



Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00

Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

August 07, 2021
Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Next Saturday the
 mass will be in the
 Old Cemetery**

The **first reading** is taken from the First Book of Kings 19:4-8 and gives us the story from the life of the prophet Elijah in which it is narrated that an angel fed him miraculously.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 4:30, 5:2 in which he urges his converts to live in peace, harmony and love with one another..

The Gospel is from St. John 6:41-51. The main point of doctrine in this part of our Lord's discourse, as given by St. John, is the necessity for belief in Christ who has come down from heaven. It is only in the last verse of today's text that Christ explicitly states that he is about to give his own very body as their spiritual food to those who believe in him. The description of himself as "bread from heaven" and the vital difference between the effect of this bread and the manna given to their fathers in the desert, are a definite preparation for the announcement of the doctrine of the Eucharist.

However, before they could even think of accepting this teaching on the Eucharist they had first to accept Christ as divine, as the Son of God. This was not easy for Jews, for whom strict monotheism was the center of their faith. To admit that Christ was God would at first sight seem like admitting two gods. Secondly, even though Christ had worked extraordinary miracles, to all appearances he was still a mere man—and the prophets of old had worked miracles. True, Christ was evidently claiming to be more than a prophet; he claimed that he alone had seen the Father, that he had come from the Father. This claim of equality with the Father would be sheer blasphemy if it were not true; could God give the power of miracles to such a great sinner?

Perhaps some of them argued along these lines and accepted his claim later on. Others remained stiff-necked and stubborn and could see nothing in him but a native of Nazareth, a humble Galilean like themselves, but one who had developed strange ideas about who and what he was. These Galileans began a long line of unbelievers which has stretched down through the centuries to our own day. The reasons for the unbelief are the same today as they were in the year 29 A.D. Man is proud of his intelligence; which he did not give to himself. Whatever he cannot grasp within the limited confines of that intellect, he treats as non-existent as far as he is concerned. If a God exists, a doubtful possibility to these great thinkers, we mortals can know nothing about him; he is beyond our ken and we can be of no concern to him.

If there ever was a Jesus of Nazareth, he could be only a mere man who suffered from grave hallucinations! But his miracles? A simple answer: there never were any. His disciples invented these stories later. But these disciples were willing to die for these inventions of theirs! Thousands of Christians were martyred rather than deny the divine claims of Jesus! More hallucination, no doubt! Nineteen centuries of Christian history can be shrugged off as easily as that by those who will not believe. If certain statements do not fit in with preconceived ideas then these statements are false; if certain facts do not agree with history, as the unbelievers understand history, then these facts never happened. So man's limited, finite mind remains the sole judge and arbiter of all truth.

We believe in a loving God, and in his divine Son, Jesus Christ, who came on earth to bring us to heaven, and in the Holy Spirit who completes the work of sanctification in us. Surely, we owe this Blessed Trinity a debt of gratitude!

We can never fully repay it. Because of

our Christian faith which has come to us from Jesus, we know where we came from, we know whither we are going and we know how to reach that destination. Of all the knowledge a human being can acquire on this earth, the above facts are the most essential and important. Any other knowledge is of temporary value. The knowledge our Christian faith gives us concerns eternity and our journey toward it.

Today, we must thank God from the bottom of our hearts for giving us the Christian faith. This faith means that "God out of the abundance of his love, speaks to men as friends and lives among them so that he may invite and take them into fellowship with himself," as Vatican II puts it. He did not put us on earth and leave us on our own with nowhere to go except to the grave. He sent his beloved Son on earth. He made us heirs to heaven and left to us, in his Church, all the instruction and aids we need to reach our inheritance. The unbelievers and free-thinkers may feel that they are free to do what they will here on earth, but we know that we have been given the freedom of the children of God for all eternity, if only we live according to the faith given us.

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

Collection July 31/21

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Envelopes | \$365.00 |
| Loose | \$12.00 |
| Building Fund | \$70.00 |
| | \$447.00 |

Notices:

1: Take-Out Cold Plate

Included: Ham, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Dessert

Saturday: August 14th

Time: 4:45

Location: Johnstown Parish Hall

Cost: \$12.00

Tickets are needed for this event, so please let us know if you would like tickets.

3: An update of our events for the rest of the summer:

1: Take-Out Cold Plate – Saturday August 14th

2: Cemetery Mass – Saturday August 14th

3: Bake Sale – Sunday September 5th

4: Christmas Bingo – November

My Dear People,

It has been a troubling eighteen months in dealing with COVID-19. We hope that September will bring greater freedom as we enter Phase 5. Once mandatory restrictions have ended, we will likely be encouraged to continue wearing masks indoors throughout the fall and winter months. We are dealing with COVID grief, depression and broken-hearted people who have lost loved ones but were not able to gather with family and friends to grieve. The Assumption of Mary is an anticipation of our hope of glory. In light of this, I have suggested that our offer a cemetery Mass praying for all who have died during this pandemic at either the Vigil or Feast Day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday August 15, 2021. We ask Mary the Mother of God, the special Patron of Acadians and Mother of all to intercede for us from her place in heaven, close to her Son, Jesus Christ.

As we reflect upon the Bread of Life discourses from the gospel of John this summer, we hear how Jesus accuses the crowds of forgetting their faith history. Maybe this why Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim. This year's theme was "I am with you always". Pope Francis saw this feast day of grandparents of Jesus, as a teachable moment as he speaks directly to them by saying, "You are keepers of the faith, steadfast and persevering." You have the vocation "to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones" irrespective of their age. Saint John Paul II wrote that the elderly are "guardians of our collective memory which support and guide life in society."

Despite these uncertain and turbulent times, the Lord and the Church are close to you, dear grandmothers, grandfathers and elderly persons. The Holy Father wishes to remind the whole world that the voice of the elderly is precious because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the peoples. We are in need of this message.

Across Canada, this year we have also witnessed an increase in waves of racism with an increase in hate crimes. Clearly, we need more education to better understand and accept one another.

The ongoing tragic news of unmarked graves on the sites of former Indian Residential Schools is deeply troubling. Our newly installed Governor General, Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Mary Simon, who was born in Nunavik, said, we need to learn the real history of Canada, embracing this truth makes us stronger as a nation. Clearly, this is a "teachable moment" for us. We need ongoing education and with your help, I hope that we can initiate this in our parishes this year.

On a more positive note for our diocese, five new priests have arrived to serve here. We welcome two priests from Congregation of Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy SMMM. Father Chinonso Francis Alaribe and Father Godwin Emeka Obike who will be serving in Bras d'Or. A third priest, Father Christian Emeka Ugwu will arrive later from Nigeria, once he obtains his travel documentations. These three priest join their confreres, Father Callistus Abazie serving in Guysborough and Father Jonathan Nnajofofor serving in Canso. We also welcome three priests from Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception CFIC. Fr. Joby Augustin, Fr. Silvichan Dominic and Father Daniel Tshimbalanga who will be serving in Margaree and Inverness. We thank these priests for coming to serve in our diocese. They have left behind their family and friends to be with us, to share the faith. Let us welcome them with open hearts.

I am pleased to make you aware that we have two seminarians David Rankin and Joseph MacMaster. It is a hopeful sign for our diocese. I also grateful for the cooperation of our priests who have graciously accepted new pastoral appointments that will take effect on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, the feast of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.

We express our gratitude to all who will be assuming new pastoral responsibilities. It is never easy to pack up and move on but they have responded to the needs of our diocese with generous spirits. May our prayers provide support and encouragement for them. We pray that the people in parishes where changes are taking place will warmly welcome their new priests.

We also extend profound gratitude to the priests who are leaving the diocese, Father Michel Exalant CSC and Father Cosmas Epifano OSB. We are grateful for their generosity in serving here and we wish them well in their future ministries.

Please continue to pray for those who are sick and for those who care for them. We pray that St. Joseph, the patron saint and protector of the universal Church and the principal patron saint of Canada will guide us in the path of life. Stay safe and keep well.

Faternally yours,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick