

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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July 19, 2026

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Wisdom 12:13, 16-19* where the author reminds us that the kind of judgment we receive depends not on the scales of godless justice, but instead on the mercy and love of God for those who strive to live life in response to His love. —*A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary — A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:26-27*. The theme is the activity of the Spirit in helping us in our weakness to pray as we ought, for it is the Spirit who makes intercession for us and intercedes for us before God. —*A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary — A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 13:24-43*. Today's parable is Christ's answer to the question so frequently asked: "Why does God permit evil to triumph so often in this world, why are the wicked allowed to prosper?" The triumph of the wicked is short-lived, the reward of the Christian who suffers from their wickedness is everlasting. The very wickedness and injustices of evil-doers are one of the ways that God uses to perfect his elect. It is only on a battlefield that a true soldier can be proved.

In the parable, the weed does not destroy the wheat. It only makes it more difficult for the wheat to grow to maturity. So it is with the Christian. No one can take his faith from him, but living up to it is made more difficult by the evil influence and bad example of sinners. If some succumb to this evil influence and give up the practice of their faith, the fault is theirs. God can force no man to serve him.

The patience of the farmer in letting the weed grow on until harvest time, exemplifies the infinite mercy of God toward sinners. The weed could not change its nature, but the sinner can change his ways and God gives him every chance and every help to do this, up to his last moment of life. No sinner will be excluded from heaven because of the sins he committed but because he did not repent of these sins while he had the opportunity.

We must learn a double lesson of patience from this parable. First, to be patient with those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us—they are actually helping us to be better Christians if we bear with patience the injuries they inflict on us. Second, we must try to imitate the patience God shows in his dealings with sinners. While we must not approve of their evil deeds, or their sins, we must still look on them as our brothers and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven. We can do this by good example, and by fervent prayer for their conversion. This is not easy for human nature, but we can be certain that God will give us the necessary grace and strength to subdue our natural weakness and aversion, if we try to act with charity and true brotherly interest toward our erring fellowmen.

By acting thus, we will not only be helping a weak brother on the rugged road to heaven, we will also be making doubly sure of our own arrival there, for God will never be outdone in generosity.

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

Schedule of Masses & Intentions

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

SJB

4:00 PM

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

SP

9:00 AM

+ Gerard Taylor

Friday, July 24, 2026

SP

2:00 PM

Mass of Christian Burial

+ William "Bill" Stone

Reception to follow at Lion’s Hall

Saturday, July 25, 2026

SJB
+ Fred & Annie Burke –Landry & Cyril Landry 4:00 PM
HGA
Blessing of the Fleet 11:00 AM
+ Wilfred Patrick Martell 6:30 PM

Sunday, July 26, 2026

SH 9:00 AM
SP 11:00 AM
+ Frank Sutherland
+ Jean Pottie

Receipts

St. John the Baptist
July 11, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 750.00
Property Maintenance	55.00
Cemetery	350.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,155.00</u>

St. Peter’s
July 11, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 917.00
Candles	27.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 944.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
July 12, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 860.00
Candles	143.95
Candidates for Priesthood	20.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,093.95</u>

“Lift Up Your Gaze” (Jn 4: 35): Pope Leo XIV’s Apostolic Journey to Spain

An Excerpt from a summary of the Pope’s Journey by Rev. Nuno da Silva Goncalves, SJ
published in La Civiltà Cattolica, a Jesuit Journal Reflecting the Mind of the Vatican Since 1850

The following day, June 8, at the nunciature, Pope Leo XIV held a private meeting with the President of the Spanish Government, Pedro Sánchez. Immediately afterward, he went to the *Palacio de las Cortes*, where he was welcomed at a joint session of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate. After being welcomed by the President of the Congress of Deputies, Francina Armengol, Leo XIV delivered his address, the first ever given by a pope before Spain’s legislative body. In it, he established the common good and the dignity of the human person as the foundation of all legislative activity and recalled the thought of the School of Salamanca, whose teachers, “five hundred years ago, when new worlds and immense possibilities were opening up in relations among peoples,” introduced “into historical discernment the question of the irreducible value of every human being and the moral limits of power.” Today, the teachings of the masters of Salamanca – especially Francisco de Vitoria, along with other Dominicans and Jesuits – constitute

a legacy that remains alive, Leo XIV reiterated, “every time lawmakers ask themselves how to ensure that what is possible is just, that what is legal is truly humane, and that the will of the majority safeguards those goods that belong to all and respects that which no majority can legitimately violate.”

In this regard, the pontiff wished to address his listeners with “a calm yet resolute message” on life as a fundamental value, asking: “Can a community that casts into the shadows the unborn child, the elderly, the sick, those who suffer in silence, or those who depend entirely on the care of others be called fully just?” He then reiterated that “the defense of human life is neither a partisan issue nor a confessional interest: it is a goal of civilization. Every human life must be recognized and safeguarded from conception to its natural end, in every circumstance of its existence,” and therefore “the moral greatness of a nation is manifested, above all, in its capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile.”

In Leo XIV’s address to the *Cortes*, other highly topical issues were also addressed. Among them were the family and education, migrants and refugees, the international situation, rearmament, and a renewed call for dialogue and peace. Regarding the role of religion in society, the pope emphasized that “faith does not seek to impose itself through privileges or coercion; yet neither can it be silenced as if it were irrelevant to public life.” In particular, he reaffirmed the importance of the sacramental seal of Confession, which is part of “the broader sphere of religious freedom,” and therefore its legal protection “means preserving a sacred space of inner freedom, [...] without fear of external pressures.” At the conclusion of his address, the pope expressed his hope that Spain may always cherish the memory of its roots and look courageously toward the future, uniting in public life “the firmness of convictions with the nobility of dialogue and the greatness of service.” Finally, he wished the country “days of prosperity, justice and lasting peace.” The Parliament responded to these wishes with a standing ovation lasting a full seven minutes!

‘The strength of the Church does not come from the greatness of her resources, but from the holiness of her children’

On the morning of June 8, at the headquarters of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, Pope Leo XIV met with the bishops of Spain. After a welcome address by the president of the Conference, Mons. Luis Argüello, Archbishop of Valladolid, the pope addressed the gathering, referring to various aspects of the life of the Church in Spain and the ministry of the bishops: from the synodal journey to the courage to abandon structures that no longer serve a purpose; from sacramental life to respectful dialogue and the use of new languages; from listening, respect and candor to the witness of unity in diversity; from the bishop’s ministry as a visible sign of communion to the service and mission of the laity.

His words on vocations and vocational ministry were beautiful and meaningful, noting that “it cannot be reduced to a mere pursuit of numbers. It springs from living communities, from happy priests, from families capable of bearing witness to the beauty of fidelity, from a Church that knows how to show with simplicity that following Christ does not impoverish existence, but rather expands it.” His focus on vocational ministry was followed by a discussion of the formation of seminarians, when the pope affirmed that they “have a right to the best possible formation” because the Church, too, “has a right to well-formed priests.” Therefore, he continued, seminaries must ensure “an adequate experience of community life,” must have “formators who are fully dedicated to study and teaching, with experience in spiritual accompaniment,” and must have “higher theological learning, equipped with the necessary means to fulfill their mission.”

No less significant were the pope’s words regarding sexual abuse committed within the Church. “Faced with this scourge,” he said, “the ecclesial community is called to respond with listening, truth, justice, reparation, and an ever more determined commitment to prevention and a culture of care.” Finally, Leo XIV recalled that in all situations, even when collaborating with other institutions – whether religious or civil – “the Church never ceases to offer what is uniquely her own: the love of God revealed in Christ,” and therefore “the strength of the Church does not come from the greatness of her resources, but from the holiness of her children, from the communion of her pastors, and from the humble and persevering fidelity of those who allow themselves to be guided by the Spirit.”

At the end of the meeting at the headquarters of the Episcopal Conference, the pope returned to the nunciature, where, in the afternoon, he held private meetings, including one with a group of six victims of sexual abuse that occurred within the Church. Then, Leo XIV went to the Cathedral of Holy Mary of Almudena, where he was welcomed by the Archbishop of Madrid. In the presence of Queen Sofia, Queen Mother, a moment of prayer and homage to the Virgin Mary took place, including the presentation of a golden rose by the pontiff.

Community News

HGA: Our Acadian Festival is fast approaching and once again we are asking parishioners if you are able to donate food items such as rolls, pies, squares, and or frozen vegetables. Donations may be dropped off at the Centre during the week. Thank you for your support.

70th Annual Broad Cove Scottish Concert

Sunday, July 26th, starting at 3 pm
on the grounds of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Broad Cove
Admission \$30.00 Adult/children under 12 free
Canteen/refreshment tent/lots of great talent

Open House and Welcome Day: Our Lady of Grace Monastery

August 3, 11 am - 3 pm
Join us on the holiday Monday for an afternoon of celebration, featuring music by Ty Wallace, a local farm/artisan market, BBQ and pizza, and the opportunity to explore the Monastery and outdoor Shrine. Our Lady of Grace Monastery is in its 201st year of serving as a sacred space and an oasis of history and nature. We look forward to welcoming you.
940 Monastery Rd., Monastery, off Exit 37 Trans-Canada Highway 104

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

On behalf of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, I am pleased to extend an invitation to provide media coverage for our upcoming 106th Annual National Convention. This year, the convention returns to the Maritimes, bringing together League sisters from across Canada to the Halifax Convention Centre from August 9 to August 12, 2026. The event will feature daily Eucharistic celebrations, inspiring plenary and breakout sessions, and a Monday Resolutions Dialogue. There will be time that will offer unique visual and storytelling opportunities regarding Catholic women and their faith and fellowship in action.
Event Details:
•Dates: August 9–12, 2026
•Location: Halifax Convention Centre, 1650 Argyle Street, Halifax, NS
•Theme: Ignite Your Passion Empower His Mission.