

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes

(902) 535-2053

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February 25, 2024 Second Sunday of Lent

Between Moses and Elias Jesus shows forth His divine glory, thus foreshadowing His resurrection. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. Today's Mass places before us the transfigured Lord and the model toward Whom we must tend, and our own transfiguration as the goal we must attain. We attain this goal by a profound realization of our sinfulness and need of a Redeemer; by preserving purity of body and soul; by combatting our passions and carnal instincts and observing the commandments and most importantly by participating in the Mass. —Excerpted from *Cathedral Daily Missal*

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Genesis* 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18. Abraham had promptly obeyed the true God and come to Canaan. Now God tests him by asking him to offer his son, Isaac, in sacrifice. Abraham obeyed promptly once more, but God intervened as Abraham got ready to slay his son. He renewed His promise of a great race, through which the whole world would receive the blessing of God — divine adoption through the Incarnation.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans* 8:31-34. St. Paul is emphasizing the indwelling of the Spirit in Christians and their freedom from sin, eternal death and the Jewish law. The liberating act of Christ had made them children of God, destined for glory.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark* 9:2-10. This vision of Christ glorified, given to these Apostles on Mount Thabor (the traditional site of Transfiguration) was surely a very special privilege, and it was one they did not forget. "We saw his glory," St. John says in his gospel, written over sixty years later. In his epistles John also refers to this privilege (1 Jn. 1:1-4). St. Peter, writing from Rome to the churches in Asia Minor about thirty years later, mentions this outstanding experience: "For we were not following fictitious tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when from out the majestic glory a voice came down to him saying: 'this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' And this voice we ourselves heard borne from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain" (2 Pt. 1:16-18).

Yes, the three Apostles were privileged and we too are sharers in their privilege. The Transfiguration of Christ is but one among many of the incontrovertible proofs of the divine Sonship of Christ which we have in the gospel narratives and in the twenty centuries-long history of the Church which he founded. Were he not divine, that Church would long since have crumbled and fallen under the many vicious

assaults from outside which it has undergone, as well as from the many human weaknesses which have beset it from within. But Christ is God and the Church has his divine protection and assistance. Therefore, it will go on to the end of time to continue his work of elevating and redeeming mankind.

This enlightening glimpse of Christ's future glory—a glory in which they would share—was given to these Apostles to strengthen and encourage them in the terrible test of their faith which the passion and death of Jesus would be for them very soon. It is for a similar reason that the Church orders this story of the Transfiguration to be read to us during this season of Lent. We are or should be mortifying ourselves during this season. This mortification can earn for us a glorious and unending future life. To encourage us to continue it, we are reminded that the One we are following, the One whose voice we listen to, is none other than the Son of God. There are the voices of many false prophets shouting around us, telling us to enjoy ourselves in this life, to "eat, sleep, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die," but there is the rub—tomorrow we shall die, but where shall we go then?

Let us thank our divine Lord today, for giving this consoling and encouraging vision of his glory to his Apostles and through them to us. It was for them, and it is for us, a guarantee and a foretaste of the joys and the glory that will be ours for eternity, if we but persevere in our struggles against the world, the flesh and the devil. This struggle is not easy for our weak nature, but our loving Savior is ever beside us to "raise us up and tell us not to fear" if we but rely on him. When we are tempted to give way to our human weaknesses, or to give way under the weight of the crosses that sometimes are about to crush us, let us think of Mount Thabor, and the glorified Jesus, who a few weeks later faced his own real passion and cross cheerfully for our sakes. This thought will help us to carry our crosses as the thought of the future glory which will be ours should make us thank God that we have been created and thank his beloved Son for setting us on the road to that future glory.

—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

February 17, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 823.00
Cemetery	375.00
Property Maintenance	160.00

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,358.00</u>
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St. Peter's

February 17, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,497.00
Candles	17.00
Altar Society	153.00

Total \$ 1,667.00

Holy Guardian Angels

February 18, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 822.00
Candles	41.75
Share Lent	225.00

Total \$ 1,088.75

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+Stella Doutaz

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+Sarah Burke

Friday, March 1, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM

+ Beverly Johnson

Saturday, March 2, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ Deceased members of the church choir

SP 5:30 PM

+ Tom Hanley

Sunday, March 3, 2024

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ Valerie Boudreau

Monday, March 4, 2024

SJB 11:00 AM

Mass of Christian Burial

+Helen Mary Poirier

Community Notices

SJB: Our Lenten Project is financial support for “**Operation Smile**” providing surgical repair for children with hair lip/pallet in Libya, Syria & Yemen. Please place your donation in the envelope attached to bulletin and put in collection basket.

Thanks for your generosity.

SJB: During lent the Way of the Cross will be at 3:30 PM followed by Mass. Please sign up at the church entrance if you are willing to serve by carrying cross/candles.

HGA: The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15 AM each Friday during Lent. Welcome all! On Sundays during Lent the church will be opened for visit or private prayer till 3 PM.

Development & Peace -Share Lent

Today, February 25, is your last chance to sign the Stand for the Land petition that was circulated earlier asking the Honduran ambassador to Canada to protect those who are fighting to defend the forests and rivers in a Honduran national park against the pollution created by a mining company that has been in operation there.

A recent report states that the land in 156 municipalities is in danger due to 540 mining licenses, and rivers are threatened in 100 municipalities due to 307 permits for power generation. In addition, at least 165 extractive projects threatening the territories of indigenous peoples.

The letter is part of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s last fall campaign. There are clip charts at the entrances of our Church with the petitions attached, just in case you didn’t have an opportunity to sign earlier.

Over 28,000 Canadians have signed it in solidarity with these struggling communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. Our goal was to collect 30,000 signatures – 1000 for each of the three peaceful defenders who were murdered for Standing Up For The Land. Please join the effort and add weight to our demands. You could also sign on-line at devp.org/act

On behalf of the people of Honduras, I offer a huge thank you for your solidarity!

Your Antigonish Diocesan Council for Development & Peace Caritas Canada

Sign the Campaign Letter:

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

Lenten Reflections

with Diocesan Hermit Sheila O'Handley

"The Resurrection is a cosmic event. It is our present and future HOPE.

Each week I will highlight a word or phrase from the Sunday Scriptures as a way to facilitate our discernment of, and identification of, the treasures homing in our hearts."

Read the invitation:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/our-lenten-journey-2024/>

Prayers Requested : The Rev. Ora McManus who died around 10 pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Father Ora was born on September 18, 1930, in Sydney and he was ordained on June 15, 1957 at St. Francis Xavier Chapel by Bishop John R. MacDonald for the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Funeral arrangements will be shared when completed. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Father Ora sometime in May when family will be able to travel. Father Ora is survived by his sister, Carol in Mexico, and his niece Carolyne in Toronto.