



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

**November 19, 2023**

### Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31*. The verses chosen for today are taken from the last half of the last chapter of the book and are a hymn in praise of the ideal wife. The author saw to it that the part that a wise, prudent and industrious wife plays in a man's life, and hence in the life of the nation, deserved to be stressed and admired.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6*. In this reading St. Paul continues his discussion of the *parousia*. He tells his Thessalonian converts that they know as much as he does about the time of that second coming. He had already told them in his preaching that our Lord had said that it would be unexpected. However, this need not frighten them, they would be prepared because they were living their Christian faith every day.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21*. The lesson of this parable, like all the teaching of the gospel, is as applicable to us today as it was to the first generation of Christians. In its relation to Christ and to his divine Father our world today is very similar to first century Palestine. Christ and God have opponents and followers. Their opponents today have the very same reasons that moved the Pharisees and leaders of the people in Christ's day. They want their messianic kingdom here on earth, a kingdom of pleasure and plenty; they want no limits set to their freedom to follow their own earthly inclinations.

Their pride in their own self-exalted dignity will not let them bow the head to any deity or divine authority which does not conform to their standards. Like the Pharisees they keep on trying to convince themselves that Christianity is not true, that Christ will not reign, that there will be no day of reckoning.

Yet with all their efforts to get rid of Christ and God, the small inner voice of conscience is not completely silenced. It has the nasty habit of reminding them of their folly. They have their troubled moments when the epicurean motto "eat, drink, sleep and be merry" does not somehow ring true.

For the followers of Christ who are sincere in their efforts, the parable has a message of encouragement and consolation. At times the road we have to travel seems strewn with obstacles, our battles seem never-ending, yet God has provided each one of us with the necessary helps to ensure the final victory. These helps are given according to each one's need. Those servants in the parable who received five and two talents used them faithfully and successfully. He who received one talent needed only one, and could have succeeded with it had he been a faithful servant.

Eternal happiness is the divine reward for an earthly service faithfully rendered. The false excuse of the third servant is repeated in many forms among us still "*God is too austere, he could not expect me to make such sacrifices. I have to provide for myself; his promises and threats may be only empty words. He may never return to demand a reckoning, to settle accounts with us.*" These and all other such excuses are proved false in this parable.

God is a kind Father who has our eternal interests at heart. He does expect us to make the necessary sacrifices. He showed us the way on Calvary. When working for God we are really providing for our own future; his external glory and our eternal salvation are the fruits of the same labor. He will certainly return to settle accounts—it will then be too late to make any changes. Let us be wise and make the changes now while we have time and then our books will be in order on the day of reckoning.

—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 November 12, 2023

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$29.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Fund</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
	<b>\$744.00</b>

## Notices:

**1: Thank You:** A great big thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Bingo such a success. To all who donated the fabulous prizes, who came and worked and to all who came and played Bingo to support our event. Over \$2000.00 was raised last Sunday.

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

**3: Funeral for Sarah Baraniuk** will be held on Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am, followed by burial and lunch at the hall

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

**5: 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.

**6: TEA and TALK:** Sydney Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:30 -3:30 pm An invitation to join with other women to share TEA and TALK at Holy Redeemer Convent 24 Neville St. Whitney Pier, just behind the Pier Post Office. This invitation is open to women of all ages. This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with others to simply share a cup of tea and to experience the joy of being together. For further information phone 902 270 4840 or 902 539 6331.

## 7: 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Marguerite Bourgeoys Church - Sydney 7:00 PM
- December 6<sup>th</sup> St Ann's Church – Membertou 7:00 PM
- December 10<sup>th</sup> Holy Rosary Church – Westmount 7:00 PM
- December 13<sup>th</sup> Stella Maris Church – Louisbourg 7:00 PM
- 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*

**8: 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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

## 9: 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