



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
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April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

The **First Reading** is taken from *Acts 2:42-47*. On Pentecost Sunday the Holy Spirit, as promised by Christ, descended on the Apostles with external signs which brought the people of Jerusalem in their hundreds to the Upper Room where the Apostles lived. St. Peter addressed them and explained what had happened, with the result that “about three thousand souls were baptized and added that day” (*Acts 2:41*) to the Apostles and disciples, who formed the nucleus of the Christian Church.

In these six short verses of the second chapter of the Acts we are given a picture of the fervent religious life of the first Christian community. As would be expected, these Jerusalem Christians, having the Apostles still among them, and the memory of the resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit still fresh in their memories, were animated and moved by a deep religious fervor.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Peter 1:3-9*. This first epistle of St. Peter has always been accepted as authentic, that is, it was written by St. Peter and most probably from Rome which he called “Babylon.” Tradition says he died a martyr there in 64 or 67. The letter, therefore, was written before 67 at the latest. It is in the form of an encyclical letter to the numerous churches of Asia Minor. Its purpose was to recall to the minds of these converts to the Church the basic doctrines of Christianity and to encourage them to endure any from their pagan or Jewish neighbors.

We have just celebrated the feast of the resurrection, and St. Peter’s words today are intended to remind us again of what that unique event means to us and to the Christian faith which we profess. It is the final and convincing proof of the Incarnation. The Christ who had been born as a baby of the Virgin Mary, had lived in Nazareth, had preached the message of salvation, had died on the cross, was none other than what he had said he was, the divine Son of God. He had come to give mankind life and “abundant” life—an eternal life hereafter in the kingdom of his Father.

The first converts to Christianity had grasped this truth, this consoling knowledge, and they rejoiced in it “with unutterable and exalted joy.” We, too, have grasped this truth; we, too, know that through the Incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ, we have been made heirs to an “inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.” But do we always let this consoling knowledge, this Christian conviction, govern and regulate our daily lives and actions?

The things of this world are very close to us and hard to ignore. Heaven seems very far away, and may seem to be something we can worry about later. The joys and pleasures of this passing life are very attractive because they surround us so closely now—the thought of the true, unending pleasure and happiness, much as it satisfies and answers to our innate human, intellectual desires and ambitions, can easily be pushed into the background by the hustling and bustling of the present, temporary attractions.

Let us remember that “our faith is more precious than gold”: let us never forget these words of St. Peter.

The **Gospel** is read for all years (Cycles A, B and C) and is taken from *John 20:19-31*. Last Sunday’s gospel, also taken from St. John, described the first hint at the resurrection which the

Apostles received. Peter and John, convinced that the body had not been taken away, because the winding sheets were left behind, were beginning to believe. But the others were skeptical, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus paid no heed to the women’s story, and Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the other ten, even when this present appearance of our Lord had convinced them.

It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the old covenant had some such powers also. Christ had “emptied himself” of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgment, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already expecting and hoping for the imagined fact.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading because its author was none other than Christ “our Lord and our God.” How prophetic were the words of the Gamaliel at the meeting of the Sanhedrin which tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the new Christian faith: “if this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it” (Acts 5:38-39).

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

Collection

April 7, 9, 2023

Good Friday:

April 9

Envelopes	\$150.00
Loose	\$65.00
	\$215.00

Envelopes	\$425.00
Loose	\$110.00
Donation	\$300.00
	\$835.00

NOTICES:

1: Sewing /Crafting: The sewing/crafting afternoon will wrap up for the summer on Thursday April 27th. See you in the fall

2: Gaelic Flag Raising: I am pleased to announce that we have set the date for the Gaelic Awareness Month flag raising/proclamation ceremony. It has been scheduled for May 8, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. We will have Lewis MacKinnon attend and we are welcoming all members of the public to join us. An official invitation will be sent out closer to the event via Facebook/Municipal Website.

We will have Telile Community Television live stream the event and I am hoping to get some photos:) We encourage you to ask others to join us, and if you know of students in your area...invite them too!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
 Shelley David
 Municipal Clerk, Communications Administrator
 Municipality of the County of Richmond

3: Gaelic Classes Gaelic beginner conversation classes
 Tuesdays, 1:00 pm - 3:30pm, Red Islands Fire Hall
 Begins May 2, \$50 for 8 weeks
 Contact: Cathy Campbell: 902-217-2088

4: Summer Schedule

<p>Tentative Schedule for summer events at the Johnstown Parish Hall: More information will be provided closer to the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday July 9th – Strawberry Festival • Sunday July 9th – Shrine Mass • Sunday July 30th – Pancake Breakfast • Sunday August 13th – Cemetery Mass • Sunday August 13th – Pancake Breakfast • Friday August 18th – 90th Annual Milling Frolic • Sunday September 3rd – Pancake Breakfast
