



**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

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

October 1, 2023

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28*. A notion very prevalent among the Jews, all through their history, was that the sins of parents were punished in their children. Ezekiel tells his audience that each man is responsible for his own sins. As each man has a free will, the good man may foolishly turn to sin, and likewise, the sinner may repent and live a good life.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2:1-5*. St. Paul is urging his new converts to live in unity of love and mutual charity. Each one must esteem his neighbor as of more importance than himself and help him in every way. In doing this, they are only imitating their Savior Christ Jesus who although Creator became a creature, though Master He made Himself a slave—all for love of us.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 21:28-32*. This parable was primarily intended to show up the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and the perilous position in which they stood in relation to God and heaven. It is, however, a warning against hypocrisy for all time. Lip service of God will not merit heaven. Nominal Christians are not working in the Lord's vineyard. At any moment they may be called from this life, and what defense can they offer the just judge? Will they dare to offer the flimsy excuses with which they try to silence their consciences now: "we didn't realize how sinful we were"; "we were too occupied

with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "we were led astray by bad example"; "we didn't like to be different from others"; "we were going to put things right"? Who will dare to offer such excuses at the judgment seat? Their utter futility will then be apparent in all its nakedness.

However, we are still on earth, and while we are the door of God's mercy is wide open to us. If in the past we said, "I will not go into your vineyard", we still have time to reverse that sinful decision. Not only can we with God's grace turn over a new leaf, but we can completely wipe out the sinful pages of our life's story written up to now. Remember that what God in His mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Mary Magdalenes, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, the Matt Talbots and the millions of unknown penitents who are now saints in heaven He can also do for you.

We answered the call to God's vineyard by accepting baptism and membership of His Church. If we have grown lax in our fervor and refused to do the tasks allotted to us, we still have time, thanks to God's mercy and patience, to put things right. Today, look into your conscience and see how much of your past life you have given to God and how much you have kept for yourself. If you were called tonight to render an account to the Lord, would the balance sheet be in your favor? Is your corner of the vineyard producing abundant crops, or is it perhaps filling up with weeds, briars and brambles? If the latter, then we will say a heartfelt "Thank you, God, for not calling us to judgment today. We will begin right now to understand our sinful past, so that our corner of your vineyard will be in good order when you do call us. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. God grant that we shall never abuse it."

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Collection
September 24, 2023**

Envelopes	\$385.00
Loose	\$10.00
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$50.00
	\$445.00

NOTICES:

1: Chair Yoga 55+ Red Islands Fire Hall, Johnstown Wednesdays, for 8 weeks, beginning September 27 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm, Fee: \$25.00 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

2: Johnstown Sewing/handicraft

The weekly Johnstown sewing/knitting/ needlework group will start up again on Thursday, October 5 at 1:00 pm, at the District 10 Firehall, Red Islands. For further information: Rita Campbell, 902-631-0209

3: Truth & Reconciliation Collection will be on Sept. 30th & Oct. 1, 2023 Envelopes may be found in the church. The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established in 2022 by Canada's Catholic Bishops to support healing and reconciliation initiatives. The 73 dioceses in Canada have been asked to contribute a total of \$30 million to this fund over five years. Money contributed by our diocese will be returned to our diocese through funding for programs, events, and projects to support healing in our local indigenous communities and cultural awareness, appreciation and action in our parishes and communities at large. You may also donate online through our diocesan website: <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/>

4: The Richmond County Men's Choir is up and singing for another year. We welcome any men of the county to join us. Practices are held every two weeks and the choir sings once a month in one of our Richmond County churches. In September we sang in L'Ardoise, In October we will sing in Louisdale. Our next practices will be September 27th and October 11 in the Louisdale Church from 6:30 to 7:30PM. Come join a group who honour God with their voices. 'Those who sing, pray twice.' (St. Augustine)

5: L'Arche Cape Breton Benefit Concert St. Peter's Lions' Club Sunday, October 15, 2023. Featuring David Stone, Jason MacDonald, Tommy & Shelly Samson, Mannie Bourgeois, Evelyn Mac Rae, Tyrone David, Wayne Bona, Jack Mac Queen & Pamela & Gerard Sampson. Freewill offering at door, 50/50 tickets available.

6: We have a new program at NSCC Strait Campus in Port Hawkesbury for seniors 55+. Most of the programming is free for local seniors. The program is called CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health) and offers social, cultural, learning, and recreational programs which promote health and well-being for seniors. Linda Ouellette Administrative Support CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health) Nova Scotia Community College Strait Area Campus, Port Hawkesbury

7: Christmas Concert with the Men of the Deeps. St. Mary's Church, Big Pond. Sunday November 19th, 2023, 2:00 PM. Doors open 1:00 pm. Tickets \$30.00. Proceeds to the Building Fund. Tickets can be purchased at East Bay Country Market, Gillis Building Supplies, St. Peters Home Hardware, Steffs Celtic Gifts, St. Peters or by calling the following: Anne MacPherson 902-828-2301, Mary MacInnis 902-574-1110 Josephine MacNeil 902-828-2279

8: Support: If you still want to continue supporting 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.