

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

March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading**, from the *first Book of Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a*, contains, at best, oblique references to the other two readings. The anointing of David as king may be a reference to the anointing in the responsorial psalm both of which may refer to Christ the good shepherd. The figure of David may also be a prefiguration of the anointing to Messiahship of Jesus for his mission. Whatever the reason for its selection for this day, the theme of the liturgy is better reflected in the other two readings for they present implications and applications of the baptism of the believer.

The **Second Reading** from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14* is particularly significant because throughout the season of Lent the community has been urged to cast aside deeds of darkness and walk in the brilliance of the light of Christ. In this reading, for the first-time during Lent, the darkness-light theme which will be so predominant at Easter is enunciated. The believer must leave the deeds of darkness and live according to the justice and truth of God through the light of Christ. The selection of this reading for the Sunday liturgy of the second scrutiny emphasizes clearly that the preparation of a person coming to the faith is one of moral formation as well as in-formation about the faith. The preparation of adults to be baptized has more to do with choices and deeds than it does with dogmatic teaching.

The **Gospel** reading from *John 9:1-41*, dominates the liturgy by the length of the reading and its significance. Already, in Old Testament Revelation, the Lord God had shown the People of Israel how the justice of the Creator was so much more profound and true than the thoughts of men. We have, in fact, heard in the first reading '*God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.*' (1 Sam 16:76). The Lord pointed out in this way the true, unique, criteria on which men are judged. He also indicated the unique place in which man can meet God's gaze and enter into a relationship with Him—in his heart. Obviously, by the word 'heart' the Bible doesn't mean the centre of pulsation, but man's 'shrine', his conscience where he can really listen and recognise God's voice and so benefit from the Light: '*for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and uprightness and truth*'. (Eph 5:9)

Man, incapable of remaining faithful to the truth that is in him, falls back to his own limited criteria. This criteria produces every malice, injustice and falsehood and is used to govern himself, to decide between good and evil, whilst hoping that

what he obtains will be to his benefit and so in this way he acts *'like God'* (Gen 3:5).

God doesn't give up but comes to meet everyone of us in the two fold way described in today's Gospel. Firstly, *'he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes'* (Jn 9:6). God made man, who is a creature. He united Himself to 'our earth' so that man would never need to flee Him, but could come to recognise Him through a meeting with His Holy Humanity. St. John wrote in the Prologue to his Gospel, *'The Word became flesh, he lived among us'* (Jn 1:14).

In the second place from the Gospel account we read, *'He said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam"—which means Sent—'* (Jn 9:7a). Christ, sent by the Father, takes onto Himself all our sins, which are ultimately the consequences of our blindness, as far as allowing Himself to be stripped, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross, rejected by His own people and abandoned by His closest friends. Christ's unprecedented love can't but definitively overcome, with time, every fear in the face of our limitations because there isn't anything that can stop Him from loving us. From the loving assumption of our rejection to our obtuseness murder, the Lord has worked extraordinary feats in history. He frequently offered His Body to the Father for our salvation and therefore has consecrated His entire Person for every one of us. He has introduced us into His Most Holy Heart, inflamed with love for us, which is the same as God's light. In the Light of the Resurrection he made us a *'new creation'* (cfr 2 Cor 5:17) and in the Gospel account we have heard *'he went and washed, and came back able to see'*. (Jn 9:7)

The indestructible link with Christ, which is founded on His love and fidelity, is the *'new creation'* that was given to us on the day of our Baptism. Through the Sacraments of Christian initiation we are more profoundly linked with Christ. This *'new creation'* can not bring fourth fruit in us without the full and renewed consent of our liberty that, in this earthly life, is expressed, reinvigorated and triumphs through the extraordinary events that Christ works in our lives. The blind man was interrogated by the world as to the precise details of his cure and with great simplicity he explained what happened to him: *'The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see.'*” (Jn 9:11)

Let us ask Most Holy Mary to help us to be faithful to the truth, to the events of our lives, taking the hand that always takes us to live totally for Him, in this life and eternity. *'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'* (Eph 5:14).

—From the [Congregation for the Clergy](#)

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, March 21, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 22 2023

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Christena "Jean" MacDonald*

Friday, March 24, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Irene Briand*

Saturday, March 25, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Jeanette Landry*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Bert Carter*

Sunday, March 26, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Gerry Sampson*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

March 11, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 715.00

Donations 800.00

Cemetery 100.00

Total \$ 1,615.00

St. Peter's

March 11, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,027.00

Candles 11.00

Cemetery 500.00

Total \$ 1,538.00

Holy Guardian Angels

March 12, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 797.00

Candles 28.75

Initial Offering 5.00

Total \$ 830.75

COMMUNITY NEWS

SJB: Lenten Prayer Books are available free of charge at the church entrance and in the vestry.

HGA: We continue to have the church open for personal prayer each Sunday from 1 to 3 PM.

Next meeting of the anniversary planning committee is Sunday, March 19th @ 2:00 PM L'Ardoise Community Centre. All are welcome.

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 902-587-2675

HGA Parish is hiring a permanent - part time cleaner for our parish buildings. \$15:00 per hour and a minimum of ten hours per week. Interested parties can contact Raymonde Burke @ 902 227-8552 or 902 587-2675 please leave a message. Deadline is March 30.

Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, April 1st L'Ardoise Community Centre, 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. Proceeds to support the L'Ardoise Cemetery Fund. Table Rentals available, contact Blair Sampson (902-535-4107)

Holy Week Celebrations

Chrism Mass

Monday, April 3, 2023, at 3:00 pm

Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral and hosted by Holy Guardian Angels Parish that is celebrating their 200th Anniversary.

Note: Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Thursday, April 6, 2023

SH 5:00 pm

SJB 7:00 pm

There will be no foot-washing.

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, April 7, 2023

SP 3:00 pm

(TBA: Officiants for HGA, SJB, and SH.)

Note: Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

The Resurrection of the Lord

At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Saturday, April 8, 2023

SP 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023

SH 9:30 am

HGA 11:00 am

No weekday Masses Monday, April 10 – Friday, April 14, 2023.

Lent 2023:

CCCB video series **Journey through Lent** offers Lenten reflections delivered by His Eminence Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, and the Most Reverend Brian Joseph Dunn, Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth.

Find the **Journey through Lent** videos, weekly reflections by diocesan hermit Sheila O’Handley, and more to enrich your Lenten journey:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/lent/>