

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

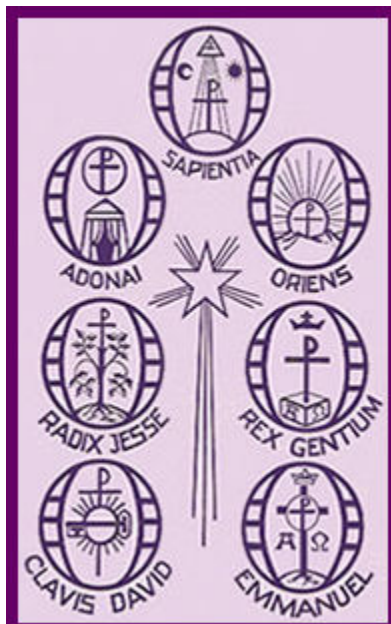
Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice: The Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.



December 17 marks the beginning of the **O Antiphons**, the seven jewels of our liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church in these following Golden Nights travels through the centuries recalling the longing for the Redeemer. Today begins with **O Wisdom (*O Sapientia*)**.

For more information on the O Antiphons, see



[JESSE TREE, DAY 15 ~ SOLOMON](#)

[JESSE TREE OVERVIEW](#)

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*. Isaiah's words of consolation and promise are addressed in the first place to the exiles, but they were fully and truly realized only when Christ the Messiah came. Christ applied the first two verse of this text to himself when he first preached in the synagogue of Nazareth (Lk 4:18-19). This morning, let us thank God from our hearts for the "good tidings" of our redemption and exaltation, brought to us by Christ the Son of God and our loving Brother.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Book of the Thessalonians 5:16-24*. Living a truly Christian life is not a merely human activity. God has a part in it; in fact, God has the principal part to play in it. What St. Paul told the Thessalonians, he tells us too: "God is faithful." God will do his part, the greater part, of the work of

our salvation. So it matters not how many opponents we have. It makes no difference how many machinations they invent to impede us on our journey. Our "God is faithful" and our God is with us, helping us every step of the way. Rejoice then, nay, exult in joy! Thank God from your heart for the gift of the true faith. Thank him for everything he sends in life. The rough, as well as the smooth, has a part in God's plan for making us worthy of sharing his kingdom.

The **Gospel** is from the *John 1:6-8, 19-28*. Last Sunday we had St. Mark's account of the Baptist's activity at the Jordan as he prepared the people for the public mission of Jesus. John was the last of the great line of prophets and he was the greatest of them all. It was his privilege to point out to his audience the Son of God in human nature, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," and also to hear God's voice from heaven proclaiming Christ to be his "beloved Son." He was surely a man sent from God. Let us listen to the call of John the Baptist, and from our hearts repent of our sins. Let us prepare for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's human appearance on earth, by cleaning ourselves of all sinful attaches, but making a firm resolution to follow the Lamb through life.

—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 9, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 918.00
Memory Tree	1,155.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 2,073.00</u>

St. Peter's

December 9, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,249.00
Candles	33.00
Missals	5.00
Truth & Reconciliation	5.00
Cemetery	50.00
Maintenance	600.00
Memory Tree	685.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 2,627.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

December 10, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 897.00
Candles	49.00
Missals	20.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 966.00</u>

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM
+Lenova & Bernard Pius Sampson

Wednesday December 20, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, December 22, 2023,

HGA 11:00 PM
+ Margaret & Dick Sampson

Saturday, December 23, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM
+Daniel Grossi
SP 5:30 PM

Sunday, December 24, 2023

SH 9:30 AM
HGA 11:00 AM
+ Robert P. Sampson

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)

SP & SJB at SP 8:00 PM

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)

SH 9:00 AM
HGA 11:00 AM
+ Harry A. Sampson

*** No Weekday Masses from Dec. 26th to Dec. 29th inclusive***

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.**

HGA Parish Council

The Parish is grateful for the services of Elaine Sampson, Carol Sampson, and Raymonde Burke who will be completing their time of service at the end of December.

Raymonde has served in a leadership capacity as Chairperson of the council for many years; some remember her time of service as twelve years. During this time, she was known as a very involved, hands-on, leader. She was extremely dedicated to the Community Centre, its fundraising projects, the making of major improvements to the Community Centre, both upstairs and downstairs, the renovation of the kitchen, the addition of heat pumps and a generator. With the

assistance of council members, Raymonde demonstrated fine leadership during the covid years: She prepared the spacing on the church floor, the signage, and the gathering of information needed to keep everyone safe, and she prepared the parish for the return of congregants in July 2020. She took care of supervision of summer grant students and was always a major help with Christmas decorating in the church and the children's Christmas pageant. These few projects offer some idea of how Raymonde along with her council were dedicated to the work that goes into making parish life happen comfortably. Many thanks to Raymonde, Elaine, and Carol.

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

The HGA 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

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.

SJB 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: Operation Christmas Child: A sincere thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox or gave a donation. This year 211 boxes were collected. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. **St. John the Baptist CWL**

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, 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.

First World Day of Children Announced for May 2024

Pope Francis made the announcement in his Angelus address on December 8, 2023, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "And now I have the joy to announce that the 25th and 26th of May next year, we will celebrate the first World Day of Children in Rome. The initiative, organized by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, responds to the question: What type of world do we want to transmit to the children who are growing up? Like Jesus, we want to put

children at the centre and take care of them.”

Read the story:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2023/12/08/231208a.html>