

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

August 13, 2023

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid" (Matt. 14:25-27).

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Kings 19:9a, 11-13a* and relates the story of Elijah in the cave and the Lord coming to him in a "still small voice."

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 9:1-5* in which St. Paul speaks of the sorrow of heart that he has because the Jews, as a nation, had refused to see Christ as the Messiah who was promised to them by God through their patriarchs and prophets.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 14:22-33*. Our Lord sent His disciples to row across the lake, knowing that they would meet strong, gale-force head-winds and be in danger. He did this because He wanted to strengthen their faith and trust in Himself. He intended to come to them at the right moment, working two miracles — walking on the water and calming the storm. This He did and the result was as He had intended — their faith in Him was strengthened, they declared He was the Messiah, the Chosen of God. Peter, already the recognized leader, and always the most daring among them, showed himself ready to risk drowning in order to prove his trust and confidence in Christ. While he trusted in Christ, all went well, but when his faith weakened he would have been lost were it not for the outstretched helping hand of his master. This was also a very necessary lesson in the education of Peter and his companions.

For us, too, there is a necessary lesson in this incident. It is that we must continue to trust in Christ and his loving Father, even when God seems to have deserted us. Most of the troubles and trials of our lives are caused by the injustice and lack of charity of our fellowmen. The remainder can be attributed to our own defects and sins or to some weakness in our mental and bodily make-up. But God foresees all these misfortunes, and can prevent them. Instead he lets them take their course, because they can and should be the means of educating us in our knowledge of life's true meaning and they should draw us closer to him.

Christ foresaw the storm and the grave risk His Apostles would run when He sent them off across the lake. But that trial and the grave danger they ran was for their own good, because they learned to realize that He was from God and they could always trust Him. Our trials and our earthly ailments are also foreseen by God and permitted by him (even if inflicted on us by a sinful fellowman) so that they will draw us closer to Him and help us on the road to heaven.

This they will do, if we accept them and bear with them until He comes to our aid. Our troubles in life are like the growing pains of our youth — they are necessary if we are to arrive at our full stature as sons of God. They form, mold and shape our religious character and bring us closer to God — if we allow them to do so. For the lukewarm Christian who rebels against God because of his earthly sufferings, they can do the opposite. He cannot see the purpose and value of suffering because he has never seriously pondered or grasped the real meaning of this life and God's loving plans for him.

As in the first reading today, God may not be in the tornadoes or earthquakes or roaring fires, nor does He cause them perhaps, but He is ever near to His true children when such calamities occur. He has a purpose in every trial or tribulation which crosses the path of our lives, a purpose always to our eternal advantage if only we will see and accept his will in these trials.

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

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

August 5, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,20400
Cemetery Donation	100.00
Property Maintenance	35.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,339.00</u>

St. Peter's

August 5, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 610.00
Candles	11.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 621.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

August 6, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 683.00
Candles	27.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 710.00</u>

Schedule of Masses

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

The Solemn Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Ordination to the Diaconate of David Rankin (St. Mary, Mabou at 2:00PM)

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Donald & Valerie Boudreau*

Friday, August 18, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Manny Mombourquette*

Saturday, August 19, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Theodore Martens*

SP 5:30 PM

Sunday, August 20, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Danny & Maude Bona*

COMMUNITY NEWS

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."

L'Ardoise Legion Barbeque

Sunday, August 20th/23

\$25 per person

12 oz strip loin steak, baked potato, coleslaw, sweets

Take out 2-3 pm

Eat in 4-6 pm while being entertained by Leona Burkey

To book: Contact: Theresa 902-587-2511 or Gail. 902-951-0330 or call the Legion 902-587-2263 Fri & Set evenings

SJB: 14th ANNUAL "LUCK OF THE DRAW BOAT RUN" to be held SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd with a rain/wind date - September 3rd. Registration beginning at 10 a.m. at River Bourgeois Floating Docks, 166 Northside Road, \$20 per ticket plus 50/50 Draw. Tickets open to all, no boat required. Hamburgers, hotdogs & pop/water available. Prizes handed out at 3:30 p.m. 1st Prize \$300, 2nd Prize \$200, 3rd Prize \$100 along with other prizes to be drawn. For more information contact Peter Baccardax at 535-3182.

The weekly Masses at SP and SJB will be held in the church until further notice.

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College is a faithfully Catholic liberal arts college in Barry's Bay, Ontario, offering a three-year Bachelor of Catholic Studies degree. Small class sizes and a strong academic program set students up for success in the classroom and in all future pursuits. Faculty take their Catholic faith seriously and profess an oath of fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church. A vibrant campus life, men's and women's residence houses, and ample spiritual opportunities create a Catholic culture that forms the whole person. Students build life-long friendships, and often discern their vocations. The tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available. There are still spots available for 2023-2024! Please visit www.seatofwisdom.ca.

Free Highland Games & Concert

The Sydney Mines Highland Games in honour of Coal Miners is taking place at 76 Pitt Street on Saturday Aug 19th starting at 11 am, concluding with a free outdoor Scottish Concert at 6:30 pm.

Highland Dancing, Bagpipes, Heavy events, tug of war, 5 k run, kids games and free french fries. Everyone welcome, including dogs on leash, please bring your own lawn chair.

Excerpted From the Catholic Register Wednesday, August 9, 2023



Wiktoria Ulma is pictured in an undated photo with three of her children and the children of relatives outside the Ulma home in Markowa, a village in southeastern Poland. Wikotria, her husband, Józef, and their six children were executed March 24, 1944, by Nazis who discovered that the family had been sheltering eight Jews who had escaped internment by German occupying forces. Two of the Ulma girls, Stasia and Basia, are pictured in the middle near their mother, who is holding son Wlodzimierz. *OSV News photo/ courtesy National Remembrance Institute*

Martyred family's 'unprecedented' beatification prompts theological reflection, pro-life prayers

BY MARIA WIERING, OSV NEWS

- August 8, 2023

When the Ulma family is beatified Sept. 10 as martyrs who gave their lives to protect Jews during the Holocaust, it may be the first time the Catholic Church has beatified an entire, specific family together, as well as the first beatification of an unborn child.

Because of those circumstances, the Polish bishops have described this beatification as an "unprecedented" event, which experts say, has both pastoral and theological implications. "The beatification of an unborn child provides the church with a powerful witness to the full personhood and dignity of every child, born or unborn," R. Jared Staudt, an instructor for the lay division of St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, told OSV News.

In 1944, after discovering the eight Jewish people the Ulmas were hiding on their farm near Markowa, Poland, Nazi police executed them, followed by 44-year-old Józef and 32-year-old Wiktoria, who was advanced in her pregnancy, and their six other children -- Stanislaw, 8; Barbara, 7; Wladyslaw, 6; Franciszek, 4; Antoni, 3; and Maria, 2 -- as a warning to other families who might try to shelter Jews.

In 1995, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, recognized Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma as Righteous Among the Nations, an honor for "non-Jews who took great risks to save Jews during the Holocaust."

Pope Francis signed the decree recognizing the Ulma family's martyrdom Dec. 17, 2022, his 86th birthday, paving the way for the Ulmas' beatification. For beatification, the church conducts a thorough investigation of the person's life and writings to determine whether he or she lived a life of heroic virtue, offered his or her life for another, or was killed for the sake of Jesus Christ.

According to Vatican News, "The children shared in the operative faith of their parents, while the unborn child in Wiktoria's womb received a baptism of blood." Villagers who buried the bodies report that Wiktoria had begun to give birth during the massacre.

While many cases of beatification require the confirmation of a miracle attributed to that person's intercession, that is not the case for martyrs, such as the Ulma family. In those cases, the title "blessed" is immediately bestowed.

For canonization and the designation "saint," however, all "blesseds" need a church-recognized miracle attributed to their intercession that occurred after their beatification.

The Ulma family's faith and Christian witness -- symbolized by Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan found underlined in their family Bible -- has attracted attention as potential patrons for pro-family and pro-life related causes.

The Ulmas appear to be the first specified family to be beatified together, although other groups of martyrs, such as the Japanese Martyrs, included families. Grenchik said that, with the Ulmas, having a family of saints -- including an unborn child -- to intercede for the church will likely appeal to Catholics whose intentions involve family life, including parents who have miscarried or lost a child, as well as the pro-life movement. "This is another reaffirmation that the child in the womb is just as important as every other child and member of the family," he said.

The suggestion that the Ulmas' unborn child underwent a "baptism of blood" draws parallels to the Holy Innocents, the baby boys Herod the Great ordered murdered after the Wise Men did not return to tell him the identity of the Christ Child. While their actual number is disputed, they are considered to be martyrs for Jesus Christ and are commemorated by the Roman liturgical calendar on Dec. 28. "Although unbaptized, (they) were martyred for the sake of Christ, without any specific intention of offering their lives," said Staudt, who also serves as content director for Exodus 90, and who has written about the significance of infant baptism. "The church has always taught that baptism is necessary for salvation, but also that the reality of baptism, as the forgiveness of original sin and the imparting of sanctifying grace, can be imparted by God outside of the sacrament."

Theologians have long wrestled with the question of what happens to children who die without baptism, and therefore in the state of original sin, but who have not committed sins of their own doing. Some speculated that without the sanctifying grace of baptism, children who die in this state go to limbo, a place of the dead where they would neither suffer nor see God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states of babies who die without baptism that "the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them." Because it is presumed the Ulmas' unborn child received sanctifying grace through martyrdom, his or her beatification doesn't actually challenge the concept of limbo, said Alan Fimister, assistant professor of theology at Holy Apostles College and Seminary based in Cromwell, Connecticut, who, as director of the Dialogos Institute, convened a 2017 colloquium exploring limbo.

Meanwhile, Fimister noted, unlike canonizations, beatifications are not considered infallible. If the Ulma child is canonized in the future, that would be a clear affirmation that post-Pentecost baptism by blood has occurred, and it's not just a theoretical possibility. Both Fimister and Staudt cautioned that just because God may choose to act outside of the church's sacraments doesn't diminish the essential nature of baptism.

"I have found that many Catholics do not take the reality of original sin seriously today and even delay the baptism of their children for long periods," Staudt said. "Original sin means that we are not born with sanctifying grace and need to receive it as a gift from God. The unborn child of the Ulma family received the graces of baptism through martyrdom." He said this should not be taken as a reason to delay giving children "the great gift of baptism."