

**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

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

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-4. This reading is another prophecy, concerning the messianic days, given by Isaiah in the eighth century B.C. It describes the new era of liberty and joy, which the future Messiah will usher in.

The **Second Reading** is from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17. St. Paul corrects the Corinthians for the pride that was causing them to form factions and divisions.

The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 4:12-23. The prophet Isaiah announced a future of liberation and great joy for all of Galilee, through the image of light that dispels the darkness in which the people walk. The Gospel, quoting verbatim the same passage of the prophet Isaiah, presents Jesus as the Light thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. He is the light that was promised to dispel the darkness of sin and to free man from the obscurity in which he is enclosed.

The light becomes an efficacious means to express God's involvement in human history. God manifests Himself as 'The Light' that disperses the darkness. The light illuminates, encircles, defines things, emphasises the colours and gives depth to space. The light heartens and comforts: to be in an enlightened place helps us to accept reality for what it is and makes one feel happier, more certain and protected.

God's initiative with regard to men permits them to have a renewed relationship with reality. In God's light everything assumes a new significance, its authentic and definitive meaning. A light which illuminates gives strength and permits the disclosure of the universe and man. This is why, after saying, 'on those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone' (Is 9:1), the text adds, 'you have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing' (Is 9:2).

A joy and happiness that became real in Jesus' presence. He is the promised light that has come into our midst, His physical presence that expresses the definitive arrival of the Light. The light that shines brightly marks God's initiative performing His first merciful and free step towards a wounded humanity. This dynamic is expressed through Jesus call of the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, 'Follow Me'. Faced with God's sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new 'catch', a new definitive horizon. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples 'you did not choose me, no, I chose you' (Jn 15:16).

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to remember that our personal vocation is founded on God's original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.

Let us ask the Lord, for us and the whole Church, for the gift of a true conversion of our hearts enabling us to receive Christ as the only Light to follow. Christ is the only one that really dispels the darkness within and around us.

From the Congregation for the Clergy

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
December 03, 2023**

Envelopes	\$170.00
Loose	\$10.00
	\$180.00

Notices:

1: Weekly coffee/tea drop-in: This will be our last Wednesday morning coffee/tea break until we resume in January. This time we will be **servicing a breakfast of French toast, bacon and home fries with coffee and tea.** There will be a gluten free option. Drop in any time between 0900 and 1130 on Wednesday December 13th. We look forward to a good turn-out.

Please feel free to share this invitation with friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

For more information call Barbara MacIntyre at (902) 577-4766.

2: 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

3: Confessions: Just a notice that there will be confessions at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Sydney on Saturday, December 16, from 10am-3pm.

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 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: Christmas with the Cape Breton Chorale

Sunday, Dec. 17th, 3:00 p.m.

Church of Christ the King, 19 Trinity Ave., Sydney

\$30 general admission

Tickets: By calling 902-270-2591, from members, online at capebretonchorale.com with a limited number being available at the door.

6: 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

7: 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