

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

**September 24, 2023**  
**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit" (Philippians 1:20c-24).*

---

## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 55:6-9*. In this text the prophet urges the Chosen People to seek Yahweh, to come close to Him in friendship. To do this the sinner must abandon his evil ways. He need not fear: Yahweh is "rich in forgiving," He will forgive all sins of a repentant sinner. Though He is infinite and transcendent, yet He can and does come close to and is a true friend of all who seek Him. He is a personal God, not an abstract idea.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a*. St. Paul wrote the letter from a prison cell in Rome or possibly Ephesus. It is a friendly letter, giving some news of his work to the converts in Philippi, warning them against certain enemies of the faith and exhorting them to remain humble.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 20:1-16a*. The call to the vineyard (to the Church), through God's gift of faith and the sacrament of baptism, is a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank God. If we remain in the vineyard and labor honestly, that is, if we cooperate with the actual graces God is continually giving us, we are assured of reaching heaven when our earthly days are ended. The work we have to do in God's vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly we are doing the will of God and earning heaven. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honoring God, have a supernatural value. For this we have to thank God for His goodness and generosity.

He could have made the attainment of heaven so much more difficult. He could have demanded extraordinary mortifications and renunciations and the reward (heaven) would still be exceedingly great. Instead He allows us to live our everyday life, to enjoy the love and friendship of our family and friends, to satisfy the natural desires of our bodies, within the commandments, and yet to merit a supernatural reward while so doing. As He tells us through St. Paul: "whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10 : 31)."

Looking back on our past life, how many years have we really given to God since we came to the use of reason? Those school years, the time spent learning a trade or profession, the weeks, months, years working in an office or factory or farm, the hours among the pots and pans in the kitchen — have we earned some credit in heaven for all of this, or is it all crossed off our pay sheet through lack of right intention or through sin?

If so, those years are lost to us. We were "idle" all that time. Today's parable, however, should give us new hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life but we can still earn heaven if we listen to God's call and set to work diligently in His vineyard. If we put our conscience right with God today and resolve to be loyal to Him from now on He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

—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 16, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose**                      \$ 725.00

**Total**                                      \$ 725.00

### **St. Peter's**

**Sept. 16, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose**                      \$ 1,292.00

**Candles**                                      8.00

**Cemetery Donation**                      20.00

**Total**                                      \$ 1,320.00

### **Holy Guardian Angels**

**Sept. 17, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose**                      \$ 937.00

**Candles**                                      26.00

**Total**                                      \$ 963.00

## Schedule of Masses

### Monday, September 25, 2023

SJB 11:00 AM

Mass of the Resurrection

+*Charles King*

### Tuesday, September 26, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

### Wednesday, September 27, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Vincent Battiste*

### Friday, September 29, 2023

SP 2:00 PM

*Mass of the Resurrection*

+ *Bernard Stone*

### Saturday, September 30, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Mildred & Raymond Burke*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Eva Landry*

### Sunday, October 1, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11.00 AM

+*John & Joyce Curtis*

**St. Peter's Parish Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the glebe basement.

**HGA: THANK YOU to everyone** who phoned, visited, sent cards and gifts on the occasion of our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Thank you also to our family for the special surprise supper. God bless you all. **Frances and Gerard Taylor.**

Our first **Ultreya** will be held on Thursday September 28 at Our Lady of Fatima starting at 7:30. All are invited and encouraged to attend. It will be held downstairs in the McMahan room.

We're Excited to be holding our first **Men's Cursillo** Weekend since Covid. It will be held November 2-5 @ Camp Bretondean with Rector Kevin McSween.

Our **Women's Cursillo** weekend will be held November 9-12 weekend at Camp Bretondean with Rector Sharon MacNeil. Please pray for our Rectors and teams as they prepare to start their meetings.

For more info contact Sean O'Leary 902-565-9323 or Karen MacSween 902-317-5425

*Life Chain* is an annual pro-life event to raise awareness about the injustice of abortion and the inherent dignity of every human being. Participants pray silently and hold non-graphic signs with messages of love and truth at hundreds of locations across North America.

*Join us for this year's Life Chain event in Sydney and bear witness to the sanctity of human life.*

*When: Sunday, October 1st, 2:00-3:00 PM*

*Where: Sidewalk in front of the Mayflower Mall (800 Grand Lake Rd)*

*Contact: Pat Moore, (902) 322-5624*

*Visit: [campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain](http://campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain)*

**WE CARE DAYS WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**  
10 AM-12 PM. PRESENTATIONS FOLLOWED BY LUNCH  
Emergency Disaster Preparedness  
LOUISDALE PARISH HALL 148 GRANDIQUE FERRY ROAD

OPEN TO EVERYONE

**Truth & Reconciliation Collection will be on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 1, 2023**  
**Envelopes may be found in the church.**

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established in 2022 by Canada's Catholic Bishops to support healing and reconciliation initiatives. The 73 dioceses in Canada have been asked to contribute a total of \$30 million to this fund over five years.

Money contributed by our diocese will be returned to our diocese through funding for programs, events, and projects to support healing in our local indigenous communities and cultural awareness, appreciation and action in our parishes and communities at large.

You may also donate online through our diocesan website:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/>

