

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

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from *Sirach 15:15-20*. Today's reading comes from the section of Sirach's writing on man's free will and responsibility.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of *St. Paul to 1 Corinthians 2:6-10*. Last week we heard Saint Paul address how his preaching illustrates the fact that man's strength and wisdom are nothing compared to those of God. Today we hear him tell of the true wisdom of God.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 5:17-37*. In this Sermon on the Mount, we have various sayings of Christ, actually spoken on different occasions. Matthew, in his systematic manner, has gathered these sayings into one continuous discourse here. This makes it easier for his readers, who were Jewish converts, to grasp the new order of salvation as inaugurated by Christ. They knew the ten commandments, but they knew them as their rabbis had taught them. These rabbis, for the most part Pharisees, put all the stress on the letter of the law and on its external observance. Christ's opening statement, that the attitude of his followers towards the commandments (and other precepts of the law) must be different, and superior to that of the scribes and Pharisees, clearly indicates how Christianity must differ from, and supersede, Judaism.

Christ is not abolishing the ten commandments, but he is demanding of his followers a more perfect, a more sincere, fulfillment of them. The whole moral value of any legal observance (the Mosaic law included) comes from the interior disposition of him who observes or keeps the law.

No man serves or honors God by any exterior acts, be they ever so arduous or continuous, unless these acts proceed from an intention and a will to honor and please God. This is the charter, the constitution, of the new law, Christianity. The old law is not abolished but deepened and given a new life.

Avoiding murder therefore is not enough; the true Christian must remove any inclination to murder by building up true, brotherly love for all men in his heart.

We must not only not injure our neighbor or fellowman in his person, or in his character, but we must be ever ready to help him and prevent injury to him, whenever and wherever we can. We must not only not commit adultery, but must also develop a Christian respect and esteem for purity, the virtue which will preserve us not only from adultery but even from thoughts of adultery, or any other abuse of our sexual gifts given us by God for his sublime purpose.

We must be truthful always, and men of our word. This virtue is not only necessary for man's salvation, but is the basis of rational intercourse between men in civilized society. While our civil courts still deem it necessary to impose oaths on contestants and witnesses (since they have, unfortunately, to take account of the liars and deceivers who still are a menace to society), the truthful man need not be afraid of insulting or dishonoring God by calling him as his guarantor, if asked to do so.

True and loyal service of God therefore begins in the heart and has its value from this interior disposition. Keeping the ten commandments is our way of proving to God that we are grateful, obedient and loyal to him who gave us all we have and who has promised us future gifts infinitely greater still. And just as our love for God is proved by our true love for our neighbor, so the last seven of the commandments impose on us obligations regarding our neighbor. It is only by fulfilling these seven that we can fulfill the first three which govern our relations with God.

This truth is expressed by our Lord in the words: It you are offering your gift at the altar, and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there . . . first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.

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

From the Office of the Bishop
Season of Lent 2026

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this Season of Lent, a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal, despite the issues in the world around us, we are filled with gratitude for the many blessings our Diocese has received and the rich history that shapes our faith journey together.

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis (10 January 2026 – 10 January 2027), coinciding with the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. The Apostolic Penitentiary has issued a Decree granting the faithful a plenary indulgence for this year. The life of the Poor Man of Assisi shows that God’s mercy works in history through people who have opened their hearts to His action.

In a world marked by poverty, oppression, and inequality, we are called to action through this year’s theme, *On Track for Justice*, by supporting Development and Peace and walking hand in hand with communities in the Global South who are mobilizing to ensure their rights and the environment are respected. We are invited to give generously on Solidarity Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, to support the transformative work of Development and Peace in over thirty countries.

The 2025 Vatican document, “Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod,” guides our diocese in implementing the Synod on Synodality’s final proposals by prioritizing dialogue, mutual listening, and the exchange of gifts. Pope Leo XIV said, “We are a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming, like St. Peter’s Square with its open arms, all those who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and our love.” As a diocese, we are embarking on a Lenten Program to continue our Synodal journey and engage with our parishes and community as we focus on the Final Document - For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. Let us set aside time for shared reflections on the themes to be presented. Details will follow.

https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG---Documento-finale.pdf

May this Lent be a transformative time for us as we journey together toward Easter. With prayers for a blessed and fruitful Lent,

Fraternally in Christ,
+ Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick
Bishop of Antigonish

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM

+ **Mary Lucille Boudreau**

Since 4:00PM, the time of the vigil or watch for the next day’s celebration, this Mass will anticipate Ash Wednesday with Wednesday’s readings and the distribution of ashes.

(ASH) Wednesday, February 18, 2026

SP 9:00 AM

+ **Warren Burke**

- **Mass will be celebrated in the church with distribution of ashes to mark persons’ entry into the Lenten Season.**
- **Ashes will be distributed at Masses for the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 21 – 22.**

Friday, February 20, 2026

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15.

HGA 11:00 AM

+ **Lena Bona**

Saturday, February 21, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM

+ **Scott Fougere**

The celebration of this Holy Mass depends on a functioning furnace.

SP 5:30 PM

+ **Claire LeBlanc**

Sunday, February 22, 2026

HGA 11:00 AM

+ **Bernie Middleton**

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

February 7, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,251.00
Property Maintenance		650.00
Donation		100.00
Cemetery		100.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>2,101.00</u>

St. Peter's

February 7, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,118.05
Candles		14.00
Altar Society		158.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,290.05</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

February 8, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	795.00
Candles		29.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>824.00</u>

Community News

HGA: HGA will pray the Stations of the Cross at 10:15 AM each Friday during Lent, starting Feb 20. Our regular 11 AM Mass will follow. Welcome to all.

SJB: The Way of the Cross will be prayed at SJB parish every Tuesday during Lent at 3:30 PM prior to the weekday mass. All are welcome.

SJB: Lenten Project will be financial support for Chalice, a Catholic International aid charity. Donations can be placed in the weekly collection in an envelope marked "Chalice." Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Knights of Columbus: The regular monthly meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Council 14280 will take place at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 19th at the Glebe House.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen will soon be beatified, now that the Vatican has given the green light, the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, announced Feb. 9. No date or location for the beatification was given. See the Catholic Register for details.