



Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish

Mass: 4:00 pm – Saturdays

Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei

(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

February 26, 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of Sirach 27:4-7. The author was a wise and pious Jew who lived about 200 B.C. His purpose in writing was to encourage his fellow Jews to live devout lives following the Law of Moses and the pious traditions handed down to them. He treats of the individual, of the family and of the community, of their relations with one another and with God. In these verses he emphasizes how a man's speech shows up his character and his religious outlook.

The **Second Reading** is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58. St. Paul is speaking of the resurrection of the dead which the death and resurrection of Christ have won for us. In these verses St. Paul ends his discussion on death and resurrection with a hymn of triumph.

The **Gospel** is taken from St. Luke (6:39-45). These statements of Christ spoken centuries ago to his fellow Jews of Palestine are as true and as crystal clear today as they were in the year 29 A.D. They are the words of him who was the Truth. They are put before us today for there are few amongst us who do not need to be reminded of their lesson. We are all so prone to see the neighbor's faults and shortcomings and so inclined to cover up or deny our own.

While we ourselves are blind to, or wanting in, many necessary virtues, yet we can spot this lack in our brother Christian and have the audacity to offer to lead him on the right road. We are often lacking in the basic knowledge of the teachings of our faith and yet we can find a thousand faults in the official doctrine of the teaching Church. We can all criticize minor defects in our neighbor's Christian

behavior whilst our own Christian way of living is giving far greater scandal.

In other words, most if not all of us, are to some degree hypocrites. We pretend to be what we are not, but should be. We pretend to be producing good fruit: figs and grapes, whereas we are only thornbushes and brambles which produce nothing but harmful thorns which sting and poison ourselves and our neighbors. And while I am making these comments I shouldn't be at all surprised if some of my listeners are saying in their hearts: "Mrs. X or John Y is getting it today, I hope they are taking it in," when what we should all be saying is: "How truly our Lord read my heart. How many times in the past week have I criticized my fellow men without knowing all, or any perhaps, of the true facts. How seldom have I honestly examined my own conscience to see my own more serious defects and tried to correct them?"

When our Lord spoke these words, his purpose and intention was not to condemn his hearers, the vast majority of whom were guilty of the defects he mentioned, but rather to open their minds and their hearts to their shortcomings so that they would change for the better and learn to live with their neighbor's faults, and do all in their power to correct their own.

It is for the very same purpose the Church has selected this particular lesson for us today. We are all guilty of rash judgment and unjustified criticism, to a greater or lesser degree. Let us turn this criticism on ourselves rather, and judge ourselves honestly and sincerely and in a short while we may, with God's grace helping us, notice a change in our Christian conduct. We shall not become saints in a week or a month but little by little, imperceptibly at first perhaps, we shall find ourselves becoming more Christian and therefore more

charitable towards our neighbor and less critical of the faults of others.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES

(Ash) Wednesday, March 2, 2022
As with last year the three parishes will celebrate Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday at the time of their usual weekday Mass as follows:

St. Peter's – 9:00am
Holy Guardian Angels – 11:00am
St. John the Baptist – 4:00pm

Collections:

Feb 19, 2022

Envelopes	\$135.00
Loose	\$5.00
Initial Offering	\$20.00
	\$160.00

Notices:

1: Yoga with Lynn Doucette will start on Monday February 28th, and run for 4 weeks. Time: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm. This will take place at the Parish Hall

2: From the Office of the Bishop

My Dear People,

Traditionally the Season of Lent is a time for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. The exercise of these virtues keeps us close to God and keeps us focused on service to others. Fasting is an act of self-denial and a way of directing our thoughts away from ourselves and towards our God. Almsgiving is the act by which we give of ourselves in order to assist someone in need. Prayer should be the centre of our Christian lives lifting up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our God who loves us.

The word Lent comes from the Old English word, 'lencten' referring to the lengthening daylight hours as we move to springtime, a time of renewal and new life. Our Season of Lent may begin with ashes on our forehead but the place to begin is not our forehead but our heart. "Come back to me with all your heart."

This Lenten call to renewal of our hearts is also a public call for renewal in the heart of the Church. Last October Pope Francis called a Synod and unlike other Synods, he has invited all the people of the world to provide input. He wants the Church to be a listening Church; to have a listening heart. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he wants people everywhere to share what is in their hearts and how the heart of the Church could respond better to the needs of our world. The word Synod means journeying together and Pope Francis has made 'synodality' the theme of this Synod. He wants us to focus on how we journey together as we pray, connect and share our story.

As a diocese, we want to focus on the Synod during this Season of Lent. I encourage our parishes to display the Synod poster and offer the Synod Prayer at Sunday Mass, perhaps after the Prayers of Intercession or following the Prayer after Communion. With the easing of COVID restrictions, we hope that we can gather and share our thoughts in person. Our Synod team has expertise and resources to support you in hosting these conversations, for details contact Debbie Aker at the Emmaus Centre. We have also provided many online resources for parish and personal engagement, including an online survey that may be of particular interest to those who are unable to gather. You can find the survey in English and French and other resources on our website: www.antigonishdiocese.com/listeningchurch.

I invite you to pray, connect and share your story as people of the local church sharing with the universal church during this Season of Lent.

Fraternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick