

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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January 19, 2025

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 62:1-5*. Isaiah compares Yahweh to a young man who marries a virgin. His love transforms her. She used to be called "Forsaken." Now she has a new name, "My Delight."

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, 12:4-11* and teaches that God is the origin of spiritual gifts. The various graces which the members of the Church receive are a living reflection of God who, being essentially one, and so is a trinity of persons. Therefore, diversity of gifts and graces is as important as their basic unity, because all have the same divine origin and the same purpose—the common good. —Excerpted from *The Navarre Bible, Corinthians*.

The **Gospel** is from *John 2:1-12*. There are many lessons we can learn from this incident in Christ's life: for example, Christ's approval of marriage—there were some heretical sects later who said marriage was sinful, unfit for a Christian. Or we could see in it the intercessory power of our blessed Mother. Christ anticipated his "hour" for working miracles in order to grant her request. But the theme of today's readings is the goodness and kindness of God and we surely have a convincing proof of that loving kindness in today's gospel story.

Christ worked his first miracle in order to grant a temporal favor, an earthly gift, to save the newly-married groom from embarrassment. It had the other effects of convincing his very recent disciples of their belief that he was the expected Messiah, and also it convinces all Christians of the efficacy of our Lady's intercession for us, but its primary purpose was to confer a temporal benefit on the groom.

By this kind act he has shown us that he is interested in our earthly affairs also. He became man in order that we could become sons of God, he came on earth so that we could go to heaven, but this miracle at Cana proves that he has a deep interest in our many and varied activities during the course of our journey to heaven.

He told us "ask and you shall receive." That "shall" is very definite, our prayers will be answered, and what we should ask for is not only spiritual gifts, but the temporal aids also which we need. The "shall" applies to them too, as the miracle of Cana proves. We shall get our temporal requests, provided of course that they won't impede us on our journey to heaven. No kind father would give his child a gift that would injure him—God is the kindest of fathers and he sees what will or will not impede or endanger our eternal happiness. We can and should therefore make our temporal needs known to God in our prayers, confident that he will give us what we ask if it is for our real good.

But, someone may object: how often have I asked God for temporal favors I needed so badly, and my prayer was unanswered? Was it unanswered really? Perhaps you did not get the exact thing you asked for but you got something more useful, more necessary, something you never thought of asking for, but the good God saw your need of it. We have a father in heaven who really loves us, and cares for us, let us make our temporal, as well as our spiritual needs, known to him in confident prayer. Our requests will not go unanswered.

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

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

SJB 4:00 PM
+ *Marilyn Rose Touesnard*

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

SP 9:00 AM
+ *Michael Marshall*

Friday, January 24, 2025

HGA 11:00 AM
+ *Gerard Taylor*

Saturday, January 25, 2025

SJB 4:00 PM
+ *David King*
SP 5:30 PM
+ *Anna Mombourquette*

Sunday, January 26, 2025

SH 9:00 AM
+ *Theresa Mombourquette*
HGA 11:00 AM
+ *Mark Mombourquette*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

January 12, 2025

Envelopes & Loose \$ 733.00

Total \$ 733.00

St. Peter's
January 12, 2025

Envelopes & Loose	\$	685.00
Candles		36.00
Initial Offering		40.00
New Year's		95.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>856.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
January 12, 2025

Envelopes & Loose	\$	875.25
Candles		29.00
Initial Offering		20.00
Solemnity of Mary		10.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>934.25</u>

Community Notes

SJB: From Henrietta Doary

A sincere note of thanks to everyone for their acknowledgement of my leaving the keyboard at SJB (not the choir) to someone else after many years of enjoyment with wonderful people. The Lord didn't give me great talent but just enough so that I could do what He needed me to do. Thanks to all for the absolutely beautiful cards, generous gifts, delicious food, lovely music and most of all your presence. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my beautiful husband, Arthur, for his presence in my life all these years (and his silence in this project) and our precious family, Amy, Patrick and Joseph. You are all so special and so loved.

Thank You,
Henrietta

RTO: Meeting date changed from January 14th to January 21st. All else remains the same.

What is a Jubilee, Holy Year?

On Christmas Eve, 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica to open the Jubilee 2025. In the December 2024 issue of *Columbia* magazine, Supreme Knight, Patrick E. Kelly, wrote an article entitled, *The Anchor of Hope*, in which he described a jubilee. I quote from Mr. Kelly's article, pg. 3.

“In the Catholic tradition, a jubilee year, also called a holy year, is celebrated every 25 years. It's an ancient practice, dating back to 1300. The Church teaches that a jubilee year is a special time of reconciliation and conversion - an opportunity to look back on our lives, to ask the Lord for forgiveness and to seek his help as we strive to lead lives of greater holiness. Pilgrimage is also a fundamental aspect of a holy year. Most especially, it's a year to encounter Christ through the grace of the sacraments - particularly, the Eucharist and reconciliation.

“The opening of the Holy Door is also an ancient practice that is rich in symbolism. It recalls the words of Christ: “I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture (John 10: 9). By walking through the Holy Door, pilgrims affirm that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the gatekeeper, and make an intentional decision to be guided by Christ.

“Pope Francis has made hope the central theme of the Jubilee 2025. An estimated 35 million ‘pilgrims of hope’ will travel to Rome during the holy year.

“Writing about the jubilee year, the Holy Father reminds us that hope is the virtue that gives our lives “inward direction and purpose” (Spes Non Confundit, 18).

“The Christian symbol of hope is the anchor, Pope Francis explains, because it “helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life.” He then adds, “The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope... makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called.” (25)

Hope is an essential virtue, but it can be elusive in our day-to-day lives. The scriptures remind us that, as Christians, hope is our inheritance. The author of the Letter to Hebrews tells us that God has made us a promise so that “we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner.” (6: 18-20)”

Sister Catherine MacPhee

Please keep in your prayers Sister Catherine MacPhee, formerly Sister St. Anna of Rome. At age 109, she was the oldest Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame and was in her 90th year of Religious Life. She died at the CND Health Care Centre on January 4, 2025.

She was predeceased by brothers Angus Leo, John (Marie), Leo and Alex (Ann Marie); sisters Theresa (Fred)Weymouth, Anne (Rupert) Phalen, Florence (Ernie) Maloney and Sr. Margaret (S.S. Maura) CND. She is survived by her

devoted nieces, nephews, and their families, whom she cherished. Her love for family and her genuine interest in their well-being fostered the closeness she maintained with them throughout her life.

Catherine was born in Colindale, Port Hood, NS, on March 21, 1915, the daughter of the late Angus and Mary Ann (MacIsaac) MacPhee. She entered the Congregation of Notre Dame in 1933 and made First Vows in 1935.

Catherine was ever a teacher dedicated to the elementary students in her care for almost forty years. Following retirement, she accepted the challenge of teaching Catechetics in Evansburg and, later, in Drayton Valley, Alberta. On her return to Nova Scotia, she participated in the vital role of teaching Literacy to adult learners.

Sister Catherine's final years were spent at Parkland Cape Breton and the CND Health Care Center where she focused on intercessory prayer and personal presence.

Throughout her life, Sister Catherine maintained a spirit of joy and independence and a genuine interest in others, be it family, students, CNDs, or friends she met along the way. Her faith and stamina were strong witnesses of God's tender care and her faithfulness to the journey of life.