

**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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**March 30, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent; Easter is enticingly near. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon, *Laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy, our foretaste of Easter joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. This is also the Second Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.*

## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Joshua*, 5:9, 10-12. Today's reading recounts the celebration of the Passover in the Promised Land by Joshua and those who had sojourned with him in the desert for 40 years.

The **Second Reading** is from the second letter of Paul to the *Corinthians*, 5:17-21. The reconciliation of mankind with God has been brought about by Christ's death on the cross. Jesus, who is like men in all things "yet without sinning" bore the sins of men and offered himself on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for all those sins, thereby reconciling men to God; through this sacrifice we became the righteousness of God.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke* 15:1-3, 11-32. This reading recounts the parable of the Prodigal Son, one of Jesus' most beautiful parables. It teaches us once more that God is a kind and understanding Father. The son who asks for his part of the inheritance is a symbol of the person who cuts himself off from God through sin. "Although the word 'mercy' does not appear, [this parable] nevertheless expresses the essence of the divine mercy in a particularly clear way" (John Paul II, *Dives in misericordia*, 5).

Mercy — as Christ has presented it in the parable of the prodigal son — has *the interior form of the love* that in the New Testament is called *agape*. This love is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to every form of moral misery, to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and 'restored to value'. The father first and foremost expresses to him his joy, that he has been 'found again' and that he has 'returned to life'. This joy indicates a good that has remained intact: even if he is a prodigal, a son does not cease to be truly his father's son; it also indicates a good that has been found again, which in the case of the prodigal son was his return to the truth about himself" (*Dives in misericordia*, 6).  
—*Dr. Pius Parsch, The Church's Year of Grace: Septuagesima to Holy Saturday*

## **Schedule of Mass Intentions**

### **Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

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

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025** **9:00 AM**  
**SP**  
**+ Gerard Taylor**

**Friday, April 4, 2025**  
**HGA** **11:00 AM**  
**+Florence & Ned Bona**

**Saturday, April 5, 2025**  
**SJB** **4:00 PM**  
**+ Harold Landry**  
**SP** **5:30 PM**  
**+Claire LeBlanc**

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**  
**SH** **9:00 AM**  
**HGA** **11:00 AM**  
**+ Margaret & Henry Landry**

## Receipts

### St. John the Baptist

March 22, 2025

Envelopes & Loose \$ 905.00

Total \$ 905.00

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### St. Peter's

March 22, 2025

Envelopes & Loose \$ 716.00

Candles 35.10

Missals 10.00

Altar Society 20.00

Total \$ 781.10

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### Holy Guardian Angels

March 23, 2025

Envelopes & Loose \$ 660.00

Candles 44.20

Total \$ 704.20

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## Community Notes

### **Easter Confession Schedule at Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney River**

**Saturday, April 12/25**

10:00 Rev. Bill Burke

11:00 Rev. Doug Murphy

12:00 Rev. Alphonsus

1:00 Rev. David Rankin

2:00 Rev. Bedford Doucette

3:00 Rev. Conrad Edwards

### **2025 St. Joseph Lenten Lecture Series**

St. Joseph Parish North Sydney is hosting a lecture asking:

“What’s Wrong with MAiD?”

By: Lawyer Larry Worthen, Executive Director of the Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada. Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm

<http://bit.ly/WWWMSydney>

34 Archibald Avenue, North Sydney

Refreshments and all are welcome.

**Tea and Tunes Sunday April 13** Bonnie Brae Club St Peters 2-4 Wayne Bona, Tyrone David, Mannie Bourgeois and Evelyn Mac Rae Admission 5 dollars Half and Half tickets sold Light Lunch will be served

**HGA:** A huge thank you for your support towards our cold plate fundraiser we had on Sunday. To all of you who donated, volunteered their time prepping, worked at the event and to everyone who purchased tickets, please know that you are truly appreciated. We realized our goal and have purchased our new freezer for our Community Centre.

**HGA:** L'Ardoise Community Centre, April 5th & 6th  
Saturday, Breakfast from 8:00-10:00 A.M. Indoor Yard Sale along with Cakes and Baked Goods Raffle Table. Sunday, starting at 2:00PM Turkey & Ham.  
Merchandise Bingo.

**From the Catholic Register: March 21, 2025**

### **Catholics urged to keep social teaching top of mind this election**

As Canadians prepare for the upcoming campaign, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) president Bishop William McGrattan urged Christians to get involved in the electoral process.

“I think it is important to realize we do have this freedom and also the responsibility to exercise a decision that will support the country in moving forward in a way that respects common values,” said McGrattan, the Bishop of Calgary.

Discourse between relatives, friends, co-workers and fellow churchgoers about the daily news and philosophical debates about the soul of the nation will magnify during the campaign timeframe.

Instead of adopting a combative and intolerant posture during a political discussion with someone expressing clashing viewpoints, McGrattan said we can exchange ideas charitably.

“I think the first step is to make sure that one is educated or aware of the issues so that one can speak with a certain degree of knowledge,” said McGrattan. “And then be open to listening to another person's perspective and question why they might hold that particular perspective on an issue. Maybe then say, ‘from my perspective of my life of faith, I see this in this light.’”

“Faith is not a political position, but faith provides values that we need to be reflecting in our discussions and in making decisions regarding the future of a country and a society.”

Catholics, specifically, are encouraged to resist being one- or two-issue voters by meditating upon all seven core principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST):

- Dignity of the human person from conception to natural death;
- Call to family, community and participation;
- Rights and responsibilities;
- Option for the poor and vulnerable;
- The dignity of work and the rights of workers;
- Solidarity;
- Care for God’s Creation.

Lay associations, such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Catholic Women’s League, the Knights of Columbus, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada and pro-life groups that champion these values with their respective missions, have been active in previous election cycles.

McGrattan suggested clergy can meaningfully assist these groups by being aware of the realities of food insecurity, mental illness, euthanasia and health-care barriers in their local context and then “bring those to the attention of our faithful in their discernment and education as the election unfolds.”

A key to discernment, said McGrattan, is to “pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom.” He considers prayers to the Holy Spirit “essential at this time as we prepare to go into an election.”

Reciting The Lord’s Prayer, the foundational Christian prayer that Jesus taught to His disciples, is also recommended by McGrattan. This pre-vote spiritual practice strikes a personal chord.

“I remember my father telling me to make sure you pray before you go and vote,” said McGrattan. “He always said he would say the Our Father before placing the

ballot in the box. I remember him telling me that as I came of age to vote. He gave me that sage wisdom and prudence.”

The mentality a Catholic brings into the voting booth is also vital. Recognizing that voting is a responsibility, said McGrattan, should ensure that “one doesn’t just see this as a kind of superficial or just a very momentary type of decision.” He added that we should approach a vote believing “this is an act of love and service.”

As for after the vote, McGrattan said we can observe the Ignatian teaching of holy indifference — embracing God’s will and direction by surrendering personal preferences.

“It is about one accepting the outcome and trying to live with that and contribute the best they can,” said McGrattan. “If things don't necessarily align with one's vote, one will try and find ways to continue to advocate for some of the issues they saw as important.”

McGrattan stressed that while “God knows the outcome, and God has in some ways ordained what is to unfold in our life and in the life of a country,” at the same time “He wants us to act freely and responsibly. Voting is part of that human dignity we have given to us by God.”

McGrattan concluded with a call to action for young voters.

“Especially for the young voters, the future is important,” said McGrattan. “They have to give voice to that by being very participatory in terms of elections and making their vote known.”

*(Quinton Amundson is a staff writer for The Catholic Register.)*