

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

November 12, 2023

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour (Matt 25:10-13).

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Wisdom 6:12-16* and cites watchfulness as the key to a faithful religion and understanding of wisdom.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18* where he addresses a practical and doctrinal problem faced by the community. Paul had preached to them and left them with the impression that the second coming of Christ was imminent. Some died before the *parousia* and their concern is what has happened to them. Paul states firmly and categorically that what matters is that they interpret these events because of their faith and hope in the Lord.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 25:1-13*. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him*. This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the helps they needed, will never reach

heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him. Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: *Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him.* It will be too late then to do anything; even their best friends cannot help them. Each one must stand before the judge just as he is: there can be no borrowing of the oil of merit from others and there will be no time to buy any.

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.
—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
November 4, 2023**

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Envelopes & Loose | \$ 1,291.00 |
| Cemetery | 25.00 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$ 1,316.00</u> |

St. Peter's

November 4, 2023

| | | |
|------------------------|----|-----------------|
| Envelopes & Loose | \$ | 1,148.00 |
| Candles | | 35.00 |
| Missals | | 7.25 |
| Parish Dues | | 822.00 |
| World Mission | | 10.00 |
| Truth & Reconciliation | | 15.00 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$ | <u>2,037.25</u> |

Holy Guardian Angels

November 5, 2023

| | | |
|------------------------|----|---------------|
| Envelopes & Loose | \$ | 867.00 |
| Candles | | 26.95 |
| Truth & Reconciliation | | 20.00 |
| Cemetery Fund | | 20.00 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$ | <u>933.95</u> |

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+Bernard Pius Sampson

Wednesday November 15, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, November 17, 2023

HGA 11:00 PM

+ Manny Mombourquette

Saturday, November 18, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+Avis Daly

SP 5:30 PM

+ J. T. Mac Neil & Joe Mancini

Sunday, November 19, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11.00 AM

Lakeside Community Centre Christmas Merchandise Bingo

Nov. 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM; 15 games; 2 specials (\$1 each); \$7.50 per book;

Canteen available; 8598 West Bay Hwy, Sampsonville.

SJB: Thank you to all who helped organize the All Souls' Celebration and thanks to those who participated in honouring their friends and family.
Deirdre Boyd

Reminder to CWL members and friends to bring their recyclables to the bottle exchange in St. Peter's for our "Chalice" Christmas gift before the end of November. Thank you for your support. **St John the Baptist CWL.**

On behalf of parishioners from Holy Guardian Angels Parish we extend an invitation to our friends and neighbours from all parishes to join us on Monday, November 13th and Tuesday, November 14th for a two-day Mission. The theme is *Rekindle your Faith and Experience God's Healing Mercy*. What a great preparation for the Advent Season as we welcome the birth of Jesus.

Religious Christmas cards for sale: There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through 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.

The Municipality of the County of Richmond is currently seeking individuals to join the By-Law/Policy Committee. If you have experience working with by-laws and policies, please consider getting involved. Interested individuals are requested to submit applications in writing, indicating their experiences that would best suit the needs of the committee, prior to 4:00 PM, November 22, 2023. This is a one-year term. Please address applications or inquiries to:

Shelley David
Municipal Clerk and
Communications Officer
Municipality of the County of Richmond
P.O. Box 120
Arichat, Nova Scotia
B0E 1A0
Telephone: 226-3971
Email: clerk@richmondcounty.ca

Knights of Columbus: Fr. Père Vincent de Paul Council #14280, will conduct a membership drive at all Masses on the weekend of Nov. 25 & 26, 2023. It will include a very short presentation and materials will be available. Please give some thought to how we can serve God and community through the agency of the Knights of Columbus. Thank You.

Danny Madden
Grand Knight

K of C Council meeting: The regular monthly meeting of the council 14280 will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16th beginning at 6:30 PM in the basement meeting room of the St. Peter's Glebe. All are urged to attend.

Nov. 20, 2023 - Jan. 10, 2024

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program accepting applications

Not-for-profit employers can receive a wage subsidy up to 100% of the current

provincial minimum hourly wage. Public and private sector employers are eligible to receive a wage subsidy of up to 50% of the current provincial minimum hourly wage. Stay tuned for the Canada Summer Jobs launch by visiting the CSJ website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>

For more information:

www.canada.ca/canada-summer-jobs

Call: 1-800-935-5555 (ATS: 1-800-926-9105)

Sunday Nov. 26, 2-4 PM

Session at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys on the Synod just conducted in Rome.

Dr. Michael Higgins will be the presenter. Dr. Higgins is distinguished scholar in residence at St. Michael's University in Toronto. He has been president of several catholic universities in North America and often does theological commentary for the CBC. He attended the Synod as the designated journalist for Paulist Press. Open to all!