



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Bulletin**

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

**December 17, 2023**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Second Book of Samuel 7:1-5; 8-11, 16*, and refers to when David was anointed king in Hebron by all the tribes of Israel and Judah and his first step was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites and make it the political capital of his kingdom.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 16:25-27*, where he introduces himself to the Christians in Rome and he gives an incomplete synthesis of his theology. His words remind us to give glory to God this Christmas and always, for the marvelous things he has done for us.

The **Gospel** is from *Luke 1:26-38*. At the moment our Lady said: "be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood. We often say the Angelus in which this tremendous act of God's love is described. Although familiarity, in this case, does not breed contempt, it does help to blunt the real impact on our minds of such an extraordinary occurrence. If God had created a very special child, and made him into an outstanding saint, so that he could intercede with God for us, this would be a great act of love for us on God's part. Or, if he had sent an angel from heaven in human form, to teach

us all about God and to help us to lead holy lives, this would deserve our deepest gratitude. But neither a saintly man nor a holy angel could do for us all that God wanted. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of God and heirs of heaven. It was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity.

Could infinite love have gone any further? Our creation, the fact that we exist as human beings on earth, is a great gift to us on the part of God. Of what value could eighty, a hundred, even seven hundred years of a continuously happy life on this earth be for us if we learned that we had to depart life forever one day? In a world tormented by sin and its evil effects our normal span of life would be less satisfying. However, when God created us, he so planned that our stay here would be but a stage, a stepping stone in fact, toward our everlasting home. We are well aware indeed of the lengths to which God's love has gone in order to make us his children and heirs to his kingdom. Are we, however, grateful to him for the love he has shown us? Are we honestly and sincerely trying to make ourselves worthy of the great future he has in store for us?

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

—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 17, 2023**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
	<b>\$160.00</b>

## Notices:

**1: 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

## 2: 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

## 3: Bishop Kirkpatrick's Christmas 2023

### Message Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards All

The beginning of the new year is entrusted to Mary Most Holy whom we celebrate as the Mother of God. As we contemplate Mary in the stable where Jesus was born, we are reminded that Mary did not speak. She welcomed the mystery with awe, she cherished everything in her heart, and, above all, she lovingly took care of the Child who lay in the manger. As we see Mary taking care of her Child, let us learn to take care of others and ourselves, caring for our physical and mental health, our spiritual life, and also our environment and common home. Even more so let us learn to care for our brothers and sisters in need who call for our attention and compassion.

In November, Pope Francis said, "Every human being, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that the sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart." We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to promote poverty and death. In addition to praying for an end to all wars, we also need to join together in caring for our common home by implementing effective measures to combat climate change. There can be no peace on Earth with ongoing wars and conflicts and there can be no peace on Earth with devastating droughts, wildfires and floods that clearly demonstrate a need to change for the better.

We can and must do better if we are to live in a world of peace and prosperity for all people. In the words of an old song, "let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." May Mary Immaculate, Mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace, intercede for us and for the whole world. May you and your families have a peaceful and joyous Christmas Season.

**Fraternally,**

**+ Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick**

## 4: From Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick:

**A Reminder About December 24** The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has decreed that the Holy Days of obligation to be observed in Canada are: all Sundays of the year, Christmas Day and the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. This year, there are two holy days of obligation that intersect. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is also the same day as Christmas Eve. This means we are obligated to attend two Masses, one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. To fulfill your obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, you may attend Mass on Saturday evening, December 23, or Sunday morning, December 24. To fulfill the requirement for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), you may attend Mass on Sunday evening, December 24, or Monday morning, December 25. Wishing you a joyous and peaceful Christmas.