

**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 26, 2025**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday of the Word of God**

Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God in his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, which was issued on Sept. 30, 2019, the Feast of St. Jerome. "*Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.*" (**Pope Francis, *Aperuit illis*, 2)**)

## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Nehemiah*, 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10. Nehemiah and Ezra lived in the time when the people of Israel had been returned to their land after the years of the Babylonian Captivity and it was a time of rebuilding. The people had lost their connections to their faith.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians*, 12:12-30 and refers to the Mystical Body of Christ. St. Paul concludes his description of the different parts of the body by applying it to the Church, where variety of functions does not detract from unity.

The **Gospel** is from **St. Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**. In the first four verses of St. Luke's Gospel which have been read to you today, you will find reason to be grateful to him. He went to a lot of trouble in order to put in a permanent form, in a written record, the essential facts concerning Christ, his words and his works, so that we

"would understand (like Theophilus) the certainty of the faith in which we have been instructed."

But while we must be grateful to St. Luke, we owe a bigger debt of gratitude still to the all-good, all-wise God who moved Luke and the other Evangelists to preserve for us in writing the essential truths of the Christian faith that has been handed down to us. The Apostles were companions of Christ. They witnessed his works and his words; they remembered most of his doings and his sayings, and what they might have forgotten the Holy Spirit recalled to their memory on that first Pentecost day in Jerusalem. The first two generations of Christians received the facts of the faith from these eye-witnesses and the miracles so frequent in the infant Church were confirmation of the truth of their teaching.

But God in his wisdom provided for the many generations to come who would not have this evident confirmation of their faith. He established a teaching body in his Church which would safeguard the purity of the Christian truths, for "he himself would be with it all days," and he gave us a written record of the facts of the faith in the Gospels and the other writings of the New Testament.

How can we ever thank God sufficiently for his thoughtfulness in our regard? We Christians of today can be as certain, as assured, of the truth of the faith that we are trying to practice as was St. Luke who was converted by St. Paul. We have a living, teaching Magisterium in the Church, which authentically preserves and interprets for us the true facts of Christ's teaching and works as written down for us by a first-generation Christian under the impulse and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. If we needed further proof of the priceless value of our New Testament Books, the virulent attacks on their authenticity, on their objectivity, and on their veracity, by enemies of the faith down to and including our own day, should be sufficient.

But they have stood the test of time and the onslaughts of biased, prejudiced criticism, for they are the word of truth, which is eternal, and comes from God.

We have a priceless gift of God in the inspired Books of the Bible. Let us show true appreciation for that gift by using it to build up a better knowledge of the Christian faith which it teaches us. There should be a Bible, or at least the New Testament, in every Christian home. It should not be an ornament on a shelf, but a fountain and source from which we can draw strength and refreshment in the daily practice of our Christian faith. Almost two thousand years ago, God's infinite goodness provided this source of strength, the "fountain of living water," for us

Christians of this century. Are we grateful for his thoughtfulness? Are we nourishing our faith at this blessed fountain of his infinite wisdom and love? —  
**Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.**

## **Schedule of Mass Intentions**

### **Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

**SJB** **4:00 PM**  
**+ *Marjorie Digout***

### **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

**SP** **9:00 AM**  
**+ *Gerard Taylor***

### **Friday, January 31, 2025**

**HGA** **11:00 AM**  
**+ *Gerard Taylor***

### **Saturday, February 1, 2025**

**SJB** **4:00 PM**  
**+ *Casilda Parago***  
**SP** **5:30 PM**  
**+ *Leona Matilda Martell***

### **Sunday, February 2, 2025**

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

# **Receipts**

## **St. John the Baptist**

**January 11, 2025**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,069.00
Cemetery	150.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,219.00</u></b>

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## **St. Peter's**

**January 12, 2025**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 695.00
Candles	36.00
Initial Offering	40.00
New Year's Day	95.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 866.00</u></b>

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## **Holy Guardian Angels**

**January 12, 2025**

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

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## Community Notes

**HGA:** L'Ardoise Acadian Festival 2025 meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2 @ 1:00 PM. Dates were set at last year's wrap up meeting in October. This year's dates are Thursday, July 24 - Sunday 27. In order to have this festival become another successful one we will need many volunteers. We hope to see you there. \_

**February 2, 2025**

**29<sup>th</sup> World Day for Consecrated Life:**

**Mass 10:30 am to be celebrated by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick at St. Ninian Cathedral.**

World Day for Consecrated Life, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is a day of prayer and celebration for people who have consecrated their lives to God through vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Celebration of this day of prayer allows parishes to highlight the gift of religious life and pray for those discerning a religious vocation.

The following prayer, written for the World Day for Consecrated Life, is provided courtesy U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life And Vocations.

*"God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."*