



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

**December 31, 2023**

**Feast of the Holy Family**



The **First Reading** is from the *Book of Sirach 3:2-6; 12-14*. Although all the emphasis, in these verses of holy Scripture just read to us, seems to be on the obligation of children to their parents, there is a profound lesson here for parents too. "Like father like son" is an old and a true saying very often. If the parents fail to do what is right and just in the sight of God they can hardly complain if their children turn out disobedient to God and to them. The young learn more from example than from precept. If parents give their children the example of a life of obedience to the laws of God, and their country—the children will in turn carry out their duties to God, to their parents and to their fellowman. There have been and there will be exceptions, of course, to this rule but they are exceptions: the vast majority follow the pattern laid down for them by their parents. Today, on the feast-day of the only perfect family that ever lived on this earth, I would ask all parents to examine themselves and see how they are fulfilling this grave responsibility—which God has placed on them. Are they preparing their children by word and example, especially by example, to be worthy citizens of heaven where they will be their parents' crown and glory?

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter from St. Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21*. Nothing but a return to the gospel of Christ and to the virtues that gospel demand of us can bring sanity back to the world. Where God is forgotten there is no happiness for man. Where the peace of Christ does not reign there is nothing but strife and hostility among men. Where there is no faith and hope in a future life, the present world is already hell. Let us being in our own family circle to bring sanity back to our world. Let us have the true peace of Christ in our hearts and in our home, each one carrying out the task God has allotted to him.

The **Gospel** is from the *Luke 2:22-40*. St. Luke concludes his detailed story of the Infancy with the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple. When this rite was carried out the Holy Family returned to Nazareth. With the exception of the incident in the temple when Jesus was 12 years old, they remained there in obscurity, as far as the world was concerned, until the beginning of his public life.... The Church makes this Sunday the Feast of the Holy Family. She wants all Christian families to look to that special family for inspiration, example and encouragement. We find all three in today's gospel. Their humble, unquestionable obedience to the Mosaic Law, a law to which they were not really bound, is an example and an encouragement for us to keep the laws of God which are binding on us. Mary, because of the virgin conception and birth of Jesus, did not need legal purification. Jesus, being the Son of God, did not have to be redeemed (bought back) from the service of God. His whole life on earth was to be complete and devoted service of God. Joseph, as father of that family, quietly and humbly accompanied Mary and her Child to Jerusalem.... It is true

that Mary and Joseph were helped by the limited knowledge they had of the role of Jesus in the salvation of the world. It helped them to be docile to God's will and ever ready to suffer for the cause of God. But we have even a more comprehensive knowledge of Christ's role in our regard, and of God's plan for our real eternal happiness. Therefore, we should be ready to bear our lot, and carry whatever cross is sent us.

—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)

**Schedule for The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

**Sunday, December 31, 2023 – 9:30 am**

**Monday, January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day) 9:30 am**

**Collection**  
**December 24, 2023**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$475.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>
<b>Bequest from Estate of Bernadette Campbell</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
	<b>\$1,580.00</b>

**December 25, 2023**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$905.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$1,625.00</b>
	<b>\$2,535.00</b>

**Notices:**

**1: Thank You:** Thank you to all who came and helped decorate the church on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Also a great big thank you to Elaine MacNeil and Family for once again creating and donating the beautiful wreaths that are decorating the church.

**2: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group** This weekly group will run from January 11 to April 4, 2024. It meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm at the District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands. This is an informal group where everyone brings their projects and creates with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. For further information: Rita Campbell, 902-631-0209.

**3: Community Drop-in** All are welcome on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am - 11:30 am at the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department for a social gathering. The coffee pots will be hot and the conversation will be flowing. Sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lakers Club. The Drop-in's will start again on Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**4: Beginner Gaelic Lessons** Learn Gaelic in a relaxed environment through story and song-like lessons. These lessons are supported by the Office of Gaelic Affairs. All are welcome! Red Island Fire Hall, Red Islands Tuesdays, for 8 weeks beginning January 16 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Fee: \$40 Instructor: Cathy Campbell

**5: Gentle Yoga 55+** For seniors who are looking for a safe, effective way to enhance their physical health and overall wellness, the stretching, breathing, and meditation practices of yoga can be a great solution. In fact, as you will see, doing yoga regularly can result in a host of benefits for older adults, from greater flexibility and improved balance to lower stress and better sleep. \* There will be no class February 6 United Church Hall, St. Peter's Mondays for 8 weeks, beginning January 15 10:00 am – 11:15 am, Fee: \$30 Instructor: Katie LeBlanc

**WINTER ONLINE REGISTRATION for the Gaelic or Yoga classes.** Registering & Payment Options  
Equipment Rentals → Register online by visiting [www.richmondcounty.ca](http://www.richmondcounty.ca) → Register by phoning 902-226-0663 → Pay online via credit card or hybrid card → Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office → Pay via credit card over the phone **QUICK AND EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT!** 902-226-0663