

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

**March 12, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

### **Sunday Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Exodus 17:3-7*. The Israelites, the Chosen People of God, were suffering slavery and the threat of total extermination in Egypt; God miraculously set them free and, with Moses as their leader, he led them towards the promised land of Canaan. But they soon forgot what God had done for them and began to murmur and rebel because of the difficulties of the long desert journey. One of these rebellious murmurings is put before us today.

The **Second Reading** is from the *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-2; 5-8*. This brief section is an encouragement to all who have been given the gift of the Christian faith to persevere in spite of adversity.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 4:5-42*. This gospel, about the Samaritan woman, is exceptionally rich. Every time we read it we are passionately moved by that intense conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, recalling the great teaching of Saint Augustine, with regard to Christ's request to the woman, "give me something to drink", said: "Yes, God thirsts for our faith and our love. As a good and merciful father, he wants our total, possible good, and this good is he himself. The Samaritan woman, on the other hand, represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks. She had "five husbands" and now she lives with another man; her going to and from the well to draw water expresses a repetitive and resigned life. However, everything changes for her that day, thanks to the conversation with the Lord Jesus....." (Benedict XVI, Angelus 24 February 2008).

To recognize that if we entrust ourselves to God, we receive every "possible good" which, as the Pope reminds us, is God himself, means living the dynamic of conversion to God: renouncing a self-centered mentality, which deceives self-sufficient man, in order to receive the gift of God. Man without God is inevitably destined to dissatisfaction, limited in everything by his own limits as a creature, even in "giving himself" or "obtaining for himself" joy, love, happiness... Man without God cannot think to reach boundless joy, unlimited and eternal love, the living water of which, precisely, Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman.

Happiness, another word for the living water, can only be given by the One who possesses it, and man does not possess it. God alone can share it with those who place their trust in Him and follow Him.

The living water, the gift of the Holy Spirit, can only be given by the Lord Jesus whom the Father sent into the world to give to all men and women eternal life, that is, never ending happiness. As the Pope reminds us "only the water that Jesus offers, the living water of the Spirit, can quench" man's "thirst for the infinite" (Benedict XVI, homily 24 February 2008). Man is able to give his fellow humans,

affection, money, power, human glory, honor, career ... but not endless happiness which, since it is an unlimited good, belongs to the divine, infinite sphere!

The living water flows only from the divine source. The Samaritan woman went to a well which was deep, but limited, whereas unlimited was her thirst for happiness and love. The woman, the Holy Father tells us, “ represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks”. How often man seeks the infinite, the eternal, well-being...but sadly continues to seek it in a well, in a reality, the earthly reality, which is unable to contain it. How many wells, deep but empty, how many wells of stagnant water, we have met on our way! We carry within us immense desires and easily deceive ourselves that we can meet them.

On our path of conversion, what a great grace it is to find the Lord Jesus waiting patiently for us beside our senseless wells. When, like the Samaritan woman, we are tired of the things of this world, of almost empty wells, then the Divine Master is especially close to us. He asks us to give him something to drink, he asks us to trust Him to satiate our heart and if we trust in Him we discover the joy of finding the true well, the source of crystal clear water.

Then, as if in a dream, as it was for the Samaritan woman, everything which before was important, no longer counts, true reality is something else, it becomes that Man-God who begs to give Himself! The secret of happiness is to invert the process of selfishness: to forget self in order to make room for Another Person, the Lord of life and happiness. Give up self and find God! If I renounce sin, I find grace, if I renounce myself, I find God and my brothers and sisters. “If you only knew what God is offering,” happiness is what He wants to give you! How often a priest should ask himself this question, or a woman who wonders “shall I have a child or not”, “am I thinking of myself, or of the child who cannot come into the world without my help?” If you knew what gift of Life, you would throw yourself into that well and there you would find the strength to renounce self.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, with wisdom typical of saints, explained why we should give ourselves to God: “Why should we give ourselves completely to God? Because God has given Himself to us. If God who owes us nothing is ready to give us nothing less than Himself, can we respond with only a small part of ourselves? Giving ourselves totally to God is a way of receiving God. I am for God and God is for me. I live for God and renounce myself, in this way I allow God to live for me. To possess God we must allow Him to possess our souls. (Blessed Teresa di Calcutta).

— Mgr Luciano Alimandi, *Ave Maria*, Agenzia Fides 27/2/2008

### **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

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-401

**Weekday Masses**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**SJB 4:00 PM**

**+ *Cletus Touesnard***

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**SP 9:00 AM**

**+ *Christena "Jean" MacDonald***

**Friday, March 17, 2023**

**HGA 11:00 AM**

**+ *Marie Elizabeth Martell***

**Saturday, March 18, 2023**

**SJB 4:00 PM**

**+ *Scott Fougere***

**SP 5:30 PM**

**+ *Willie A. & Gertie Landry***

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**

**SH 9:30 AM**

**HGA 11:00 AM**

**Receipts**

**St. John the Baptist**

**March 4, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose \$ 910.00**

**Property Maintenance 70.00**

**Total \$ 980.00**

**St. Peter's**

**March 4, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,351.90**

**Candles 27.00**

**Altar Society Dues 60.00**

**Total \$ 1,438.90**

**Holy Guardian Angels**

**March 5, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose \$ 972.00**

**Candles 21.25**

**Share Lent 20.00**

**Total \$ 1,013.25**

**On March 13, 2023 our Holy Father Pope Francis** celebrates the 10th anniversary of his election as successor of St. Peter. We pray that God will grant him wisdom, grace, and continued health as he shepherds the Church of Christ on Earth.

There will be a public lecture at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church.

40 Cabot Street, Sydney. Sunday, March 26, 7:00pm.

Presentation by Dr. Michael Higgins of St. Mark's College, UBC, Titled: "Pope Francis: The First Ten Years."

All are welcome!

*In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus.*

**– Pope Francis, in his Lenten Letter**

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/lent/>



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our parishes are now registering children (typically ages 7 and older) for preparation to receive First Holy Communion. We invite you to register your child for these sessions and welcome you and your family to this blessed journey of faith.

For more information, contact Debbie at 902-539-6188 ext 226, 1-800-656-5311 or [daker@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:daker@dioceseofantigonish.ca)




## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**SJB:** The "The Way of the Cross" **will be prayed in the vestry of SJB** every Tuesday during Lent beginning on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm followed by Mass.

**Our Lenten project** is to donate to our local Food Bank located at The St. Peter's Glebe. A box will be available at the church entrance. Thank You for any donation you make.

**Lenten Prayer Books** are available free of charge at the SJB church entrance and in the vestry.

**SP Parish Altar Society:** Tickets available \$5 each on \$400 value gift cards and ticket basket. Gift cards are supporting St. Peter's businesses. 

 **Drawing on March 18, 2023** 

Tickets available from Shirley 902-535-2093, Carmelita 902-535-3169 Pam 902-535-2595 Dianne 902-535-2334 Julie 902-623-0725 Barb 902-535-3623

**Knights of Columbus:** the regular Council 14280 meeting will be held on Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> in the St. Peter's Glebe House beginning at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**RICHMOND RTO BREAKFAST MEETING** will be held on MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM at Seal Cove Restaurant in Louisdale. All RTO Members invited.

**Tea & Tunes** is scheduled for March 19, 2023 at Bonnie Brae Club in St. Peter's with Evelyn MacRae & friends. Cost is \$5.00 which includes entertainment and lunch.

**HGA:** We continue to have the church open for personal prayer each Sunday from 1 to 3 PM.

**Next meeting of the anniversary planning committee** is Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM L'Ardoise Community Centre. All are welcome.

**HGA parish council is inviting you to become a member.** For those of you who are not sure what Parish council does, we invite you to sit in on our next meeting. Please take the time to think about joining. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Raymonde Burke 902-587-2675

**As part of our 200th Anniversary celebrations,** HGA displayed 10 family banners at the Richmond Villa with the names of the residents who were born in L'Ardoise. On Friday, March 3, we celebrated with cake and music. Music is good for the soul. Thank you sincerely to Quentin Mombourquette, Junior Martell, and Dave Murphy for an afternoon of lovely, toe-tapping melodies. Also, thanks to the Villa staff and residents for welcoming us so warmly. God bless you all.

**HGA Parish is hiring a permanent - part time cleaner** for our parish buildings. \$15:00 per hour and a minimum of ten hours per week. Interested parties can contact Raymonde Burke @ 902 227-8552 or 902 587-2675 please leave a message. Deadline is March 30.

**Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, April 1st L'Ardoise Community Centre, 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.** Proceeds to support the L'Ardoise Cemetery Fund. Table Rentals available, contact Blair Sampson (902-535-4107)

**Voices in Song Choral Concert** with The Elmer Iseler Singers, (Lydia Adams, Conductor/Artistic Director, Shawn Grenke, Piano/Organ) and Cape Breton Chorale, Directed by Ryan Billington with Paula Jane Francis on piano and organ.

March 14, 2023, Time: 8:00 PM

Location: Church of Christ the King, Sydney

Tickets: \$35/ \$30 for Seniors by calling (902) 270-2591, online at [capebretonchorale.com](http://capebretonchorale.com), or from Chorale Members.

Mary Hynes, the host of CBC's *Tapestry* will present the Fr. Greg MacLeod Memorial lecture at Cape Breton University.

Titled, *The Spirit of Radio: How to Find Words When Religion is Your Beat.*

Hosted by the Newman Society of CBU.

Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm.

The Lecture will be presented in the RBC Lecture Theatre, Room CE258.

No charge, all are welcome.

**Living with Grief support group**

**Thursdays 10 -11:30 am through April 6**

**Holy Family Parish, Sydney Mines**

Bereaved Families of Cape Breton in partnership with the Diocese of Antigonish and Holy Family Parish in Sydney Mines is offering a six-week grief program to those who have lost a loved one.

Each week, a grief-related topic is covered to help participants move through the grief process. Participants can attend alone or bring a support person.

In person or Zoom sessions will be held March 9, 16 and 30 and April 6.

**To register:**

Contact Norma Blinkhorn 902 202 2972 or [norma@diocantigonish.ca](mailto:norma@diocantigonish.ca)



## Healing Grief in Community

**Six-Week program for those who have lost a loved one**

Each week, a topic is covered to help you move through the grief process. Come alone or bring a support person.

**In person or Zoom sessions Thursdays 10 - 11:30 am  
Holy Family Parish, 9 MacKay St., Sydney Mines  
Session Dates: March 2, 9, 16, 30 and April 6, 2023**

**For More Information and to Register, contact:**

Norma Blinkhorn, 902 202 2972 or [norma@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:norma@dioceseofantigonish.ca)

**Brought to you by:**  
Bereaved Families of  
Cape Breton with  
Holy Family Parish  
and the Diocese of  
Antigonish

