

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

October 1, 2023

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him" (Matt. 21:31-32).

The month of October is Respect Life Month, with the first Sunday in October also being Respect Life Sunday. See [USCCB](#) for resources.

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28*. A notion very prevalent among the Jews, all through their history, was that the sins of parents were punished in their children. Ezekiel tells his audience that each man is responsible for his own sins. As each man has a free will, the good man may foolishly turn to sin, and likewise, the sinner may repent and live a good life.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2:1-5*. St. Paul is urging his new converts to live in unity of love and mutual charity. Each one must esteem his neighbor as of more importance than himself and help him in every way. In doing this, they are only imitating their Savior Christ Jesus who although Creator became a creature, though Master, He made Himself a slave—all for love of us.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 21:28-32*. This parable was primarily intended to show up the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and the perilous position in which they stood in relation to God and heaven. It is, however, a warning against hypocrisy for all time. Lip service of God will not merit heaven. Nominal Christians are not working in the Lord's vineyard. At any moment they may be called from this life, and what defense can they offer the just judge? Will they dare to offer the flimsy excuses with which they try to silence their consciences now: "we didn't realize how sinful we were"; "we were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "we were led astray by bad example"; "we didn't like to be different from others"; "we were going to put things right"? Who will dare to offer such excuses at the judgment seat? Their utter futility will then be apparent in all its nakedness.

However, we are still on earth, and while the door of God's mercy is wide open to us. If in the past we said, "I will not go into your vineyard", we still have time to reverse that sinful decision. Not only can we with God's grace turn over a new leaf, but we can completely wipe out the sinful pages of our life's story written up to now. Remember that what God in His mercy did for the tax-collectors and

harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Mary Magdalenes, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, the Matt Talbots and the millions of unknown penitents who are now saints in heaven He can also do for you.

We answered the call to God's vineyard by accepting baptism and membership of His Church. If we have grown lax in our fervor and refused to do the tasks allotted to us, we still have time, thanks to God's mercy and patience, to put things right. Today, look into your conscience and see how much of your past life you have given to God and how much you have kept for yourself. If you were called tonight to render an account to the Lord, would the balance sheet be in your favor? Is your corner of the vineyard producing abundant crops, or is it perhaps filling up with weeds, briars and brambles? If the latter, then we will say a heartfelt "Thank you, God, for not calling us to judgment today. We will begin right now to understand our sinful past, so that our corner of your vineyard will be in good order when you do call us. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. God grant that we shall never abuse it."

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

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Receipts:

St. John the Baptist

Sept. 23, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,176.00
Cemetery	300.00
Needs of the Church	115.00

Total **\$ 1,591.00**

St. Peter's

Sept. 23, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,292.00
Candles	8.00
Cemetery Donation	20.00

Total **\$ 1,320.00**

Holy Guardian Angels
Sept. 24, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 828.25
Candles	23.75
Total	\$ 852.00

Schedule of Masses

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Vincent Battiste*

Friday, October 6, 2023

HGA 11:00

+ *Maude & Daniel Bona*

Saturday, October 7, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *John MacNeil*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Leo McNamara*

Sunday, October 8, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11.00 AM

+ *Clara, Lawrence Ralph & James Bona*

HGA: HGA: The church is open every Sunday from 1-3 pm for quiet visits throughout 2023. This opportunity is part of our 200th Anniversary of our parish. From Matthew Kelly's BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST: "All the answers are in the Tabernacle. Jesus has all the answers and He patiently waits for us in the Tabernacle, day and night, to share those answers with us. Next time you are grappling with a decision, stop by your church and ask Jesus for His advice. There is something powerful about just sitting in His Presence."

Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, October 28th, L'Ardoise Community Centre, Lower Level. Time: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Great selection, sponsored by L'Ardoise Social Action.

L'Ardoise Acadian Festival - wrap-up meeting will be held on Sunday, October 15 @ 2:00 PM. Dates for 2024 festival will be set and a financial statement will be provided. Hope to see you there.

We have a new program at NSCC Strait Campus in Port Hawkesbury for seniors 55+. Most of the programming is free for local seniors. The program is called CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health) and offers social, cultural,

learning, and recreational programs which promote health and well-being for seniors.

Linda Ouellette

Administrative Support

CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health)

Nova Scotia Community College

Strait Area Campus, Port Hawkesbury

The Richmond County Men's Choir is up and singing for another year. We welcome any men of the county to join us. Practices are held every two weeks and the choir sings once a month in one of our Richmond County churches. In September we sang in L'Ardoise, In October we will sing in Louisdale. Our next practices will be September 27th and October 11 in the Louisdale Church from 6:30 to 7:30PM. Come join a group who honour God with their voices. 'Those who sing, pray twice.' (St. Augustine)

L'Arche Cape Breton Benefit Concert

St. Peter's Lions' Club Sunday, October 15, 2023. Featuring David Stone, Jason MacDonald, Tommy & Shelly Samson, Mannie Bourgeois, Evelyn Mac Rae, Tyrone David, Wayne Bona, Jack Mac Queen & Pamela & Gerard Sampson. Freewill offering at door, 50/50 tickets available.

Oct. 7, 12:30 - 2 pm (Atlantic)

Webinar on Supporting Survivors in Healing

The movie "Sound of Freedom" has sparked a conversation among churches regarding what they can do to fight human trafficking and child exploitation. Through God's Grace Ministry is offering this event designed to equip churches to work with sex trafficking victims and survivors.

Our MC Pamela Bryant is the director of Restoration Services, a non-profit that facilitates survivors to heal. Our Keynote Speaker is Jaimee Johnson, a "lived experience" expert who can speak both from her own experience and that of the women she has worked with, on the impact of different interactions that survivors have had within churches and what has worked and not worked.

To Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-churches-can-provide-support-and-healing-for-sex-trafficking-survivors-tickets-707928090977>



**Marian Movement of Priests
Cenacle Retreat Weekend for Laity
With Father Andy Goodwin
October 6th to October 8th**

www.ourladyofgracemonastery.ca

No registration fee required.

Retreat begins Friday evening and ends Sunday morning with Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 10:00 am followed by Rosary Procession to Our Lady of Grace Shrine.

Retreat options:

Two nights and five meals - \$185 per person.

Meal plan options available.

Weekend schedule to follow.

Contact Lucille Fougere for retreat details and accommodation information at (902) 623-0075.

Father Andy Goodwin invites you to a retreat weekend including Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary with meditations, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Reconciliation and Rosary Procession to Our Lady of Grace Shrine.

There will be readings and commentary on our Lady's messages contained in the book. Cenacle prayer and guide books will be available.

We consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and pray for the Church, for Canada and for peace in the world.