

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

**Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei**

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**February 16, 2025**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of Jeremiah 17:5-8*. Jeremiah lived through one of the most troubled periods of the ancient Near East as he witnessed the fall of Assyria and the rising of Babylon. In the midst of this turmoil, the kingdom of Judah, came to its downfall by resisting this overwhelming force of history. The lesson that Jeremiah wished to teach the people of Judah must have been crystal clear to them. They did not heed it and they suffered the consequences. They had abandoned God; their human allies in whom they trusted abandoned them; they ended up slaves in a pagan and foreign land. Jeremiah has a very clear lesson for us, too, this morning. We are Christians and have a far greater knowledge of our purpose in life and of God's infinite love towards us, as proved by the Incarnation, than the people of Judah had. Yet how often do we not only forget God but actually sin against him in arranging our temporal affairs?

The **Second Reading** is from the *first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:12, 16-20*. This reading continues the teaching we heard last week on the resurrection of the dead. St. Paul addresses the Corinthian claim that there is no such thing as resurrection from the dead. If, as St. Paul says, our hope in Christ were for this life only, our religion, our Christianity, would not only be false, it would be utter folly. Why should a man not have all the pleasures, all the wealth, all the comforts possible, during his few years on this earth, if the grave is all that awaits him? Any man who would strive to lead a Christian life, knowing that it ended forever in death, would indeed deserve to be pitied as the Apostle says. The few years that we have on this earth may be short but they are invaluable because our unending future life will depend on how we use them.

The **Gospel** is taken from *St. Luke 6:17, 20-26*. What Christ said to his disciples that day long ago in far-off Galilee applies equally well to every true Christian today. We must never let the things of this world keep us from God. We may acquire and use earthly goods, but we must acquire and use them justly, charitably, and reasonably. While only a relatively small number of Christians are called on to take a vow of poverty, all Christians are forbidden to take a vow of wealth, i.e., to make the acquisition of wealth their purpose in life. While only a few special disciples of Christ are asked to give up even the lawful pleasures of the senses, all Christians are commanded to avoid unlawful indulgence in sensual pleasure. No follower of Christ is forbidden to enjoy the legitimate joys of life, but every Christian must be prepared to accept life's pains and sorrows as well. We are pilgrims and strangers on this earth, weeding our way to heaven. The lighter our pack the easier and faster we travel. But there are cares and responsibilities, according to each one's vocation in life, which we may not and must not shirk. If

we face these responsibilities honestly and cheerfully, realizing that they are the means by which God wishes us to gain our eternal reward then they will be less burdensome and less heavy for us.

These Beatitudes are personally important to all of us. If we are true followers of Christ and sincere Christians, we will take the rough as well as the smooth, the poverty as well as the plenty, the sorrows as well as the joys. These are the stepping stones which God has laid down for us to help us get across the river of life to the eternal shore. "Ours is the Kingdom of Heaven."

—*from The Sunday Readings, Year C by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.*

## **Schedule of Mass Intentions**

### **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

SJB 4:00 PM  
+ *Marjorie Digout*

### **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

SP 9:00 AM  
+ *Michael Marshall*

### **Friday, February 21, 2025**

HGA 11:00 AM  
+ *Theresa Mombourquette*

### **Saturday, February 22, 2025**

SJB 4:00 PM  
+ *Scott Fougere*  
SP 5:30 PM  
+ *Claire LeBlanc*

### **Sunday, February 23, 2025**

SH 9:00 AM  
HGA 11:00 AM  
+ *Bernie Middleton*

## **Receipts**

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

**February 8, 2025**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 711.00
Property Maintenance	265.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 976.00</u></b>

**St. Peter's**  
**February 8, 2025**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	680.00
Candles		24.00
Altar Society Dues		94.00
Cemetery		500.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>1,298.00</u></b>

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**Holy Guardian Angels**  
**February 9, 2025**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	692.35
Candles		32.60
Missals		5.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>729.95</u></b>

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**Community Notes**

**SP:** Tea and Tunes, Sunday February 28, Bonnie Brae Club 2-4. Wayne Bona, Tyrone David, and Mannie Bourgeois. Admission \$5.00. Half & Half tickets sold. Light Lunch will be served.

**SP: Knights of Columbus:** The next General Meeting of Fr. Vincent de Paul Council 14280, of the will take place at the St. Peter's Glebe House on Thursday February 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

**The Family** of the late Elaine MacNeil would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who attended the wake, sent cards, prepared and delivered food, made donations in her memory, and offered their support. For those who travelled to attend the funeral, we are grateful for your presence during such a beautiful send-off. Our thanks to Father Yake for his visits with Mom and for officiating the funeral mass. We are forever grateful for those who supported the funeral mass especially the readers Jason MacNeil and Rod Beresford, Eucharistic minister Carol Cook, the choir (who did an excellent job) as well as Robyn Merrick for her solo. We would also like to thank Dennis Haverstock Funeral Home for their assistance and guidance during our difficult time and Stewart Kelly for tending to the burial.

**Sister Shirley Bruce CSM** Please keep in your prayers Sister Shirley Bruce CSM, formerly Sister Natalie, 93 years of age, a Sister of St. Martha of Antigonish. She died at Mary's Place, Parkland Antigonish, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, in the 74th year of her Religious Life.

Born in New Waterford, Sister Shirley was the daughter of the late Nathaniel and Mary (MacKenzie) Bruce. In addition to her parents, Sr. Shirley was

predeceased by sisters Margaret Bartlett and Naomi Savoni. She is survived by her sister Verna Birke and many devoted members of her extended family who showed great care and love to Sr. Shirley.

Sr. entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha on February 15, 1955. She pronounced her first vows on February 15, 1957, and her perpetual vows on August 15, 1960. Before entering religious life, Sr. Shirley was trained and worked as an RN for several years. She studied at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, and McGill University in Montreal. Her ministry continued after she entered, and she served as Director of the School of Nursing at St. Rita's Hospital in Sydney, Cape Breton, for several years.

Sr. Shirley served at Bethany and Little Flower Institute in Sydney before attending Nova Scotia Provincial Normal College from September 1952 to June 1953, where she obtained a First Class (Interim) Teaching License. From 1953 to 1971, she taught in schools in Ingonish, Margaree, St. Peter's, Eskasoni, and Dominion, all in Cape Breton. During that time, she continued to study, and in 1972, she received her B.A. Degree from St. Francis Xavier University.

When Sr. Shirley's mother died in 1977, she was on compassionate leave, living at home with her father in New Waterford and teaching in the New Waterford School District from 1973 to 1992. She taught children with disabilities who were in the New Dawn Program. In 1992/93, Sr. Shirley was on renewal and lived with our Sisters in Kamloops, B.C. Upon her return from B.C., she lived in Sydney at St. Rita Convent and continued her relationship with the New Dawn Program as a volunteer. In 1996, she moved to Antigonish, was the Purchasing Agent at Bethany, assisted with Religious Education at St. Joseph's Parish, and lived and worked at St. Martha's Hospital and Marian Community. Always aware of the needs of others, in 2006, she served her confreres as a Medical Driver at Bethany and later provided ministry to our sisters and staff in Bethany's General Office. Her life of service was 'cut to the quick' in July of 2016 when she suffered a stroke. She always maintained her cheerful demeanour and ready laugh. Her time in Mary's Court was peaceful, and she exuded gratitude and joy to all who cared for her and shared life with her.

She will rest at Martha Place, Parkland Antigonish, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., followed by a Vigil Service. A Reflection on her life will be at 11:00 a.m. in St. Martha Chapel, Parkland, Antigonish. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated later that day at 1:45 p.m. in St. Martha Chapel, Parkland, Antigonish.