



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**

**July 17th, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 23:1-6. In these seven verses, Jeremiah utters dire threats against the shepherds, the leaders of the people of Judah. Their neglect of the flock given into their care and their neglect of God was bringing exile on their people. God would avenge his people bring back the "remnant" of his flock and set trustworthy shepherds over them.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-18. St. Paul reminds his Ephesian converts that Christ has brought unity of brotherhood to Jews and Gentiles.

The Gospel is from St. Mark 6:30-34. In these few verses St. Mark very strongly brings out the compassion, the human understanding of Jesus for man. He first planned to give his Apostles a well-earned rest. They had evidently worked hard while out on their mission and a few days rest would restore their lost energy. He himself, too, must have been hard pressed, preaching and dealing with the crowds. In the absence of the Apostles he had no one to help him—he too needed a rest. He, therefore, planned that he and they should go to a quiet corner of the Sea of Galilee where there was no village and where, therefore, they would not be disturbed.

The desire of the crowds, however, to see him and to hear him speak upset these plans. The people got to the quiet spot first. There they were waiting when the boat pulled to shore. He could have sent them away, but again his human compassion took over. Seeing these simple people of Galilee so anxious to hear about God and his

mercy, he let them stay and began to preach the good news of forgiveness and hope to them. For the most part they were simple, unlettered villagers, shepherds and fishermen. They knew a little about the Law of Moses but only a little. There was no one but the local rabbi to teach them and the local rabbis were not very educated at the time. The doctors of the law, the great theologians were all in Jerusalem where they got the respect and the financial reward which they felt they merited. Hence the people of the country were more or less forgotten and neglected. They were, as our Lord described them, "like sheep without a shepherd," wandering about half-lost. God's mercy and love can reach into the darkest corners and produce fruit from the most unlikely and apparently most neglected of orchards.

They were certainly fortunate, however, in finding the true shepherd who would lead them to the eternal pastures. Not only would he now sacrifice his rest to come to their aid but he would, later on, lay down his life for them and for all of us. We, like those poor people of Galilee, have so much to be grateful for. The compassionate Christ has had pity on us too, and has brought us into his fold. He knows all our infirmities and all our human weaknesses, and he is ever-ready to have pity on us and pardon us. Those people of Galilee were not saints, they were ordinary, run-of-the mill, not over religious people. They cheated one another; they were often uncharitable to one another; they were not always chaste and pure; they prayed very little and perhaps only when they wanted some material benefit. Yet our Lord had compassion on them.

This should give us great confidence, great encouragement. Christ has not changed: he is the same yesterday,

today and forever. He has the same compassion for us that he had for those Galileans; we too are often like sheep without a shepherd wandering half-lost through life. He is ever calling us to come to himself so that he will lead us to safe pastures. If only we would listen to his merciful call! Today's Gospel is one such call — it goes out to every member of this congregation who has been lax in his or her religious life up to now. Christ wants us back on the high-road to heaven. All we have to do is to break with the past, with the earthly things that kept us from God. We can set out as freemen to follow Christ. He has left to his Church the holy sacrament of penance in which he guarantees us complete and entire remission of all past sins if we confess them with true sorrow. Let us not think that our sins are too big to be forgiven, that Christ could not have compassion on us because of our dreadful past. We can remember those Galileans; many of them were sinners as we are and he had compassion on them. He came to call sinners, he tells us. Let us answer his call today—tomorrow might be too late.

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

**Collection:
July 10/2021**

Envelopes	\$520.00
Cemetery Fund	\$50.00
Cemetery Fund/IM of Catherine Campbell	\$100.00
Initial Offering Cemetery	\$15.00
Fund/Donation	\$100.00
	\$785.00

Notices:

1: Thank you to everyone who made our Strawberry Festival Take-out a success. To all who baked and hulled berries and to all who bought a take-out

2: Take-Out Herb Breaded Chicken Dinner

Included: Baked Potato, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert

Saturday: July 31st,

Time: 4:45

Location: Johnstown Parish Hall

Cost: \$12.00

Tickets are needed for this event, so please let one of the following know if you would like tickets.

Louise: 902-535-3107

Barbara: 902-828-2079

Rita: 902-631-0209

Edie: 902-322-6543

Elizabeth: 902-539-2078

In the Diocese

NOVENA to St ANNE:

From July 17 to July 25, we shall be having a novena to St Anne at 10:30 each morning at Holy Guardian Angels church. Everyone is welcome. Covid protocols are in effect.

Feast Day July 26 of Saints Anne and Joachim St. Anne Grandmother of the Mi'kmaq Story In this celebration from previous years, the statue of St. Anne is taken up the hill on the island known as "Mniku" in Potlotek, Cape Breton, NS. This Mi'kmaq pilgrimage had been held for over 350 years and is held during the last weekend in July in celebration of the Feast of St. Anne. While plans for this year's pilgrimage are uncertain due to COVID public health protocols, the Feast of St. Anne and the importance of grandmothers in Mi'kmaq culture remains strong. On July 25, 2021 the Vatican will hold its first World Day for Grandparents and Elderly. I am not certain if this is coincidence or intentional but also during that time it is the Feast of St. Anne which occurs in late July. The most well-known patronage of St. Anne is that of grandmothers. She is the mother of Virgin Mary and the grandmother of Jesus Christ. St. Anne was a woman of great virtue and love. Considering the fact that St. Anne was never mentioned in the bible, the Mi'kmaq adopted St. Anne as their Patron Saint in 1628. This decision was made 18 years later when Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Membertou and 21 of his family members became the first Mi'kmaq to be baptized in 1610. To give light to why the Mi'kmaq would choose St. Anne as their patron saint, the Mi'kmaq for centuries held their elders with high respect for their wealth of knowledge. Also in the Mi'kmaq culture, the grandmother was and is still more revered because they are the caretakers, the matriarch of the clan and they are the givers of life. In hindsight, the Mi'kmaq culture leans towards a matriarchal society where woman for generations have been the leaders in their communities. Therefore, the grandmother in the Mi'kmaq culture garners great status. In fact, the Mi'kmaq have given St. Anne the name "Nukumijinen – Our grandmother." St. Anne is viewed as the grandmother of the Mi'kmaq. Each and every year, the Mi'kmaq people gather in two areas of Nova Scotia – Chapel Island and Merigomish – to honor their grandmother St. Anne. The annual pilgrimage celebrating the Feast of St. Anne occurs in late July and attracts Mi'kmaq people from all over the Atlantic Region. (Note: Plans for 2021 are still unconfirmed due to COVID pandemic protocols) Also, for over 60 years many Mi'kmaq communities across Atlantic Canada make their annual pilgrimage to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec. St. Anne is highly revered in the Mi'kmaq culture and the ones who still continue this tradition are of course the grandmothers of the Mi'kmaq Nation.

July 11: Sea Sunday Churches around the world celebrate Sea Sunday: a day each year for people to pray and give thanks for those who earn their livings from and on the sea. An estimated 90 per cent of goods on our store shelves are there through the efforts of crews aboard ships who often spend months at sea weathering storms and working long, physical hours for relatively low pay and little vacation. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," is this year's theme. From StellaMaris.org.uk, an international charity for the welfare of seafarers: "When seafarers are in foreign ports, they often rely on the strangers who visit them to support them – Often they don't even speak the local language, making things even harder." Services to seafarers have become more crucial, and more difficult, during the COVID pandemic. With isolation protocols, crews can be stranded on board ship unable to replenish supplies or communicate with their families back home. This past April, Strait area businesses and communities provided donations of winter hats and other essentials to crew aboard a quarantined oil tanker near Port Hawkesbury:

This Sea Sunday, as COVID protocols encourage us to celebrate privately or in small groups, we can: Remember fishers and seafarers in our prayers.