

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

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

Today is the Sunday of Divine Mercy, the Octave Day of Easter.

From Creation, God has revealed his nature as love itself, in Sacred Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus. In his second encyclical, *Dives In Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)*, Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (*Dives in misericordia*, 13). He returned to this theme throughout his pontificate:

As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!

Lord, who reveals the Father's love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. —Pope John Paul II, *Regina Caeli* message for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2005

The Divine Mercy Sunday origin is from a revelation to Saint Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. Between 1930 and 1938 Jesus requested numerous times a Feast of Divine Mercy. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of Saint Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Sunday Readings,

The **First Reading** is taken from *Acts 2:42-47*. On Pentecost Sunday the Holy Spirit, as promised by Christ, descended on the Apostles with external signs which brought the people of Jerusalem in their hundreds to the Upper Room where the Apostles with external signs which brought the people of Jerusalem in their hundreds to the Upper Room where the Apostles lived. St. Peter addressed them and explained what had happened, with the result that "about three thousand souls were baptized and added that day" (*Acts 2:41*) to the Apostles and disciples, who formed the nucleus of the Christian Church.

In these six short verses of the second chapter of the Acts we are given a picture of the fervent religious life of the first Christian community. As would be expected, these Jerusalem Christians, having the Apostles still among them, and the memory of the resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit still fresh in their memories, were animated and moved by a deep religious fervor.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Peter 1:3-9*. This first epistle of St. Peter has always been accepted as authentic, that is, it was written by St. Peter



and most probably from Rome which he called “Babylon.” Tradition says he died a martyr there in 64 or 67. The letter, therefore, was written before 67 at the latest. It is in the form of an encyclical letter to the numerous churches of Asia Minor. Its purpose was to recall to the minds of these converts to the Church the basic doctrines of Christianity and to encourage them to endure any persecution that the faithful observance of their new religion might bring on them from their pagan or Jewish neighbors.

We have just celebrated the feast of the resurrection, and St. Peter’s words today are intended to remind us again of what that unique event means to us and to the Christian faith which we profess. It is the final and convincing proof of the Incarnation. The Christ who had been born as a baby of the Virgin Mary, had lived in Nazareth, had preached the message of

salvation, had died on the cross, was none other than what he had said he was, the divine Son of God. He had come to give mankind life and “abundant” life—an eternal life hereafter in the kingdom of his Father.

The first converts to Christianity had grasped this truth, this consoling knowledge, and they rejoiced in it “with unutterable and exalted joy.” We, too, have grasped this truth; we, too, know that through the Incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ, we have been made heirs to an “inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.” But do we always let this consoling knowledge, this Christian conviction, govern and regulate our daily lives and actions?

The things of this world are very close to us and hard to ignore. Heaven seems very far away and may seem to be something we can worry about later. The joys and pleasures of this passing life are very attractive because they surround us so closely now—the thought of the true, unending pleasure and happiness, much as it satisfies and answers to our innate human, intellectual desires and ambitions, can easily be pushed into the background by the hustling and bustling of the present, temporary attractions.

Let us remember that “our faith is more precious than gold”: let us never forget these words of St. Peter.

The **Gospel** is read for all years (Cycles A, B and C) and is taken from *John 20:19-31*. Last Sunday’s gospel, also taken from St. John, described the first hint at the resurrection which the Apostles received. Peter and John, convinced that the body had not been taken away, because the winding sheets were left behind, were beginning to believe. But the others were skeptical, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus paid no heed to the women’s story, and Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the other ten, even when this present appearance of our Lord had convinced them.

It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw

nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the old covenant had some such powers also. Christ had “emptied himself” of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgment, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already expecting and hoping for the *imagined fact*.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading because its author was none other than Christ “our Lord and our God.” How prophetic were the words of the Gamaliel at the meeting of the Sanhedrin which tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the new Christian faith: “if this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it” (Acts 5:38-39).

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings*, Cycle A, by Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

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, April 18, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, April 21, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM

+ Christena “Jean” MacDonald

Weekend Masses

Saturday, April 22, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Peter Pottie*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Kemp LaRade*

Sunday, April 23, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Emmanuel James Mombourquette*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

April 2, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 872.00
Development & Peace	270.00
Cemetery Donation	25.00

Total \$ **1,167.00**

St. John the Baptist

April 6th & 7th

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,280.00
Holy Lands (Good Friday)	282.00
Development & Peace	135.00
Property Maintenance	50.00

Total \$ **1,747.00**

St. Peter's

March 26

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 890.00
Candles	22.00
Share Lent	670.00
Cemetery	125.00

Total \$ **1,707.00**

St. Peter's

April 2

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 728.00
Candles	12.00
Share Lent	250.00

Total \$ **990.00**

St. Peter's
Easter Weekend

Good Friday
Envelopes & Loose **\$ 585.00**

Total **\$585.00**

Easter Sunday

Envelopes & Loose **\$1,445.00**
Candles **10.00**
Cemetery Donation **20.00**

Total **\$ 1,475.00**

Holy Guardian Angels
April 2nd & April 9th

Envelopes & Loose **\$1,634.44**
Candles **44.40**
Missals **33.25**
Church Flowers **100.00**
Share Lent **490.00**
Development & Peace **100.00**

Total **\$ 2,402.09**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tea & Tunes: Sunday April 16 Bonnie Brae Club 2-4; entertainers are Leon LeBlanc and Gerry Samson; Admission \$5.00; Half and Half tickets sold & light lunch will be served.

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 902-587-267

HGA's 200th Anniversary Committee is pleased to inform everyone that our "200th Anniversary Booklet " and "Vintage Calendar " have arrived and are available for purchase. They are \$20.00 each and a treasured souvenir. We are working on an "etransfer " setup and will let the public know shortly. In the meantime, for those who wish to access a copy of the Booklet or Calendar, give Blair Sampson a call at 902-535-4107 or Stevie Sampson at 902-631-4460.

Knights of Columbus: The full Council meeting will be held on Thursday April 20th beginning at 6:30 PM in the St. Peter's Parish Glebe.

Richmond RTO PANCAKE BREAKFAST & Short Meeting

April 18, 2023. Time: 8:30 to 10:00
St. Peter's & Area Lion's Hall

BONUS: 10:00 – 12:00 AM --Deb Richards attending to do some Pebble Stone crafting. She will have supplies for 10 - 15 max. Interested in participating – Contact Donna - 902-535-2074.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY April 16, 2023

On every Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated. This feast contemplates the mercy and love of God revealed in Christ who was crucified and resurrected for our salvation. We would have:

- Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
- Presentation of prayer intentions
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy Prayer
- Songs of praise
- Sacrament of Reconciliation

Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

At St. Leonard's Parish, New Waterford

Come with your prayer intention(s) written on a piece of paper and place them in the intentions' basket at the entrance.

April 21-23

A Weekend of Healing and Forgiveness

Through God's Divine Mercy

Our Lady of Grace Monastery

With featured speaker Moira Noonan, OSB, Oblate, a Catholic author who lives in Southern California but travels the world as a widely acclaimed public speaker who adheres faithfully to Catholic doctrine in her presentations. Come hear her inspirational personal testimony and experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

See full schedule below.

Goodwill offerings for Our Lady of Grace Monastery Foundation accepted.

Contact Lucille Fougere at (902) 623-0075 for accommodation information.

Now Available:

10th issue of Our Life as Mission

newsletter of the Sisters of St. Martha

Read the newsletter here:

<https://www.themarthas.com/olamn-newsletter.php>

Statements released

on Doctrine of Discovery

On March 30, 2023, the Dicastries for Culture and Education and for Promoting Integral Human Development issued a joint statement on the “Doctrine of Discovery”. Within the joint statement, it is stated “the Church’s magisterium upholds the respect due to every human being. The Catholic Church therefore repudiates those concepts that fail to recognize the inherent human rights of indigenous peoples, including what has become known as the legal and political ‘doctrine of discovery’”. The joint statement in its entirety may be found on the Vatican website:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2023/03/30/230330b.html>

The Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement that has been posted on the CCCB website.

<https://www.cccb.ca/letter/statement-by-the-permanent-council-of-the-canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops-on-the-joint-statement-of-the-dicastery-for-culture-and-education-and-the-dicastery-for-promoting-integral-human-deve/>

World Youth Day Lisbon 2023

Invites Volunteers

Let yourselves be led by the Lord and offer yourselves as volunteers at the service of the One who “*did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for all*” (Mk 10:45). *And your life will reach a fullness that you do not even suspect.* - Pope Benedict XVI at the Meeting with Volunteers in Madrid, WYD 2011

Since its first edition in 1986, World Youth Day has been built with the collaboration of thousands of volunteers. One of the greatest beauties of this meeting with the Pope is the gift of work and time of so many young people who, free of charge, give others the opportunity to participate in a unique experience. There are volunteers from all over the world. Usually, most are from the host country of WYD, but all journeys have the help of international volunteers.

To learn more and to register:

<https://register.wyd-reg.org/Welcome/>