

**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](mailto:bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com)**

**December 10, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.

*“And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behavior in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.*

*“Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.” — Benedict XVI*

## **Mass Readings:**

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*. To help us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, the Church recalls the prophecies of the great Isaiah on each of the four Sundays of Advent. The prophet's words of comfort and consolation, addressed to his fellow exiles in Babylon, apply to Christian with infinitely greater force and meaning. The exiles were told that their liberation from enemy captivity was at hand. God would bring them back to Judea, to end their earthly days in freedom, but not without much struggle and strife. These same words have their real fulfillment in Christ. For us they have a meaning which goes beyond the confines of this world and of this limited life. The liberation from Babylon was but a shadow of the messianic redemption brought to all men by the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Second Letter of St. Peter 3:8-14*. "We wait for new heavens and a new earth." That is the principal reason for our existence on this earth. We have a number of secondary purposes to fulfill, but each must contribute toward our attaining the primary and principal purpose: our eternal existence in heaven. We are intended by God to be citizens of the "new universe." He has given us our citizenship papers. He has most carefully mapped the road we should travel. He has given us all the material and spiritual helps we need on the journey but, God though he be, he cannot bring us to heaven unless we cooperate with him.

The **Gospel** is from the *Gospel of Mark 1:1-8* "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." In twelve words St. Mark sums up the initiation of the greatest event that ever occurred in our human history, an event whose culmination would be not on earth but in heaven. God fulfilled the plan he had for us when creation began. He raised us up to the dignity of divine sonship by the Incarnation. The eternal Son of God "humbled himself" and joined our human nature to his divinity, thus making us his brothers and capable of sharing with him the eternal kingdom of his Father. Mark's story was, in fact, the greatest "good news" that man had ever received on earth. It is still the greatest, most astounding and, at the same time, most consoling new for us today. Let each one of us ask himself today: am I for Christ or against him? Am I on the road to heaven or am I facing in the opposite direction?  
 —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

### **Receipts:**

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

**December 2, 2023**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	965.00
Cemetery		60.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>1,025.00</u></b>

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

**December 2, 2023**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,298.00
Candles		16.00
Missals		10.00
Truth & Reconciliation		5.00
Cemetery		20.00
Memory Tree		430.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>1,779.00</u></b>

#### **Holy Guardian Angels**

**December 3, 2023**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	841.75
Candles		12.00
Missals		40.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>893.75</u></b>

# Mass Schedule

## Tuesday, December 12, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

## Wednesday December 13, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

## Friday, December 15, 2023,

HGA 11:00 PM

*+Lorraine Pottie*

## Saturday, December 16, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

*+Heather Pickett*

SP 5:30 PM

*+John Edward "Teddy" MacNeil*

**Requested by Trudy MacMillan**

## Sunday, December 17, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

*+ Lawrence, Clara, Ralph & James Bona*

**HGA:** L'Ardoise Social Action would like to acknowledge the tremendous support we received this past weekend. Our annual fundraiser brought friends and families together to celebrate a number of activities. We are again grateful to the L'Ardoise Men's Club for sponsoring our breakfast and the community residents who generously contribute to our food drive. We are truly humbled by the outpouring of volunteers who assist us with all of our events which enable us to respond to those in greatest need. Individuals, businesses and organizations continue to provide important financial aid and we remain forever grateful for your assistance. Congratulations to Allison Murray, winner of the \$500.00 Gift Cards prize. Our wish for everyone is Countless Blessings for the holiday season and into the New Year.

**HGA:** We would like to get together and put up the decorations on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. 'Many hands make light work.' Hope to see some folks there. **Thank you.**

**HGA: The Parish Council** needs new members to serve the parish community on this important decision-making council. Please give this invitation some thought and consider offering your talents to serve.

**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.

**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 CWL** celebrated a milestone of seventy years with members taking part in the weekend liturgy. Eight members received service pins. On Sunday we met for a meeting and delicious meal. Motions were made to donate to our various charities. We thank the parish and community for their continued support.

**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.