



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

**December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*. Isaiah's words of consolation and promise are addressed in the first place to the exiles, but they were fully and truly realized only when Christ the Messiah came. Christ applied the first two verse of this text to himself when he first preached in the synagogue of Nazareth (Lk 4:18-19). This morning, let us thank God from our hearts for the "good tidings" of our redemption and exaltation, brought to us by Christ the Son of God and our loving Brother.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Book of the Thessalonians 5:16-24*. Living a truly Christian life is not a merely human activity. God has a part in it; in fact, God has the principal part to play in it. What St. Paul told the Thessalonians, he tells us too: "God is faithful." God will do his part, the greater part, of the work of our salvation. So it matters not how many opponents we have. It makes no difference how many machinations they invent to impede us on our journey. Our "God is faithful" and our God is with us, helping us every step of the way. Rejoice then, nay, exult in joy! Thank God from your heart for the gift of the true faith. Thank him for everything he sends in life. The rough, as well as the smooth, has a part in God's plan for making us worthy of sharing his kingdom.

The **Gospel** is from the *John 1:6-8, 19-28*. Last Sunday we had St. Mark's account of the Baptist's activity at the Jordan as he prepared the people for the public mission of Jesus. John was the last of the great line of prophets and he was the greatest of them all. It was his privilege to point out to his audience the Son of God in human nature, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," and also to hear God's voice from heaven proclaiming Christ to be his "beloved Son." He was surely a man sent from God. Let us listen to the call of John the Baptist, and from our hearts repent of our sins. Let us prepare for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's human appearance on earth, by cleaning ourselves of all sinful attaches, but making a firm resolution to follow the Lamb through life.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* 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](mailto: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](mailto:louisecampbel@gmail.com)

### Collection December 10, 2023

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Fund I/M of Stan and Catherine Campbell</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>
<b>Sacred Heart Ladies Group</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
	<b>\$7,953.00</b>

## Notices:

**1: Decorating the Church for Christmas:** One Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be decorating the church for Christmas, time: 2:00 pm. All are welcome to come and help.

### **2: 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 17<sup>th</sup>      Our Lady of Fatima Church – Syd River      7:00 PM

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

### **3: 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](http://capebretonchorale.com) with a limited number being available at the door.

**4: 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

### **5: 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