



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

November 12, 2023

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

New Missals: The new missals for 2024 are now available in the church. Cost is \$5.00. You can put the \$5.00 in your regular envelope and indicate the \$5.00 is for the missal or have a separate envelope with your number on it.

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Wisdom 6:12-16* and cites watchfulness as the key to a faithful religion and understanding of wisdom.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18* where he addresses a practical and doctrinal problem faced by the community. Paul had preached to them and left them with the impression that the second coming of Christ was imminent. Some died before the *paruosia* and their concern is what has happened to them. Paul states firmly and categorically that what matters is that they interpret these events because of their faith and hope in the Lord.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 25:1-13*. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to

heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him.* This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the helps they needed, will never reach heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him. Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation, and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when

compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: *Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him.* It will be too late then to do anything; even their best friends cannot help them. Each one must stand before the judge just as he is: there can be no borrowing of the oil of merit from others and there will be no time to buy any.

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

—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. 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 05, 2023

Envelopes	\$930.00
Loose	\$58.10
Missals	\$15.00
Cemetery I/M of Stan and Catherine Campbell	\$100.00
	\$1,103.10

Notices:

1: Christmas Merchandise Bingo – Johnstown Parish Hall, Sunday November 12th, 2023. Time: 2:00 pm. Prizes include a turkey, gift cards and Christmas decoration, and many more. Sponsored by Sacred Heart Ladies Group

2: New Envelopes: The 2024 envelopes are now available at the side altar

3: The Annual General Meeting of the Bras d’Or Lakers Seniors will take place on: **Sunday, November 19th at 2:00 PM at the Johnstown Parish Hall.** All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

4: 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.

5: 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

6: The Municipality of the County of Richmond is currently seeking individuals to join the By-Law/Policy Committee. If you have experience working with by-laws and policies, please consider getting involved. Interested individuals are requested to submit applications in writing, indicating their experiences that would best suit the needs of the committee, prior to 4:00 PM, November 22, 2023. This is a oneyear term. Please address applications or inquiries to: Shelley David Municipal Clerk and Communications Officer Municipality of the County of Richmond P.O. Box 120 Arichat, Nova Scotia B0E 1A0 Telephone: 226-3971 Email: clerk@richmondcounty.ca

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

<p>Saturday, December 23, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent 4:00PM HGA - River Bourgeois 5:30PM SP - St. Peters</p> <p>Sunday, December 24, 2023 9:30AM SH - Johnstown 11:00AM HGA – L’Ardoise</p> <p>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve) 8:00PM SP & SJB at SP</p> <p>Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day) 9:30AM SH 11:00AM HGA</p>

<p>Saturday, December 30, 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 4:00PM SJB 5:30PM SP</p> <p>Sunday, December 31, 2023 9:30AM SH 11:00AM HGA</p> <p>The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (New Year’s Eve) 8:00PM SP & SJB at SJB</p> <p>Monday, January 1, 2024 (New Year’s Day) 9:30AM SH 11:00AM HGA</p>
