

**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes**  
(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

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**December 3, 2023,  
First Sunday of Advent**



## Mass Readings

Today's lesson from Isaiah has many instructions for us. If we take them to heart, they can help us to prepare ourselves for the great feast of Christmas. The prophet Isaiah reminds the people of Judah of the dreadful fate their sins are preparing for them. Nevertheless, he has words of hope and promises of a glorious future, that is, the messianic age, for the remnant who will repent and remain faithful to God. He pleads to Yahweh, the Father of the Chosen People, for mercy. He prays that God will come down among them. This prayer was answered when the Son of God became man in the Incarnation.

The prophet's prayer has been heard, his devout wish has been fulfilled. We are preparing ourselves to commemorate this extraordinary act of divine love for us--the coming of the Son of God as a baby, born of a lowly, human mother in the midst of poverty. We are preparing to celebrate the great feast of Christ, the birthday of Christ, our divine Redeemer. Like the prophet, we must confess that we too are unworthy of God's love and of God's pardon.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the First Corinthians 1:3-9*. In the verses chosen for today's second reading, St. Paul answers reports concerning disputes and difficulties which had reached him. The letter was written from Ephesus in 57 A.D.

During the four weeks of aDvent, the Church in her liturgy keeps reminding us of these basic truths of our faith. In helping us to prepare ourselves to welcome the birth of Christ, the stress is always on the necessity of living our Christian lives, so that at whatever moment he calls us we shall be ready to meet him and be found worthy to enter eternal life. This is what St. Paul taught the Corinthian Christians and what he is teaching each one of us today.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Mark 13:33-37*. "Watch!" is Christ's advice and command. WE know not the year or the day or the hour when our master will call us. That year, day and hour will be unexpected, even if we are advanced in years or have been suffering from prolonged illness. We shall not be unprepared for it if we have tried all our lives to be faithful to Christ and to our Christian faith.

This holy season of Advent is an opportune time for each one of us to look into his life and see how he stands with God. Christmas should reminder us of the second coming of Christ, which will be very soon for all of us.

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

## **Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

**Please call the office:  
902-535-2053**

### **Receipts:**

#### **St. John the Baptist**

**November 25, 2023**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>726.00</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>		<b>100.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>826.00</u></b>

#### **St. Peter's**

**November 25, 2023**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>680.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>		<b>22.00</b>
<b>Missals</b>		<b>10.00</b>
<b>Parish Dues</b>		<b>10.00</b>
<b>Truth &amp; Reconciliation</b>		<b>10.00</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>		<b>500.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>1,232.00</u></b>

## Holy Guardian Angels

November 26, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$	774.00
Candles		15.10
Missals		15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>804.10</b>

## Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

*+Bernard Pius Sampson*

Wednesday December 6, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, December 8, 2023,

HGA 11:00 PM

Saturday, December 9, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

*+Bernard Pius Sampson*

SP 5:30 PM

*+ Deceased members of the Sutherland Family*

Sunday, December 10, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

*+ Murdock Rehberg*

Sunday, Dec 10th, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM the Bonnie Brae Senior Citizens' Club, St. Peter's, 14 Toulouse St., St. Peter's is hosting 'Tea & Tunes' featuring Evelyn McRae & Les Boys. Admission \$5.00 per person. 50/50 Draw. Light Lunch will be served.

**Religious Christmas cards for sale:** There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through [www.lifecyclebooks.ca](http://www.lifecyclebooks.ca). You may order online or Maureen Sampson of HGA has ordered several mixed packs for anyone in our surrounding communities who may be interested. The cost is **\$5 for a pack of 10 cards.**

Phone 902-587-2517 for more information.

**HGA parish will be hosting a Christmas Eve service at 4:00 PM.** We will start with setting up the manger, an opening prayer, readings, the nativity, and a closing prayer. **PLEASE NOTE there will be no Mass** as we are unable to have a priest present due to his busy schedule. Therefore, there will be no homily and no

communion. Any children who wish to take part please contact Raymonde Burke @ 587-2675. **Mass will be held in St Peter's at 8:00 pm and Holy Guardian Angels Christmas Day at 11:00 am.**

**Our 200th Anniversary Booklet and Vintage Calendar** are a great Christmas gift idea. Take advantage of an amazing souvenir and a special offer of **\$15.00 per item or choice of two items for \$20.00** total. Call Blair (535-4107) or Steve (631-4460).

### **Holy Guardian Angels Parish Social Action Events 2023**

**A financial donation can be made by** contacting Sally Mombourquette at (902) 587-2171 or by mailing your donation to L'Ardoise Social Action 19 Mombourquette Rd., Lower L'Ardoise, NS B0E 1W0—Tax receipts will be issued.

Thank you for continuing to support our food bank which enables us to respond to those in greatest need.

All activities to take place at the L'Ardoise Community Centre.

**St. John the Baptist Memory Tree:** Donations may be made in memory of a loved one. We will have the name placed on a dove, angel, or star which will be placed on the tree during the Christmas season. Donations and names can be given to Marie Fougere or Mimi Fougere, or simply place the name and donation in the collection. Proceeds will help with purchases of heating oil for the church this winter.

Thank you.

**SJB: Operation Christmas Child:** A sincere thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox or gave a donation. This year 211 boxes were collected. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. **St. John the Baptist CWL**

**SP: A Christmas Memory Tree is available in St. Peter's Church** again this year throughout Advent. A decoration will be placed on it for each name received. The names will be announced each week prior to Mass until Christmas. Charitable donation receipts will be issued. All funds raised go directly to St. Peter's Parish. Donations may be dropped in the collection, e-mailed to [memorytreestpeters@gmail.com](mailto:memorytreestpeters@gmail.com), or dropped off at the glebe between 9AM and 12 PM Monday to Thursday. Security answer is memorytree. In the message please add the name(s) of the person(s) whom you wish to remember.

### **Christmas Toy/Clothing Collection**

It's time for our annual collection of toys and children's clothing to be donated to the St. Peter's Food Bank for distribution to client families in time for Christmas. Requested are unwrapped new toys and new children's clothing to be dropped off at the Red Islands Fire Hall, on Saturday, December 9th, between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. We will have tea and light snacks. We hope you can support this effort again this year. On behalf of our client families, the Food Bank management have expressed great appreciation for our efforts in past years. Howard MacIntyre, Chair, Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors' Association.

**Pope Francis releases new book  
'Christmas at the Nativity'**

Pope Francis pens the introduction for his new book entitled "Christmas at the Nativity", which features various texts by the Pope on the Nativity scene and has been released in English, Italian, French, and Portuguese. The book was released in English on 1 November by publishing house Focolare/New City Press and can be purchased at the following link: <https://www.focolaremedia.com/bookstore>.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-11/pope-francis-book-introduction-christmas-nativity-texts.html>

### **Journey through Advent:**

#### **A series of reflections by diocesan hermit Sheila O'Handley**

"Deep-seated anxiety seems to cover not only our world, but also our hearts. We need Advent's Hope of anticipating, gestating, and welcoming LIFE'S fidelity to New Life."

#### **Join in the journey with a new post each week:**

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/celebrating-advent-2023/>

### **Gaza Crisis: A Call to Help, A Call to Peace**

Thanks to the [fund matching offer](#), Canadians wishing to help provide food, water, shelter, hygiene kits, essential goods, healthcare and psychosocial support to families affected by the conflict in Gaza can do so twice as effectively by donating:

- **Online at** <https://bit.ly/45vR3Db>
- By **calling 1-888-234-8533** toll-free
- By mailing a **cheque payable to Development and Peace** (marked *Gaza Humanitarian Emergency*) to:  
555 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 8th Floor  
Montreal, Quebec H2Z 1B1

[Donate Now](#)