



**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

December 03, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7*. Today's lesson from Isaiah has many instructions for us. If we take them to heart, they can help us to prepare ourselves for the great feast of Christmas. The prophet Isaiah reminds the people of Judah of the dreadful fate their sins are preparing for them. Nevertheless, he has words of hope and promises of a glorious future, that is, the messianic age, for the remnant who will repent and remain faithful to God. He pleads to Yahweh, the Father of the Chosen People, for mercy. He prays the God will come down among them. This prayer was answered when the Son of God became man in the Incarnation.

The prophet's prayer has been heard, his devout wish has been fulfilled. We are preparing ourselves to commemorate this extraordinary act of divine love for us--the coming of the Son of God as a baby, born of a lowly, human mother in the midst of poverty. We are preparing to celebrate the great feast of Christ, the birth-day of Christ, our divine Redeemer. Like the prophet, we must confess that we too are unworthy of God's love and of God's pardon.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the First Corinthians 1:3-9*. In the verses chosen for today's second reading, St. Paul answers reports concerning disputes and difficulties which had reached him. The letter was written from Ephesus in 57 A.D.

During the four weeks of aDvent, the Church in her liturgy keeps reminding us of these basic truths of our faith. In helping us to prepare ourselves to welcome the birth of Christ, the stress is always on the necessity of living our Christian lives, so that at whatever moment he calls us we shall be ready to meet him and be found worthy to enter eternal life. This is what St. Paul taught the Corinthian Christians and what he is teaching each one of us today.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Mark 13:33-37*. "Watch!" is Christ's advice and command. WE know not the year or the day or the hour when our master will call us. That year, day and hour will be unexpected, even if we are advanced in years or have been suffering from prolonged illness. We shall not be unprepared for it if we have tried all our lives to be faithful to Christ and to our Christian faith.

This holy season of Advent is an opportune time for each one of us to look into his life and see how he stands with God. Christmas should remind us of the second coming of Christ, which will be very soon for all of us.

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

Support: If you want to support Sacred Heart Parish, through your envelopes or just a donation, we are now set up for e-transfer: Please e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. Please include your envelope number. If you do not currently have a church envelope, please include your civic address. Receipts will be issued.

Bulletin: If you want to add a notice to the bulletin, please send an email to louisecampbel@gmail.com

**Collection
November 26, 2023**

Envelopes	\$210.00
Loose	\$25.00
Heat	\$20.00
	\$255.00

Notices:

1: Weekly coffee/tea drop-in: The Bras d'Or Lakers Club is sponsoring a weekly coffee/tea drop in at the District 10 Red Islands Fire Hall, starting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Come for a hot drink and see your friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome. Cards, puzzles and games are available, or you can just sit and chat. For more information call Barbara MacIntyre at (902) 577-4766.

2: Christmas Toy/Clothing Collection: It's time for our annual collection of toys and children's clothing to be donated to the St. Peters Food bank, for distribution to their client families in time for Christmas. We are requesting unwrapped new toys and new children's clothing to be dropped off at the Red Islands Fire Hall, on Saturday, December 9th, between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. We will have tea and light snacks. We hope you can support this effort again this year. On behalf of their client families, the Food Bank management have expressed great appreciation for our efforts in past years. Howard MacIntyre Chair Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors Association

3: Decorating the Church for Christmas: One Sunday December 17th, we will be decorating the church for Christmas, time: 2:00 pm. All are welcome to come and help. On December 10th, at 2:00, I will be checking the decorations that are at the church, to see if we need to replace any. If you want to come and help with this task on Dec 10th, please come. Thanks Louise

4: This Year's Best Christmas Gift!

The latest in electronics? beautiful jewelry? A trip to the Caribbean? ... What is this Year's best Christmas gift? Why not give the gift that *keeps on giving*... the gift of Advent and the true meaning of Christmas.

Join us this Advent on The Road to Bethlehem, a religious festival held in five parishes during Advent. The Road to Bethlehem celebrates Advent with song, readings, and a play performed by children called Las Pasadas (the Inns). This is an opportunity for you and your family and friends to experience the true meaning, promise, and joy of Christmas.

- December 6th St Ann's Church – Membertou 7:00 PM
- December 10th Holy Rosary Church – Westmount 7:00 PM
- December 13th Stella Maris Church – Louisbourg 7:00 PM
- December 17th Our Lady of Fatima Church – Syd River 7:00 PM

The Road to Bethlehem is a project of the Knights of Columbus Council 9476

5: HGA parish will be hosting a Christmas Eve service at 4:00 PM. We will start with setting up the manger, an opening prayer, readings, the nativity, and a closing prayer. PLEASE NOTE there will be no Mass as we are unable to have a priest present due to his busy schedule. Therefore, there will be no homily and no communion. Any children who wish to take part please contact Raymonde Burke @ 587-2675. Mass will be held in St Peter's at 8:00 pm and Holy Guardian Angels Christmas Day at 11:00 am

6: Schedule for The Nativity of the Lord and The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 23, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00PM HGA - River Bourgeois

5:30PM SP - St. Peters

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:30AM SH - Johnstown

11:00AM HGA – L'Ardoise

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)

8:00PM SP & SJB at SP

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)

9:30AM SH

11:00AM HGA

Saturday, December 30, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:00PM SJB

5:30PM SP

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:30AM SH

11:00AM HGA

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (New Year's Eve)

8:00PM SP & SJB at SJB

Monday, January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day)

9:30AM SH

11:00AM HGA