

**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](mailto:bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com)**

**November 19, 2023**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour (Matt 25:10-13).*

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## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Wisdom 6:12-16* and cites watchfulness as the key to a faithful religion and understanding of wisdom.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18* where he addresses a practical and doctrinal problem faced by the community. Paul had preached to them and left them with the impression that the second coming of Christ was imminent. Some died before the *parousia* and their concern is what has happened to them. Paul states firmly and categorically that what matters is that they interpret these events because of their faith and hope in the Lord.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 25:1-13*. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him*. This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the helps they needed, will never reach

heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him. Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: *Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him.* It will be too late then to do anything; even their best friends cannot help them. Each one must stand before the judge just as he is: there can be no borrowing of the oil of merit from others and there will be no time to buy any.

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

—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 November 11, 2023**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 1,008.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,008.00</u></b>

#### **St. Peter's November 11 2023**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 840.00</b>
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Candles	26.00
Missals	17.25
Parish Dues	188.00
Truth & Reconciliation	10.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,081.25</u></b>

## **Holy Guardian Angels**

**November 12, 2023**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 920.25
Candles	27.50
Missals	84.50
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,032.25</u></b>

## **Mass Schedule**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2023**

SJB 4:00 PM  
 +*Bernard Pius Sampson*

**Wednesday November 22, 2023**

SP 9:00 AM

**Friday, November 24, 2023**

HGA 11:00 PM

**Saturday, November 25, 2023**

SJB 4:00 PM  
 +*Avis Daly*  
 SP 5:30 PM  
 + *Arthur Stone*

**Sunday, November 26, 2023**

SH 9:30 AM  
 HGA 11.00 AM

**Religious Christmas cards for sale:** There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through [www.lifecyclebooks.ca](http://www.lifecyclebooks.ca). You may order online or Maureen Sampson of HGA has ordered several mixed packs for anyone in our surrounding communities who may be interested. The cost is \$5 for a pack of 10 cards.  
 Phone 902-587-2517 for more information.

**Knights of Columbus:** Fr. Père Vincent de Paul Council #14280, will conduct a membership drive at all Masses on the weekend of Nov. 25 & 26, 2023. It will include a very short presentation and materials will be available. Please give some thought to how we can serve God and community through the agency of the Knights of Columbus. Thank You.

**Danny Madden**  
**Grand Knight**

**Dear parishioners of Holy Guardian Angels parish,**

May I use this opportunity to thank you for inviting me to preach a mission in your parish on the occasion of the 200 years anniversary of the parish. Thank you for participating actively in the mission. I pray that the mission may bear fruit in your lives to the glory of God and for your spiritual growth.

Thank you too for your hospitality and generous donation which will help to support the hospital project we're running in my home country Nigeria. The hospital provides affordable healthcare to the needy and less privileged members of our community. Those who bought my book "We are Chosen" will read more about the project there. Please keep me in your prayers and I promise to pray for you, for your families and parish community always. May you continue to keep alive the legacy of faith, importance of the family and community handed on to you by your Ancestors. May our Blessed Mother Mary intercede for you and lead you closer to her Son Jesus. I bless you and your families in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Toochukwu Okafor

**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.**

**Richmond RTO - Christmas Social**

**Christmas Luncheon & Matinee Bra d'Or Lakes INN - St. Peter's**  
**December 4th Time: 11:30 - 3:00 Cost to members: \$28.00 +**  
**Gratuity**

**Where do you get tickets for this event?**

Call **Donna at 902-535-2074** or contact one of the following people in your area:

Louisdale Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Brenda Burt -902-227-8018

St. Peter's, Sampsonville: \_\_\_\_\_ Marcia MacEwen - 902-535-2051

River Bourgeois Area: \_\_\_\_\_ George Landry-902-535-3248

L'ardoise & Grand River Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Theresa Clements - 902-587-2511

Isle Madame Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Betty Anne David- 902-226-3570 or Bernie LeBlanc- 902-226-2055

West Richmond & Dundee Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Phyllis Cote- 902-227-7513

Johnstown, Red Islands, Soldiers Cove Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Helen MacDonald - 902-535-3300