrifices, we are Christians, members of Christ's kingdom on earth and heirs to his eternal kingdom in heaven. Through our Christian teaching we have learned that our life on this earth is but a period of preparation, a period during which we can earn the true life as citizens of his eternal kingdom. How often do we, like the Jews of Christ's day, forget this and bend all our efforts to building for ourselves a kingdom of power or wealth in this world, a kingdom which we will have to leave so soon?

We would not, of course, openly deny Christ, much less try, like his neighbors in Nazareth, to throw him to his death over a cliff: but how often in our private actions, and in our dealings with our neighbors, do we push him and his doctrine quietly aside and act as if we knew him not. In this we are no better than Christ's neighbors of Nazareth and we grieve his loving heart as much as they did on that sad day. Am I one of those (each one of us can ask himself)? Do I really love Christ or, to put it in a more personal way, do I really love myself? If I do, I will not risk losing my place in the eternal kingdom for the sake of some paltry pleasure or gain in this present life which will end for me so very soon.

--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 1, 2022

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, February 4, 2022

**HGA 11:00 AM
+ Walter Martell**

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, February 5, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+William A. Pottie

Sunday, February 6, 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 22, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$290.00
Initial Offering	25.00
Christmas Offering	25.00
Solemnity of Mary	10.00-

Total **\$350.00**

St. John the Baptist

January 23, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$817.00
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Total **\$ 817.00**

St. Peter's
January 23, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$1,155.00
Candles	3.00
Missals	5.00
Initial Offering	20.00
New Year's	10.00
Christmas	10.00
Cemetery	500.00
Old Cemetery Road	25.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,728.00</u>

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Seniors Care Grant

Trevor Boudreau, MLA for Richmond Update: Here's the link to apply online or to print forms. If you require a hard copy, please contact our office - see contact information below. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-help-household-costs...>

Beginning December 1, 2021, Service Nova Scotia & Internal Services will deliver a new grant program on behalf of the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care. The Seniors Care Grant will be an annual reimbursement program of up to \$500 to help cover the costs of household services. It can be used to reimburse costs for such things as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery delivery, and more. It is available to homeowners and renters.

The applicant must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the program:

- They must still reside in their home
- The property or lease agreement must be in their name or include their name
- They are 65 years of age or over
- They have an annual household net income of \$37,500 or less.

Applicants can submit online or by paper. Paper applications will be accepted by mail or fax to the Business Registration Unit, or drop-off at any Access Nova Scotia location. MLA offices will be provided with blank applications to handout to seniors upon request. Applicants have until May 31, 2022, to apply for the grant. The Seniors Care Grant website will be available December 1 for more information and to accept online applications. www.novascotia.ca/seniors-care-grant Should you have any

questions about the program, please contact my office at 902-535-2297 or send us an email at info@trevorboudreau.ca. Please share with any Seniors you know who could benefit and who are not on Facebook.

Thanks,
Trevor

Listening with the Ear of the Heart

On Jan. 24 (The Feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of the Catholic press) Pope Francis announced the theme of this year's message for World Communications Day on May 29.

“Listening with the ear of the heart,” invites us to reflect that listening involves more than simply the sense of hearing. Pope Francis, quoting St Paul, noted that “faith comes through hearing.”

Now through May 2022, our diocese is engaged in the Synod journey, inviting you as individuals and groups to share your experiences, opinions, and thoughts on the church past, present and future. Information gathered during this time will be compiled into a 10-page report that will become part of a submission by Canada to the Synod of Bishops meeting in Rome in 2023.

Join the journey!

#ListeningChurch

Pray Connect Share Your Story

www.antigonishdiocese.com/ListeningChurch

New On Our Website:

The #ListeningChurch page on our website (www.antigonishdiocese.com/listeningchurch) now includes:

Video welcome and Synod invitation from Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bishop's video is also on our Diocese of Antigonish YouTube channel.

Link to view or share: <https://youtu.be/Sik3zR1upIU>

Online survey: this 10-question survey is anonymous, with both short and detailed questions for sharing your Synod story

Link to

share: <https://fs26.formsite.com/DioceseofAntigonish/codp3edovo/index.html>

We Hold in Prayer:

Our clergy and Synod team: The Synod team will be hosting a virtual conversation of clergy on Friday, Jan. 28, 10 am - 12 pm, to test a new online resource for parish conversations. The invitation was extended via email to clergy by Bishop Kirkpatrick. We are grateful for the time invested in development, participation and feedback.

Resources:**Synod Posters and Prayer Cards**

are available to parishes in both English and French, free of charge.

Does your parish need some, or need more?

Contact Jennifer with your order: 902-759-2181

or jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

From the Catholic Register

U.S. abortion appeal could spark Canadian debate

BY [QUINTON AMUNDSON, THE CATHOLIC REGISTER](#)

- January 26, 2022
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The landmark Roe v. Wade decision that struck down American abortion laws turned 49 years old Jan 22, but pro-life activists north of the border are hopeful it won't hit 50.

And should Roe v. Wade be overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in the latest legal challenge, Canadian pro-lifers are hoping it could bring change at home where there has effectively been no abortion regulations since 1988.

The Mississippi case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization is considered the most consequential abortion rights legal showdown in years — and a point-blank challenge to Roe v. Wade. In 2018, Mississippi passed the Gestational Age Act,

which bans the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy, except for medical emergencies or severe fetal abnormalities. Jackson Women's Health, the only remaining abortion clinic in the state, launched a legal challenge immediately. The case has wound its way through the American court system and made it to the Supreme Court where on Dec. 1 oral arguments were heard.

A decision is expected by the end of the court's 2021-22 term. Historically, the court's most significant decisions are made in June.

Nicole Scheidl, executive director of Canadian Physicians for Life (CPL), has spoken with experts about the case and these interactions give her hope.

"They were all very hopeful and thought there was more of a chance of it being overturned than not," said Scheidl. "It seems like the court will return the issue to the states."

While overturning *Roe v. Wade* would create seismic waves in the U.S., what could its repeal mean for Canada? One of CPL's five resolutions for 2022 is to "mount a uniquely Canadian response" to this anticipated event.

"This will cause a cultural conversation about abortion in Canada, and I think there has to be a cultural conversation about abortion in Canada," said Scheidl. "We don't have an abortion law in this country, and abortion is done right up until the time of birth, and many people don't know about that. Conversations will bring this issue more to the front of mind for Canadians."

Jonathon Van Maren, communications director for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, says *Roe v. Wade* or other abortion-related news headlines gives the centre the opportunity to engage with Canadians about the issue.

"Each of our staff has had one-on-one conversations with thousands of Canadians, and Canadians, when confronted with the truth, are very open to changing their minds," he said. "What Canada needs is people who are willing to get out there and speak to their peers about the issue."

Jeff Gunnarson, national president of the Campaign Life Coalition, told *The Catholic Register* via email that Canada's task post-*Roe* is "to keep the momentum going."

"Canada is loath to discuss abortion, but it will be difficult to ignore the pro-life blossoming occurring across the United States, and it is imperative our pro-life movement keep the topic alive and make it a common kitchen table discussion across our nation," said Gunnarson. "Hearts and minds will then begin to change more rapidly as they see large swathes of the U.S. criminalize what abortion really is: child murder."

Gunnarson would also like a *Roe v. Wade* overturn to put the Supreme Court of Canada's "similarly destructive" 1988 *R. v. Morgentaler* decision back in the national conversation.

This edict legalized abortion for any stage of a women's pregnancy. Abortion was considered a crime under Section 251 of Canada's Criminal Code — illegal with no exceptions until 1969. That year Pierre Trudeau added an amendment to allow doctors to perform abortions if the health or life of the woman is at risk.

belong



SOCIAL CONNECTION



**VON Adult Day Program
is now accepting new clients
in the following communities:**

**Amherst – Pictou – Antigonish – Tatamagouche – Cape Breton –
Middleton – Milford – Lunenburg – Yarmouth**

VON is accepting new clients in many Adult Day Programs, which provide a safe, comfortable and stimulating environment for seniors and adults living with dementia, chronic illness, intellectual disabilities, and social isolation.

Clients have the opportunity to maintain and improve cognitive and physical skills through exercise, activities, entertainment and discussions.

This program also provides dependable respite hours for caregivers on a scheduled basis.

To learn more or to book a space, please phone VON at:

Amherst: 902-297-0607

Pictou and Antigonish: 902-301-9538

Tatmagouche and Milford: 902-305-4798

Cape Breton: 902-564-6420

Middleton: 902-825-5455

Lunenburg: 902-634-7173

Yarmouth: 902-635-2139