

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

January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Samuel 3:3-10; 19* and gives an account of Samuel's vocation to take over the leadership of the Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20* in which St. Paul makes it crystal clear that justifying fornication as part of Christian liberty is an incorrect interpretation of his preaching and that the body must be preserved from all immorality.

The **Gospel** is from the Gospel of *St. John 1:35-42* and gives an account of the vocation of the first four Apostles who followed Jesus. It was a momentous event in the history of salvation. It was the beginning of a stream of vocations that would grow and spread down through the ages until the end of the world. It was momentous, firstly, in that Christ, who had come to open heaven for all men and who could find means of bringing them all to that eternal home without help from any man, decided instead to let men co-operate with him in this divine task. He decreed to set up a kingdom in this world—his Church—which would be run by mere mortals for their fellow-mortals, but which would be under his protection and assisted by his divine aid until the end of time. Christ chose this very human way, in order to make his Church more acceptable to our limited, human understanding and more approachable for sinful, human nature.

Christ, as God, could deal directly with every human being on earth. He could teach the infallible truth; he could pardon sins; he could give all the graces needed to travel successfully to heaven. There would then be no need for a Church with its teaching magisterium, no need for the sacrament of Baptism, or of Penance, nor of the Holy Eucharist itself or of any other such aids. Christ could do all that his Church does for the salvation of mankind, and more successfully, of course, but yet he chose the way which divine wisdom saw was best.

We mortals know that God can speak directly to our hearts, and actually has done so to many men in the past. We know that he can do directly all that is done by his Church, to whom he gave the power, with its teaching magisterium and sacraments. If he were to act in this way we should be open to continuous doubts about the source of our inspirations and the objectivity of the graces we thought we were receiving. It was to remove such doubts, and the possibility of self-deception that Christ left to us the external visible kingdom to which he gave all the powers necessary for men's salvation. It was for the security and peace of men's consciences that he set up a visible Church founded on the Apostles, men like ourselves, but transformed by his assisting grace.

Another momentous fact in Christ's choice of the Apostles on whom he was to build his Church, is that he "chose the lowly and the humble to confound the wise."

The first four Apostles, as well as the other eight, were simple, lowly fishermen from Galilee. They may possibly have been able to read and write a little, but they were certainly not men of education or any social standing in their communities. He could have converted and chosen some of the more highly educated scribes of Jerusalem, or some of the Roman centurions then in Palestine, or some of the many philosophers in Greece, or even Roman senators whose influence as Christian teachers would carry such weight with the educated elite of the empire. But he did not. The instrument he chose to carry his message to all men was not dependent on human ingenuity or on the educational or social standing of his witnesses. Rather it was to stand on the power of God, of which it was the expression and proof.

We can see clearly the divine wisdom governing Christ's choice of Apostles! Had his message of salvation been spread and promulgated by men of learning and social standing, the cry would soon go up on all sides: "This religion is the invention of philosophers; it is a clever plan of the upper classes to keep the poor and humble workers in subjection." But it was the poor and working classes who spread Christ's message, and who suffered imprisonment and death itself at the hands of the educated and upper classes for so doing.

Today, let us thank our blessed Lord who provided so humanly—and yet so divinely for our eternal welfare. In the Church, which he founded on the lowly but solid foundation of simple fishermen of Galilee, he erected an institution against which the gates of hell, the power of all the enemies of our salvation, cannot prevail, for his divine guidance and help will be with it forever. It has had enemies and opposition from the beginning; they may be more numerous and more destructive than ever today. But the promise of Christ still holds good, his word cannot fail. Therefore, neither the opposition of materialistic enemies from without, nor the even more insidious attacks from faint-hearted and worldly-minded members from within, can affect the safety and permanence of the building which Christ built on the Rock. "If God is with us," it matters not "who is against us."

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**

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Receipts:

St. John the Baptist

January 7, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	2,015.00
Initial Offering		275.00
Cemetery		1,000.00
Oil		50.00

<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>3,340.00</u>
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St. Peter's

January 7, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 887.00
Candles	8.00
Christmas	40.00
Parish Dues	10.00
Truth & Reconciliation	10.00
New Year's Day	195.00
Initial Offering	113.00
Total	\$ 1,263.00

Holy Guardian Angels

January 7, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 765.00
Candles	32.75
Missals	5.00
Initial Offering	240.00
Solemnity of Mary	260.00
Total	\$ 1,302.75

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Sarah Burke*

Friday, January 19, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *The Sampsons: Victoria, Thomas & son, John*

Saturday, January 20, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Kenny Cosman, Jr.*

SP 5:30 PM

Sunday, January 21, 2024

SH 9:00 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Alonzo J. Sampson*

Note that copies of the Liturgy of Holy Communion are again available in the churches for those who have assumed the ministry of bringing communion to persons at home or in hospital/nursing homes. It is understood that those receiving the sacrament prepare themselves prior to reception and that ministers do not run errands between their participation at Holy Mass and bringing communion but go

directly from the church to those who are to receive. In this way those receiving the Eucharistic Lord know when the minister will arrive and can prepare themselves and the Blessed Sacrament is given due respect.

Community News

SJB: St John the Baptist CWL would like to express appreciation to all who donated their refundable items this past year. Due to your generosity, we were able to raise \$250 to purchase items to support people in need through Chalice.

SJB: Thank you to all donors who contributed to our Memory Tree. It was greatly appreciated. This year we received **\$1,870**.

The Bonnie Brae Senior Citizens Club, St. Peter's, 14 Toulouse St., will be holding its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, at 2 pm. A light lunch follows. If you are 55 years or older, you are welcome to attend. The annual fee is \$5. Check out our Face Book page.

Knight's Meeting/January 2024: Full Council Meeting Thursday, January 18 at 6:30PM. In the St. Peter's Glebe meeting room. All members are encouraged to attend.

HGA: It is with both sadness and gratitude that we remember contributions made by three members of our religious community and their profound impact on the spiritual and educational lives of individuals affected by their presence.

Father Russell Sampson, son of Patrick and Lizzie (McGrath) Sampson was born in L'Ardoise and educated here and in Sydney. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1970 as a member of the Scarborough Foreign Missions, returning to Canada in 2010. A very humble and gentle man, Father Russell passed away on December 14, 2023. His burial will take place in L'Ardoise later this year.

Sister Rose Mary Mombourquette, daughter of Anthony and Clara (Sampson) Mombourquette was born in Lower L'Ardoise. She spent 72 years with the religious family of Les Filles de Jesus and had a very extensive teaching career, both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. She retired to Riverview, New Brunswick and passed away on December 21, 2023 at the age of 92 years.

Sister Marie Therese Arsenault, known to many as "Mother Blandine" hailed from Cheticamp and also a member of Les Filles de Jesus. She was both a nurse and teacher. Her arrival in L'Ardoise occurred in 1948 and she remained as an elementary school teacher at Ecole Notre Dame du Perpetual Secours until 1957. Mother Blandine often spoke about her wonderful experiences with students and the community. She passed away in Riverview, New Brunswick on January 7, 2024 at the age of 99 years.

HGA: Congratulations and thank you to the new Parish Council members, 2024

Chairperson - Rene Samson
Vice-Chairperson – Leo Briand
Secretary – Marie Burkey
Treasurer of the Community Centre - Carole Sampson
Bookkeeper – Laureen Burke
Alex Sampson
Harry Sampson
Blair Samson
Vernon Burke
Elaine Sampson

*The first order of business of the new council is the need to form a financial committee. Please note that a parish cannot function without the assistance of the active involvement of its parishioners because it is a community of shared responsibility; the priestly ministry needs to be supported by ministries accepted by the baptised. If you have a talent for finances, please feel invited to join this committee and /or nominate someone who could contribute his or her talents to this necessary committee.

HGA: At the close of our 200th Anniversary many have inquired about the "Family Banners " which remain hung in our Church. As a constant reminder of our heritage and the sacrifices of our ancestors we would like to display them for some time in the future. However, should some wish to have their family banner returned, please reach out and we will gladly accommodate.

Steve Sampson 902-631-4460

From the Catholic Register

[Summer job grants flow to abortion groups](#)

BY [ANNA FARROW](#)

- [January 10, 2024](#)

[Canada Summer Jobs applicants who fail to toe the federal government's ideological line on abortion and related issues remain out of the running for grants under the hire-a-student program.](#)

[But a *Catholic Register* search of government records shows funding forbidden to pro-life groups and Christian day camps still flowed last year to a Montreal sex education business with ties to International Planned Parenthood. Money has also been given to groups lobbying for expansion of MAiD, *The Register* has learned.](#)

[Last year, Liberal MP Anthony Housefather allocated Canada Summer Jobs funds to SexEd Mart, which provides curriculum resources and training for sex education.](#)

[SexEd Mart founder and owner Stephanie Mitelman Bercovitch has for decades embedded her professional and business interests in the broader regional and international push for both mandatory sex education and abortion rights.](#)

Planned Parenthood Montreal was dissolved in 1998, but the nonprofit abortion and sexual education provider is still listed as a resident business at the same Montreal address registered to SexEd Mart.

In 2004, Bercovitch re-launched Planned Parenthood Montreal as the Sexual Health Network of Quebec. Two years later, SHNQ affiliated with the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health, and thereby with International Planned Parenthood.

The SHNQ is a non-profit organization that derives all its income from the sale of the same-sex education curriculum and training materials that Bercovitch wrote and marketed at SexEd Mart.

According to Bercovitch's Wikipedia page, SHNQ offers "sex education sessions for free to schools across Montreal" and advocates for the "re-introduction of mandatory sex education in Quebec."

The program, which started as a parliamentary allocation dispensed by MPs to help create student summer employment in their ridings, was the focus of a national uproar in 2018 when the Liberal government added an attestation to weed out those organizations that did not "respect the values underlying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as other rights."

The controversy and subsequent legal challenges coincided with the attestation being dropped the following year.

But lawyer Barry Bussey, then director of Legal Affairs for the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, says very little has changed in the intervening years. Success in obtaining the federal subsidies appears to come down to a proper alignment with the Liberal government's opinions, Bussey says.

"Any indication of not holding the proper views, as determined by the government, means the organization will not receive funding," he said.

The 2024 Canada Summer Jobs application stipulates the exclusion of projects, job activities or organizations that "actively work to undermine or restrict a woman's access to sexual and reproductive health services" or "engage in activities that directly or indirectly infringe, undermine, weaken or restrict the exercise of rights legally protected in Canada."

Despite the removal of the 2018 attestation, the new "directly or indirectly" language is a kicker for any Catholic organization that upholds the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

Bussey is confident that, discreetly, religious or conscience-based discrimination is taking place.

"The removal of the attestation moved the discrimination of government actors from the public view. When the attestation was on the application, everyone could see the government was clearly discriminating against the religious organization. Now, with the attestation gone from the application document, the government is able to hide behind the faceless bureaucracy as it 'investigates' the organization out of the public view," he said.

The program is the only federal funding that allows individual MPs to vet applications from the businesses and organizations in their home ridings. But, with the current ideological-purity tests in place, Bussey feels the decision-making process has been overtaken by federal bureaucrats.

"From my observation the bureaucracy is having a greater say. It is my view that the government does not want to leave it up to the riding offices as they cannot be 'trusted' by government ideologues to make the 'right' decisions."

There are further indications preference is being given to advocacy organizations that are onside with the Liberal political platform. In both 2022 and 2023, the Toronto chapter of Dying with Dignity Canada received CSJ funding. A charitable organization that advocates for aggressive extension of "right to die" laws in

Canada, Dying with Dignity Canada has offices in the riding of Carolyn Bennett, Liberal MP and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions from 2021 to 2023.

The application deadline for 2024 CSJ funding is Jan. 10, and a new crop of small businesses and community organizations will await the outcome of their submissions.

Five years on from the attestation debacle, it appears there is more than one kind of screening process in place, meaning Catholic organizations that might have otherwise applied have been deterred and others that have gone forward will be refused funding.

“It is ridiculous that our own government would be the source of such a moral conundrum for a charity that is doing good things for society at large,” said Bussey.