

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes  
(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

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May 28, 2023

## Ascension of the Lord

And when the days of Pentecost were drawing to a close, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as of fire, which settled upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign tongues, even as the Holy Spirit prompted them to speak (Acts 2, 1-4).

### Mass Readings,

The **First Reading** is from *Acts 2:1-11*. "Pentecost" which means "fiftieth" was the second of the three most important of the annual feasts in the Jewish calendar. It occurred seven weeks after Passover and was primarily a feast of thanksgiving for the harvest: the first-fruits of the wheat crop were offered to God on that day. Later on the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai was also commemorated on this feast day. All Jewish men, not legitimately impeded, were expected to come to Jerusalem, to the temple, for the feast. Hundreds of Jews from outside of Palestine also came, and the city was usually full to overflowing. It was very fitting therefore that this feast day was chosen for the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

The Christian religion was to be universal, and the gift of tongues showed its universality. The law given by God to Moses was for the Jews only; the new law, given by Christ, and confirmed by the power of the Holy Spirit, was for all men. The vast gathering of Jews from Palestine and from all nations was a very suitable occasion on which to proclaim publicly the message of Christ given through the mouth of St. Peter.

Pentecost day is called the "birth-day" of the Church. The Apostles had already received the Holy Spirit on Christ's first appearance to them after his resurrection (Jn 20:22). But on Pentecost day the descent of the Holy Spirit was a public manifestation intended to impress and amaze the crowds of local and foreign Jews who thronged Jerusalem on that great festive occasion. The signs and wonders that manifested his coming brought these Jews in huge crowds to the place where the Apostles were staying, and immediately the gift of tongues was used by the Apostles to explain the occurrence.

Today was the day chosen for the opening of this mission of the Apostles. That they were backed by the divine power of the Holy Spirit was proved, not only by the gift of tongues but more especially by the change his coming wrought on the Apostles. From this day forward they were men dedicated to one purpose and to one purpose only, to bring the good news, the Gospel of Christ, to the world.

Then **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 12:2-7, 12-13*. The gifts of the Holy Spirit were very evident in the infant Church. This was necessary to prove to the pagans that the Christian religion was from the real God who controlled all things. The God of the Christians had real powers and they

were distributed freely by the Holy Spirit when occasion demanded. St. Paul is emphasizing that these gifts are not given to an individual for his honor or glory but to help to build up the Church.

These verses of St. Paul are very suitable on this feast day of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Not only did the Holy Spirit make his presence felt by the external exercise of his powers, on that first Pentecost day, but he continued to do so for some years until the Church had laid solid foundations in the Gentile world.

The important point to bear in mind today on this, the anniversary of the public manifestation of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, is the infinite love of God for us, his Chosen People of the new covenant. Through the Incarnation men are empowered to become adopted sons of God; through baptism we become members of Christ's body, his Church. Through the direct reception of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are made active members of the Christian Church, with all the strength and powers necessary to be effective members, on active service daily, true soldiers of Christ.

The Holy Spirit came to us in confirmation with his gifts and graces to enable us to work for the whole Church, for the whole body of Christ. We are made soldiers to form an army that will work together for the protection of our nation and our freedom. No man is put into military uniform in order to look after his own interests. We too are not made soldiers of Christ in order to save our own souls only—we are soldiers in order to help our fellow-Christians and all men in their common fight against sin and Godlessness. We must then take an active part in the battles of the Church, against everything that impedes the practice of the Christian virtues.

The **Gospel** is from *John 20:19-23*. This Gospel, which was first read on the Second Sunday of Easter, is repeated here today, the feast of the Holy Spirit, because on that first appearance of the risen Lord he conferred the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Today's feast commemorates the solemn public and publicized conferral of the same Holy Spirit.

The liturgical cycle, which each year represents to us God's mercy and kindness in our regard, closes today with this great feast of Pentecost—the public solemn descent of the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, on the Christian Church. During Advent, we try to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Son of God to dwell as man among us. Christmas recalls to our minds and hearts that great act of divine love. Lent prepares us for the sufferings endured by Christ during Holy Week on our behalf. Easter is the feast of triumph, Christ's triumph over death, the guarantee of our final triumph and union with him in his eternal glory. Pentecost crowns Christ's work among us. The Holy Spirit comes to abide with the Church, directing and effectively aiding its leaders to preserve, explain and spread the gospel of hope and love which Christ had brought on earth. The same spirit helps and aids each member of the Church to live a life of holiness by following the teaching of Christ and by helping his fellowmen to do likewise.

Briefly, this annual series of Church feast days recalls to our minds the infinite love of the Blessed Trinity for us finite, mortal men. At the same time it shows us the part played by each of the divine Persons in the eternal plan to share with us the perfect peace and the unending happiness which they enjoy in their heavenly kingdom.

God the Father created us with the intention and plan to raise us up to adopted sonship with him. God the Son took human nature so that we might share in the divinity. Representing all men he gave perfect obedience and reverence to the Creator "even unto death on a cross," and thus merited sonship for us. The Holy Spirit, the "fruit of divine love," came from Father and the Son to bring to perfection the work of our sanctification. Thus the three divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity have cooperated in the great work of infinite love and condescension which opens for us a future of unending happiness, if only we have the common sense to appreciate what that been done for us, and the simple common decency to do in return the few relatively easy little tasks asked of us.

May the Holy Spirit today fill us with gratitude for all that God has done for us.  
—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings, Cycle A* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, OFM

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### **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) 785-4018

### **Weekday Masses**

**Are cancelled until further notice.**

### **Weekend Masses**

#### **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**Rev. Angus MacDougall has agreed to celebrate Saturday Masses for as long as it takes. Many thanks are owed to him for his generosity.**

**SJB 4:00 PM**

**SP 5:30 PM**

**+ *Eva Landry***

### **Receipts**

#### **St. John the Baptist**

**May 20, 2023**

**Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,000.00**

**Cemetery Donation 70.00**

**Total \$ 1,070.00**

**St. Peter's**  
**May 20, 2023**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 750.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Parish Dues</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Papal Charities</b>	<b>205.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,030.00</u></b>

**Holy Guardian Angels**  
**May 21, 2023**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$ 518.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>22.00</b>
<b>Missals</b>	<b>5.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 545.00</u></b>

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Friday, June 16, 2023** is the Feast of the Sacred Heart Day of Global Rosary Relay to pray for priests. The Cure of Ars (St. John Vianney) taught that the priesthood was the love of the Sacred Heart. We are asked to say a rosary on that day for priests. Please call Joan Rogers (902) 535-3321 (SP), Maureen Sampson (902) 587-2517 (HGA) and Valerie Cunningham (902) 535-2655 (SJB) by June 4, 2023, to enter your name.

Sacred Heart Church in Marion Bridge (Trout Brook Road) is having a variety Concert called "Music on The Mira" June 4th from 2-4pm. Marion Bridge Elementary Choir will be singing, The Ukulele Unlimited, Guitar Gals, and D&R dance group, along with Jerry Gillis and Phyllis and Wilfred MacEachern! Good Cape Breton tea and Oatcakes will be served. Times are especially hard now for so many, so we are depending on the generosity of donations at the door. For any further inquiries call 902 578 8879.

Tea & Talk: An invitation to join with other women to share TEA & TALK at Holy Redeemer Convent, 24 Neville Street, Whitney Pier, situated behind the Pier Post Office. Tuesday, June 13th at 1:30 pm till 3:30 pm.

This invitation is open to women of all ages. This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with others to simply share a cup of tea and experience the joy of being together.

For further information phone 902-270-4840 or 902-539-6331.

Who: United Way Cape Breton

What: Seeking temporary accommodations in CBRM for those who have been displaced for emergency home repairs due to Hurricane Fiona damage.

When: Between now and the end of August 2023

Where: Cape Breton Regional Municipality

If you're able to help with this, please reach out to Bailey at [bailey@unitedwaycapebreton.com](mailto:bailey@unitedwaycapebreton.com) or 902-562-5226. Thanks so much!

**The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine** in Mabou has been open and very much visited during the winter months.

The gift shop at the Shrine is now open for the season. The hours for the gift shop are 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays.

The Shrine is always open.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again.

Call 902-945-2221 if you have any questions.”

**Correction Knights' Fundraiser:** Your Knights of Columbus Council 14280 are conducting a fundraiser over the next few weeks. The draw is scheduled for **June 15<sup>th</sup> and not 10<sup>th</sup>**

**First Prize:** 10 pounds of lobster and 10 pounds of crab.

**Second Prize:** 10 pounds of crab.

**Third Prize:** 10 pounds of crab.

Contact Knights; Rene Samson (HGA) (902) 587-2426, George Landry (SJB) (902) 535-3248 or Danny Madden (SP) (902) 535-3366.

**All proceeds are donated to local charities.**

**HGA:** Parish Council will meet on May 30 @ 3:00. New members are welcomed. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday June 4 @ 2:00. Financial statements for all parish properties will be available at this meeting. Hope to see you there.

**A 200th Anniversary Commemorative Souvenir Booklet and Vintage Calendar** are now available for sale. An e-transfer account has also been setup and we can arrange to mail out a package to anyone. For more information on these great souvenir items, contact Steve (902-631-4460) or Blair (902-535-4107). Books and Calendars are \$20.00 each.

**Tea & Tunes Sunday, May 28 Bonnie Brae Club 2-4** Evelyn Mac Rae and friends Admission 5.00 Half and Half Tickets sold Light Lunch will be served Please support The Old Folks.

## **Father's Day Buffet Dinner**

*Complete with Dessert, Coffee & Tea*

**Sunday, June 18th. L'Ardoise Community Center**

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

**Admission:**

Adults \$15.00

Children (11yrs.& Under) \$8.00

*Sponsored by: L'Ardoise 200th  
Anniversary Committee.*