

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

February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is from the Book of *Genesis* 2:7-9; 3:1-7 and is about the creation and fall of man.

The **Second Reading** is from *St. Paul to the Romans* 5:12-19. He is speaking of some of the immediate effects of Christian salvation, as brought to mankind by Christ. St. Paul stresses the fact that Christ through his death not only conquered sin but poured out divine grace so abundantly and lavishly on mankind, making them his brothers and therefore sons of God, that there is no comparison between the world redeemed by Christ's death and the world of sin which prevailed up to then.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 4:1-11. This incident in our Lord's life, his forty days and nights of fasting followed by temptations, has been chosen as a reading for this first Sunday of Lent for our edification and encouragement. Lent is a period of preparation for the central Christian events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Christ, the Son of God in human nature, died the excruciating death of crucifixion on Good Friday, because of the sins of the human race. By this supreme act of obedience to his heavenly Father he made atonement for all our disobediences, and set us free from the slavery of Satan and of sin. In his resurrection his human nature was glorified by God the Father, and in that glorification we are all offered a share and given the right to an eternal life of glory, if we follow Christ faithfully in this life.

For every sincere Christian therefore, who appreciates what Good Friday and Easter Sunday mean for her or him, this period of preparation should be a welcome opportunity. The Church no longer imposes on us any obligatory daily fasting from food, but it urges us to find other means of mortifying ourselves, so as to show that we realize what Christ has done for us and what he has earned for us through his passion, death and resurrection. The example of Christ fasting from food for forty days, should move even the coldest Christian heart to try to do something to make reparation for past negligence and sins. Christ had no sin to atone for; it was for our sins that he mortified himself. We all have much to atone for. If, because of the demands of our present way of life, we cannot fast rigorously as our grandparents did, we can find many other less noticeable, but maybe nonetheless difficult, ways of subduing our human worldly inclinations. Where there is a will there is a way; the willing Christian will find ready substitutes for fasting.

The temptations, to which our Lord allowed himself to be submitted, are for us a source of encouragement and consolation. If our Lord and master underwent temptation, we cannot and must not expect to live a Christian life without experiencing similar tests and trials. The three temptations Satan put to our Lord were suggestions to forget his purpose in life--his messianic mission of

redemption. He was urged to get all the bodily comforts of life, all the self-glory which men could give him, and all the possessions and power this world has to offer.

Our basic temptations in life are the same: bodily comforts and pleasure, the empty esteem of our fellowman, wealth and power. There are millions of men and women on earth today—many of them nominal Christians—who have given in to these temptations and, are wasting their lives chasing after these unattainable shadows. But even should they manage to catch up with some of them, they soon find out that they are empty baubles. They will have to leave them so very soon.

Today, let each one of us look into his heart and honestly examine his reaction to these temptations. Do we imitate our Savior and leader, and say "begone Satan"? Our purpose in life is not to collect its treasures, its honors or its pleasures. We are here for a few short years, to merit the unending life which Christ has won for us. Would we be so foolish as to swap our inheritance for a mere mess of pottage (see Gen. 25:29-34)?

Lent is a golden opportunity to review our past and make sensible resolutions for our future.

—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

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA. (902) 785-401

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023

SJB **4:00 PM** + *Marion Maltby*

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

SP **9:00 AM** + *Christena "Jean" MacDonald*

Friday, March 3, 2023

HGA **11:00 AM** + *Charles Leo Sampson*

Weekend Masses

Saturday, March 4, 2023

SJB **4:00 PM** + *Chad Landry*

SP **5:30 PM** + *Eva Landry*

Sunday, March 5, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 PM + *Robert P. Sampson*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

February 18, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 696.00

Property Maintenance 80.00

Total \$ 776.00

St. Peter's

February 18, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,040.00

Candles 6.00

Altar Society Dues 35.00

Total \$ 1,081.00

Holy Guardian Angels

February 19, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 677.00

Candles 21.05

Share Lent 90.00

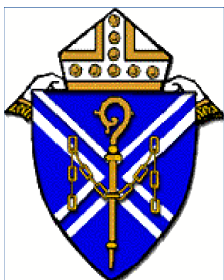
Total \$ 788.05

Letters from Bishop Kirkpatrick

Season of Lent 2023

My Dear People

As we know the Season of Lent is patterned after Jesus' forty days in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. The earliest mention of Lent in the history of the Church comes from the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. The English word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning to lengthen. Lent comes at a time when the daytime hours are 'lengthening', as spring approaches, and so it is a time when we too can 'lengthen' spiritually, when we can stretch out and grow in the Spirit.



We have a beautiful play on the words, 'sun' and 'Son', which are pronounced identically. Just as the sun does the work of

‘lengthening’ the days in spring, so it is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who does the work of ‘lengthening’ our spiritual growth. During the Season of Lent we are to cooperate with God’s grace and initiative. Scripture and the early Church suggest a variety of ways in which this ‘lengthening’ might come about, a variety of ways in which we can cooperate with God’s grace.

This Season of Lent affords us the opportunity to detach, unplug, disconnect, and find an experience of desert. Pope Francis said, “Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel.” He said that in a world in which we often struggle to distinguish the voice of the Lord, Jesus calls us into the desert and invites us to listen to what matters.

Traditionally we have been taught that the Season of Lent is a time set aside for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. The exercise of these virtues keeps us close to God and keeps us focused on service to others. Fasting is an act of self-denial and a way of directing our thoughts away from ourselves and towards our God. Almsgiving is the act by which we give of ourselves in order to assist someone in need. Prayer should be the centre of our Christian lives lifting up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our God who loves us.

Pope Francis said, “If we enter the desert with Jesus, we will leave it at Easter when the power of God's love renews life.” He said, just like those deserts that bloom in spring with buds and plants suddenly sprouting from the sand, if we follow Jesus, our deserts will also bloom. Hence under the banner of Care For our Common Home, we have a beautiful Lenten poster showing new life blossoming in the desert. May this Season of Lent lead us to renewal and new life at Easter.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

Share Lent Campaign Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (DPCC) 2023

My Dear Clergy and My Dear People,

When the Canadian Bishops founded Development and Peace in 1967, they wanted to create an organization that would help build a better world. It would allow Catholics and people of goodwill to engage in the work of bringing about a more just sharing of the gift of God's creation and resources of the world with the most impoverished of our brothers and sisters especially those in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and in the Middle East. Development and Peace has been carrying out this mission for the past 55 years, helping to reach out and build international solidarity based on our Catholic social teachings.

At the heart of Development and Peace’s transformative work are the education, action, and fundraising campaigns that bring thousands of Canadians together every year. This year Development and Peace is launching a new five-year theme under the banner - **Create Hope**.

This theme comes from a quote of Pope Francis where he invites participants in the IV (4th) World Meeting of Popular Movements to dream and work together through solidarity and subsidiarity in order to build a better society. He said, “I like to call you this: Social Poets,” he explained, “because you have the ability and the

courage to **create hope** where there appears to be only waste and exclusion. Poetry means creativity, and you **create hope**.” “With your hands, you know how to forge the dignity of each person, of families and of society as a whole, with land, shelter, work, care, and community.”

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-10/pope-popular-movements-poets-solidarity-subsidiarity-hope.html#:~:text=In%20a%20video%20message%2C%20Pope,from%20the%20Covid%2D19%20pandemic>.

In this first year of this new campaign from January to December, to *Create Hope*, we are called upon to *Stand for the Land*. Many communities around the world desperately want to protect their land, a source of life and hope. For example, in Columbia, over the last four years almost a thousand community leaders and human rights defenders have been assassinated and countless others have risked their lives defending their territory against ecological social and cultural harm from forces like industrial agriculture or mining industry.

This is why we invite you to become involved with Development and Peace to help such people in the Global South, *Stand for the Land*. We are invited to share our solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters, and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history, and identity that defines them.

On March 26, we will celebrate Solidarity Sunday. I invite you to **Create Hope** by giving generously support the 2023 Share Lent collection in our diocese. You are invited to donate through your Share Lent envelope or online.

If you have not yet ordered the free Share Lent materials for your parish, you can do so at

<https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/stand-for-the-land/resources/>

If you have any questions about the campaign or the Share Lent materials, you are invited to contact our Regional DPCC animator, Adah Ogbe at aogbe@devp.org.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

Fraternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick


Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

COMMUNITY NEWS

SJB: The “The Way of the Cross” **will be prayed in the vestry of SJB** every Tuesday during Lent beginning on February 28th at 4 pm followed by Mass.

Our Lenten project is to donate to our local Food Bank. A box will be available at the church entrance. Thank You for any donation you make.

SP: The St. Peter's and Area Food Bank Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 1:30 PM in the basement of the Glebe House at 9785 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, Nova Scotia. All members of the public are welcome. Please note that because our last AGM was over three years ago, there will be an election of officers.

SP Parish Altar Society: Tickets available \$5 each on \$400 value gift cards and ticket basket. Gift cards are supporting St. Peter's businesses. 

 Drawing on March 18, 2023 

Tickets available from Shirley 902-535-2093 , Carmelita 902-535-3169 Pam 902-535-2595 Dianne 902-535-2334 Julie 902-623-0725 Barb 902-535-3623



HGA: We continue to have the church open for personal prayer each Sunday from 1 to 3 pm. Next Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, we shall be distributing little booklets called Treasure in Heaven. It is a 40 day, 10 minutes a day, prayer guide.

At 2pm that day, we'll explain how to use it and hopefully be able to answer your questions. 😊 We shall also have booklets for following the Stations, if anyone chooses to do so. Everyone is welcome.

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

See the film: Mother Teresa: No Greater Love

Mother Teresa is one of the most inspirational figures of the 20th century. In honor of the 25th anniversary of her passing, the Knights of Columbus has produced a feature-length documentary film on the life and legacy of this beloved humanitarian and the singular vision she and her sisters have embraced to serve the poor. Far more than a documentary, this film is a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, and a guidepost for all who seek hope today. **Join the Knights of Columbus Council 9476 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall on February 21 following the 6:00 pm Mass to watch this inspiring, feature-length film.**

St Joseph Lenten Lecture Series

St Joseph Parish in North Sydney is hosting a lecture series at St. Joseph Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm during lent.

34 Archibald Avenue, North Sydney. Side door of St Joseph Parish Hall

6:30 pm - Lecture,

7:15 pm - Questions, tea & coffee

March 1st - History of the Foodbank in North Sydney by Mr. Lawrence Shebib

March 8th - Palliative Care and Hospice

by Dr. Anne Frances D'Intino & Lynette Sawchuk

March 15th - *History of the Industrial Areas of CBRM & Diocese of Antigonish* by Dr. Peter Ludlow.

March 22nd - Ms. Kathleen MacKenzie - Early history of St. Joseph Parish and Parishioners

We warmly welcome everyone to come.

Peace be with you,

St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council

“St. Joseph – Husband, Father, Worker – A Model for our Time”

A men's Spiritual Reflection Day Sponsored by KOC Council 9476 will take place on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Parish 1452 Kings Road, Sydney River. With Speakers Rev. Conrad Edwards, F.X MacNeil (Parish Council Chair, OLF) and Deacon Lorne MacNeil (St. Leonard's Parish, New Waterford). Program: Praise & Worship, Rosary, Mass, Teachings, Adoration, Silent Reflection and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please Pre-Register by contacting Frank Howell at 902-562-2957 or by email wfhowell72@gmail.com. Doors open at 8:30 am for registration. A \$10 registration fee, for the lunch, to be paid at the door. Open to all men.

Voices in Song Choral Concert with The Elmer Iseler Singers, (Lydia Adams, Conductor/Artistic Director, Shawn Grenke, Piano/Organ)

and Cape Breton Chorale, Directed by Ryan Billington with Paula Jane Francis on piano and organ.

March 14, 2023, Time: 8:00 PM

Location: Church of Christ the King, Sydney

Tickets: \$35/ \$30 for Seniors by calling (902) 270-2591, online at capebretonchorale.com, or from Chorale Members.

In the Diocese

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday: February 22

In his “retreat” on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is

shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. - Pope Francis

Read Pope Francis' lenten message, download our Lenten poster and calendar, and prepare for a journey with diocesan hermit Sheila O'Handley all on Our Blog:

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

St. Mary of Egypt

St. Mary is said to have walked on the Jordan River to receive Communion from a monk on the opposite side!



St. Mary of Egypt's "biography" was written by Bishop Sofronio of Jerusalem in the 7th century.

"We are told that when St. Mary was 12 years of age she left her parents and went to Alexandria. There she led a very dissolute life for 16 years. One day she came upon a ship about to set sail with different groups of passengers. She inquired who they might be and where they were going. She was told they were pilgrims sailing toward Jerusalem for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. She decided to join them. When on the feast day she tried to enter the church, she was seized by a mysterious force. Fearfully she raised her eyes to an image of the Holy Virgin and was overcome with a deep sorrow for the sinful life she had led until that day. Only then was she able to make her way into the church and worship the True Cross.

"She did not remain in Jerusalem. 'If you go across the Jordan you will find peace' was the message of the Madonna.

The following day after her confession and Communion she made her way across the Jordan to the desert of Arabia. There she lived for 47 years in solitude encountering neither men nor beasts. Her skin shrivelled, her hair was long and white, but the promise of the Virgin proved true, she found her peace of soul.

"One day she met up with the Monk Zosimus and asked him to bring her Communion each year. One year, Zosimus arrived with the Eucharist, but Mary did not show. In great sorrow Zosimus prayed: 'Lord, my God, King and Creator of all, do not deprive me of my desire, but grant that I may see this holy woman.' Then he thought, 'Now what will I do if she appears, there is no boat around to get me across? I will not achieve my wish.' While he gave into these thoughts, Mary appeared on the opposite shore and Zosimus was consoled. Then he saw her make the sign of the Cross over the water and walk out on it as though it were dry land. When 12 months had passed Zosimus returned but was unable to find the mummified remains of the saintly penitent. A lion had dug her grave and buried the body."