



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

**November 26, 2023**

### **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

The **First Reading** is taken from *Ezekiel 34:11-12; 15-17*. In his infinite love and kindness God consoled and encouraged the Jewish exiles in Babylonia through the prophet Ezekiel. He told them they would return to their own country where they would once more be a Chosen People directly under his divine care. He described the relationship between his people and himself under the image of a flock of sheep and its shepherd. This prophecy given by God over 500 years before Christ came on earth was fulfilled to the letter in Christ; as Christ himself declared and as history has proved. The Son of God came on earth as man to give all men eternal life. He founded the new sheepfold, the new Chosen People, the kingdom of God on earth, to prepare for entry into heaven all who will enter its gates. We are fortunate to belong to that kingdom. We have a king who has proved his love by dying for us in order to give us life. By his sufferings our wounds were healed; by his death on the cross he has conquered death; by his resurrection he has made our physical death the doorway that leads to everlasting life.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26, 28*, chosen because of the reference to the kingship of Christ. It was Christ who founded the new kingdom of God on earth and he will reign over it until the final victory is won. It is very fitting that the Church should dedicate the last Sunday of the liturgical year to honoring Christ, her founder and Savior, as King of the universe

We close our liturgical year, therefore, with a feastday which honors Christ as man and we give him the highest title a man can have as we proclaim him our King. Although this title was introduced only in recent times by Pius XI, its meaning and understanding go back to the very beginning of Christianity. St. Paul tells us in today's reading that Christ began his triumphant reign at the moment of his resurrection and that it will continue on earth until his last opponent is overcome. That will be on the day of the final judgment. Christ's kingdom on earth will then pass into the Father's eternal kingdom of heaven, where Christ as God will reign in majesty together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Christ is our king in this world. Let us make sure that he will be our king for all eternity by doing our best to be his loyal subjects here on earth.

The **Gospel** is from *Matthew 25:31-36*, with Jesus describing his second coming as that of a king arriving in all his majesty and sitting on his kingly throne to judge all mankind. Christ himself in this description of the last judgement, describes his role as that of a king. This gospel reading, therefore, reminds us of the Kingship of Christ. On this feast of Christ our King, let us renew our pledge of loyalty to him, and so that this pledge will not be an empty formula, let each one of us resolve to study once more the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and see how well we put them into practice. If we have failed in the past, let us resolve to begin again today. Let us help one another by bearing one another's burdens. This is what Christ asks of us. This is how we can prove ourselves loyal and grateful subjects. This is what we will be judged on when we meet him on our last day. If we love our neighbor with an active and practical love for Christ's sake, we are thereby loving God, and are keeping "the two greatest commandments on which the whole law and the prophets depend."

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings, Year A* 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 19, 2023**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>
<b>Heat</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Donation I/M of Sarah Baraniuk</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
	<b>\$842.00</b>

## Notices:

**1: 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.

**2: 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

### 3: 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*

### 4: Antigonish Affordable Housing

Many of us know someone in need of affordable, better housing.

Antigonish Affordable Housing Society is a non-profit provider of affordable, environmentally-sound and socially-supportive housing for low-income residents.

Three fundraising campaigns are on now:

1. Make a charitable donation and have your donation matched, doubling your gift. (Until Dec 15, up to \$20,000) <https://www.antigonishaffordablehousing.ca/donate-matching-fund/>
2. Bid on 30+ auction items. Something will suit your Christmas list or fill a need. Draw on Dec 1. <https://www.32auctions.com/aahschristmas2023>
3. Buy raffle tickets to win a mini-barn, a golf, hotel & supper package, or lobster to feed a crowd. Tickets on sale at Kent, Back East Seafood and Hometown Mini Mart in Antigonish.

Check Facebook for pop up sales. Draw on Dec 1.

Your support will make a huge impact for AAHS and our tenants, especially during the Christmas season.

### 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