



Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00

Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
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Masks are
mandatory in the
church

September 04, 2021 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 35:4-7 and contains the beautiful verse, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The **Second Reading** is from the Letter of St. James 2:1-5. "It was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him." The subject is that we should not grade people according to external appearance, for a person's quality is something that derives from his union with God—the more humble and understanding he is, the more honor he deserves.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 7:31-37. During his discussion with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, our Lord told her that "salvation was to come from the Jews" (Jn. 4 : 22). This was in accordance with God's plan when he took Abraham from his pagan family and surroundings, and elected him to be the father of a Chosen People from whom God's blessing would come for all nations (Gn. 12: 1-4). This was the historic beginning of "salvation" for men. It was, as yet, a vague generic promise but down through the following eighteen-century history of the Chosen People (Abraham's descendants) this blessing eventually became crystallized in the Messiah — the anointed and holy one of God. It was He who would introduce the messianic age of which the

prophets so often had spoken, and it was in Him that all peoples, Jews and Gentiles, would find their true "blessing."

It was right and fitting, therefore, that Christ should proclaim his kingdom and his Gospel among the Jews and in their promised land. Those who would accept him and his message would later spread the good news among the Gentile nations. This is what happened. His Apostles, including St. Paul, and the faithful disciples having done their best for their fellow-Jews, left Palestine and carried the great news of the incarnation — a blessing greater than any man could have imagined — to the pagan peoples of the then-known world. It was surely from the Jews that salvation came to us Gentiles.

While Christ reserved his preaching to the Jews according to God's plan, he visited some of the Gentile lands bordering on Palestine — Tyre, Sidon, Phoenicia, the Decapolis — and worked some miracles there. However, he did not preach to them. This exception — going into pagan lands — was evidently important to St. Mark, for he goes into details in describing the faith of the people of the place who asked for a miracle, and their enthusiastic reaction to Christ's power when he did what they requested. Mark himself knew very well that Christ was fulfilling the divine plan when he restricted his preaching to the Jews, and that he had given a command to his Apostles to bring his Gospel to all nations (Mk. 16: 16). Possibly, however, some of his Gentile converts were questioning why Christ had not come to the Gentiles but spent all his public life in Palestine. In this short episode, Mark shows that Christ was interested indeed in Gentiles and showed his compassion for them by working miracles for them.

We have much for which to thank God the Father, Christ and the good Jews who preached the Gospel to our ancestors. We should not think of questioning why Jesus spent his short public life trying to convert his fellow-Jews. God thought of us from all eternity — the incarnation was his way of giving a truly satisfying meaning to the life of man — the masterpiece and master of all his creation. It has given us a new status in life, a new purpose and an end worth every effort we can muster to gain. Life, with its trials and troubles and its brevity, has a meaning, a profound meaning, for Christians — it is a short period of preparation for the future which awaits us after death if we use it properly.

Christ who carried out his Father's will even unto the death on the cross, deserves our unending gratitude. Eternity will not be long enough for us to thank and praise him. If ever we are tempted to be in any way anti-semitic let us first remember those of God's Chosen People who preserved the knowledge of God and trust in his promises until the time of their fulfillment had come. Secondly, we must never forget the Apostles and disciples of Christ who devoted and gave their lives in order to bring the Christian faith to us. The best way to show appreciation of a gift is to use it fully and gratefully. Let us make full use of the divine gift of salvation by living according to its teaching all the days of our lives.

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

**Collection:
August 14/21**

Envelopes	\$445.00
Loose	\$70.00
Cemetery Fund	\$105.00
	\$620.00

Notices:

1: Bake Sale – Sunday September 5th – Time 10am – 12pm – Please donate baked good for the sale

2: Celebration of Life. A Celebration of Life for the late Valerie Cormier will be held on Sunday September 5th

- 2:00 pm Service at Sacred Heart Church
- Following the Church service, lunch at the Johnstown Parish hall with a video display. Covid19 precautions will be in place

3: Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Helen Slade

Johnstown Parish Hall

Mondays, for 8 weeks, beginning September 27

10:00 - 11:30 am

4: Mothers of Sorrows Shrine:

On Sunday, September 12th the Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine annual celebration takes place.

At 1:00 pm the Continuous Rosary starts at the Shrine and continues until Mass time 4:00 pm at St. Mary's Parish Church in Mabou.

There will be refreshments at the Parish Hall after Mass with current COVID protocols in place.

Everyone is welcome!

Call 902-945-2221 for any inquiries

Betty Ann

5: Christmas Bingo – November

In the Diocese

Restoration Project Update: St. Ninian Cathedral

The cathedral walls contain a unique and prized collection of murals painted by Ozias Leduc in 1902. Since 2012, anonymous donations have funded restoration of seven saints in the naive, and the two angels over the sanctuary's arches. This summer, Michelle Gallinger and her team are working on four more saints: Saint James the Lesser, Saint Simon, Saint Thaddeus, and Saint Thomas. Removing layers of paint, plaster and time are a painstaking and expensive task, but the reward is a priceless collection of sacred art and a piece of our history in a condition and space we can all enjoy. To learn more and support the restoration:

<https://saintninian.ca/restoration-project>

Season of Creation begins Sept. 1 on the World Day of Prayer for Care of our Common Home

In his encyclical Laudato Si, Pope Francis connects our relationship with animals to our relationships with each other: " ... when our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one. It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings. We have only one heart and the wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people."

To learn more about the Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

September 20 is Federal Election Day

Catholic Conscience is a new online resource with information on both provincial and federal election processes and how to select the candidate for your vote. From the website: "Catholics are called to participate, in accordance with the full measure of talents entrusted to them by God. At a minimum, this means voting wisely after having considered all relevant issues, the positions of each of the candidates and parties, and relevant Church teachings."

Read more on the website: <https://catholicconscience.org/>