



Bulletin

**Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00**

**Masks are
mandatory in
the Church**

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

**February 20th, 2021
First Sunday in Lent**

Sunday Readings:

The **first reading** is from the Book of Genesis 9:8-15 and is about the covenant between God and Noah not to destroy the world again by water.

The **second reading** is from the first letter of St. Peter 3:18-22. In this passage St. Peter is exhorting the newly converted Christians to live according to the Christian faith, no matter what trials they may have to endure because of it.

The Gospel is from St. Mark 1:12-15. The very thought of our divine Lord's suffering hunger, loneliness, and humiliation at the hands of his enemy—and that all this was for us—should make us feel ashamed at the little bits of suffering and humiliation we are willing to suffer for our own selves. He had no sin to atone for. He was making atonement for us and for our sins. He was the Son of God and his home was heaven, but he left it for a while to assume human nature, so that he could through his humiliations and sufferings bring us to share his eternal home with him. What is the thanks he gets from us? Ingratitude, forgetfulness, and even worse: insults and disobedience.

While the Church has eased the strict fastings and penances of Lent, we are still expected to do some private fasting and penance. It need not be fasting from food, but we can all do some daily penance which will help to keep our unruly minds and bodies in check while at the same time it will show that we are grateful to our loving Savior for all that he suffered for us. A few extra prayers each day,

control of our temper in the home, less talk and especially less uncharitable talk among our neighbors, a little helping hand to a neighbor in need, a fervent prayer and where we can spare it (perhaps by doing without some luxury) a donation toward helping the starving millions in other lands. The sincere Christian will find a hundred such ways in which to thank and honor Christ during this holy season of Lent. We can all keep the last verse of today's reading before our minds with great profit. "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is the essence, the marrow, of Christ's teaching. Turn away from sin and come back to God. Anyone who believes in the gospel, who believes that there is an everlasting life after death prepared by God for all those who do his will while on earth, should not find it hard to give up offending that loving God who thinks so much of him. This life is only a passing shadow, every step we take, every breath we breathe is bringing us nearer to our earthly end and to the grave. But the believing Christian knows the grave is not the end. Rather, is it the beginning of the true life—provided we use this passing shadow, these few years, properly.

Now is the time to take these words of Christ to heart. He is asking each one of us today, to repent and to believe the gospel, that is, to act according to its teaching. Christ, in his mercy, will make this appeal to men again and again, but will we be here to hear it? If we answer his appeal now and start living our Christian faith in all sincerity, we need not care when death calls us. It will find us ready to pass over to the future, happy, unending life.

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

Old Calendar: First Sunday of Lent

The scene of the temptation, which opens the public life of Jesus, declares in the Gospels in a very forceful manner the great change in our lives that He introduces into the world by His work of redemption. Where Adam fell, Christ, the new Head of humanity, triumphs over the power of Satan: at the time of His passion "the prince of this world" will be cast out. The Gospel of the temptation heralds Christ's victory.

The feast of St. Peter Damian, which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

Collection:

February 13th, 2021

Envelopes	\$655.00
Heating	\$50.00
Jan 1st	\$10.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Donation	\$150.00
	\$875.00

Notices:

1: Richmond County: February's Outdoor Challenge

During the month of February, the Recreation Department is challenging all residents to get outside and document it! Each hour spent active outdoors will earn you your ballot into a draw at the end of the month. Prizes.... YES! we have prizes for each category and they will range from outdoor recreation equipment to local business gift cards. You will see all categories on the form as well as where to send the completed form before March 5, 2021. See poster and form attached.

2: HGA: Pork Roast Dinner - L'Ardoise Community Centre

Sunday February 28 Take out 11:00 - 11:45 - Eat in 12:00 - \$15.00 per person

Advanced tickets only

For tickets call Raymonde @ 902 587-2675

Andree @ Post office

Cotie's Convenience

Deadline for tickets February 21

2: Some new pastoral directives from Bishop Kirkpatrick -

1) Removing the word "one" from the ending of the Collect.

Following a request from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments which was sent to the Bishops' Conferences of all English-speaking countries, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops agreed to adjust the English-language wording to the conclusion of the Collect (the opening prayer) in the Roman Missal as approved for use in Canada. As of Ash Wednesday, 17 February 2021, the word "one" is to be omitted from the conclusion of the Collect, and likewise of similar prayers in the liturgy. Instead of ending "one God, for ever and ever", the Collect will now end "God, for ever and ever".

The presider at liturgical celebrations will simply omit the word where needed. The reason for this change is to avoid possible misunderstandings about the identity of the Son within the Blessed Trinity, or even the misconception that Our Lord Jesus Christ is "one God" among others.

2) Ash Wednesday – Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic

The CCCB General Secretariat received from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments Note (N. 17/21) of 12 January 2021, concerning Ash Wednesday (17 February 2021) and the Distribution of Ashes in the Time of the Pandemic. In accordance with the Note from the Congregation, this year the ashes are to be imposed by sprinkling them on the head of the faithful. The rite of sprinkling ashes on the head of penitents is already a well-established and common practice in many countries across the world. The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes, he sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything, then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him. The Priest or Deacon takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.

3. Blessing of Throats on the feast of St. Blaise, February 3 Instead of individual throat blessings the priests will extend his hands over the congregation without the crossed candles while imparting the prayer of blessing. This blessing would also be imparted to those who join livestream.

4. Concerns about Holy Week Celebrations

It appears that we will continue celebrating Mass with existing restrictions. Currently we are limited to 50% of our indoor capacity up to a maximum of 100 people. Physical distancing is required unless the people are with members of their own household or social group. These rules may change before Holy Week, further clarifications may be announced as we approach Holy Week. We will not be able to retain the traditional practices this year and so we will need to adapt how we celebrate:

Passion Sunday - Palm branches could be distributed by someone with gloves, in this way no one is directly touching the branches as they are distributed.

Chrism Mass – In order to accommodate a large number of clergy socially distanced, the Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral. Given the present situation, no other gatherings are planned for that day apart from celebrating the Mass.

Holy Thursday - there will be no foot-washing.

Good Friday – Since there can be no contact with the Cross, the Veneration of the Cross will be by a simple but reverent bow. Genuflecting remains a possibility, as long as people do not need to touch anything that would then need to be sanitized.

Easter - There remains some doubt about the Rite of Sprinkling throughout the Church on Easter Sunday. The concern is for those cleaning and sanitizing the church. However, since we only have one Mass per parish this concerns churches that have a number of Masses in succession.