

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

September 17, 2023
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart" (Mt 18:32-35).

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Sirach* 27:30, 28:7. In the verses read today, Sirach tells us that we must forgive our neighbor if we want God to forgive us our own sins. We must be merciful if we hope to obtain mercy from God. We must not seek revenge on a neighbor lest God should take vengeance on us. If we remember our end in life we will keep God's commandments and we will not be angry with a neighbor who offends us.

The **Second Reading** is from the *St. Paul to the Romans* 14:7-9. In these three verses St. Paul emphasizes the fact that through our baptism we have been made members of Christ's mystical body, we have become brothers of Christ, intimately united with him in his death and resurrection. Whether living or dead we belong to Christ. It was for this purpose, to unite all men closely to himself not only in this life but especially in the next, that Christ became man and "dwelt among us."

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 18:21-35. On reading or hearing this story of the merciless servant, each one of us would rightly judge him a mean, low type of man, a heartless man, who puts himself outside the pale of mercy. He throttled his fellow-servant for a paltry debt of ten dollars, and would not listen to the poor man's plea for mercy. When we hear what the king did to this heartless servant we heartily approve and say: "It served him right, he got what he richly deserved."

We had better stop and think for a moment today and reflect that we ourselves may be that merciless servant described in the parable. Every time we have sinned mortally we have incurred an unpayable debt to God. Each time we have received absolution we have come out of God's courtroom as free men. A weight greater than a million dollar debt has been lifted from our shoulders. A fate worse than generations of earthly imprisonment — that is, eternal slavery — has been spared us because of God's loving, infinite mercy. How then can it happen that we could be so heartless, mean, and foolish as to refuse to forgive a neighbor for some offense he has committed against us?

Yet it happens, and it may be that there are some among us here today who continue to have enmity in their hearts against neighbors who offended them. In their hard-heartedness they cannot get themselves to forgive and forget. Are these not following in the footsteps of the merciless servant? Will they not receive the

punishment of the merciless servant — a punishment richly deserved? This will be the fate of all unforgiving Christians; they will meet an unforgiving God when they are called to settle their accounts.

That day has not yet come for us. We still have time to put our affairs in order. We still can forgive all our enemies from our heart. If we do not, we are cutting ourselves off from the possibility of having our own sins and offenses forgiven by God. We have the solemn word of our divine Lord for this in the lesson he draws from the parable "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you (that is, deliver us up to eternal slavery) if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

—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

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-40

Receipts:

St. John the Baptist

Sept. 9, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,028.00
Cemetery	150.00

Total **\$ 1,178.00**

St. Peter's

Sept. 9, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,090.00
Candles	16.00
Cemetery Donation	20.00

Total **\$ 1,126.00**

Holy Guardian Angels

Sept. 10, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 939.00
Candles	34.55
Dues	50.00

Total **\$ 1,023.55**

Schedule of Masses

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Vincent Battiste*

Friday, September 22, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Manny Mombourquette*

Saturday, September 23, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *John MacNeil*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Willie A. & Gertie Landry*

+ *Mary M. Fougere*

Sunday, September 24, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11.00 AM

+ *John & Joyce Curtis*

COMMUNITY NEWS

HGA: 2 PM to 5 PM is well wishes for Tom & Kaye Mombourquette on Saturday, 23rd but there will also be recorded music from 6 PM till 10:00 PM.

Message from Father Mariadoss:

I really enjoyed my stay here. I was so happy to be part of the 200th Anniversary celebrations and to see everyone again. Congratulations and thank you for the invitation. Thank you to Fr Yake for giving me permission to have Masses at HGA. Also, I was happy to be able to visit, esp the sick and the shut-ins. Thank you for sharing your love, your kind words and good wishes, and your gifts. I am grateful for your support in my ministry in India. I wish you all a wonderful life. I will continue to pray for you and I ask you to pray for me. If God permits, maybe I'll return again. God bless you.

COMFORT TEA ... Come For Tea: We all experience many types of losses throughout our lives. You are invited to stop in for tea and a sweet treat. You may bring a friend, photo, memento, memory, or experience to share or sit quietly with others who understand. Drop by anytime between 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at the United Church Hall, 9915 Grenville St., St. Peters, N.S. The afternoon is sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society. All are welcome.

Knights of Columbus Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 in glebe basement at 6:30 PM

CANCELLED ON DATES OF PROBABLE STORM

Stella Maris Parish (Inverness) & St. Margaret's Parish (Broad Cove) Parish Mission will take place on September 16th - 20th.

Fr. Albert MacPherson will be preaching at the weekend Masses on Saturday, Sept. 16th & Sunday, Sept. 17th.

A collection will be taken up on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

A table with religious articles available for sale will be set up at the back of the church during the Mission. Schedule is as follows:

Sunday, Sept. 17th, 6 pm, Stella Maris Church - Official Opening of the Mission with Holy Hour

Monday, Sept. 18th, 6 pm, St. Margaret's Church - Mass & Penance Service

Tuesday, Sept 19th, 6 pm, Stella Maris Church - Mass & Healing

Wednesday, Sept. 20th, St. Margaret's Church - Closing of Mission

Celtic Concert

Sunday, September 24th, 2-4:30pm

Donation at the Door

St. Margaret's Community Hall, 2353 Grand Mira South Road

Ft. Joe Gillis, Aaron Lewis, and Friends

Come join us "Out on the Mira" for Oat Cakes, Coffee, and Tea

All profits are in support of Seniors and Families at Christmastime.

Mass for Shut-Ins will soon begin its 61st season.

Starting October 15, Mass for Shut-Ins will air Sunday mornings on the CTV channel.

We would like to encourage all parishes and individuals to join us for the taping of the Masses every Saturday morning at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Sydney, at 10:00am.

Contact coordinator, Nick Vince, at nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca for scheduling details or for donations.

Living with Grief – 6 Week program

Date: Tuesdays from September 12 to October 10, 2023

Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 pm

Location: Holy Family Parish, 9 MacKay Street,