



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

October 8, 2023

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 5:1-7*. Under the image of a wine-grower who had done everything he could to make his vineyard fertile and productive, the prophet describes God's care for and interest in his Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9*. St. Paul is encouraging his converts to put their full trust in God.

The **Gospel** is from *Matthew 21:33-43*. There are two leading thoughts that come to the mind of any true believer on hearing this parable: the infinite goodness, patience and mercy of God in His dealings with mankind, and the unsounded depths of wickedness and ingratitude to which men can sink. To His Chosen People of the Old Testament, God had given a fertile and fully-equipped vineyard — His revelation, His protection, a homeland of their own in Canaan, and all this in order to prepare them for the future Messiah, who would bring them an eternal home in God's own Kingdom. All He asked in return was their cooperation.

But they had other plans; they wanted their kingdom on earth. Yet God was patient with them; again and again He pardoned their infidelities. He sent them prophet after prophet to recall them to their senses, but they maltreated these messengers of God and refused to heed their warnings.

Then "the fullness of time" came and He sent His divine Son on earth in human form. He took His human nature from one of their race, lived among them and preached His gospel of love and peace to them. He tried to soften their hard hearts, and made them the final offer of the Father's mercy and pardon. But instead of accepting God's offer of mercy the chief priests and elders only made it an occasion of an even greater sin. To their crimes of infidelity and injustice they added the murder of God's Messiah and Son.

In God's plan of love and mercy the tragedy of Calvary turned out to be the great "triumph of failure." That death brought life to the world and opened the gates of God's eternal kingdom for all nations and races. The Gentiles rallied around the standard of Christ. A new vineyard was set up in which all men could work for their Father in heaven and for their own eternal interests. We Christians today are the successors of the first Gentile followers of Christ. We too have been called to work in God's vineyard. Are we working honestly and devotedly? Are we producing the grapes and the wine that our divine Master expects of us? If our answer is "yes, I am living a true Christian life, I am working for God's honor and glory and for my own eternal salvation," then we can say a heartfelt "thank you" to our merciful Father, and ask him to keep us ever on this right path. But if our answer is "no," then let us pay heed to today's lesson. What happened to the chief priests and elders can and will happen to unfaithful Christians if they persevere in their infidelity and disobedience. But we can still put ourselves right with God. Let us do it today — tomorrow may be too late.

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

Collection October 01, 2023

Envelopes	\$555.00
Loose	\$10.00
Truth and Reconciliation	\$25.00
Cemetery Fund I/M of Stan and Catherine Campbell	\$100.00
	\$690.00

Support: If you 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.

NOTICES:

1: 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

2: 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)

3: October 13, 2023 Worldwide Rosary Coast to Coast Atlantic start: 9 pm The event will be livestreamed. Anyone unable to join the livestream is invited to light a candle and say a prayer at that time. The event will also be recorded for viewing at a later time. For the Zoom link and more details: <https://rosarycoasttocoast.ca/>

4: 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.

5: 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

6: Human Trafficking Prevention Education Event:

Join your CWL as we host a one-hour virtual presentation by the **JOY SMITH Foundation**, Canada's leading authority on human trafficking prevention, intervention, and support for survivors.

When: Tuesday October 17th from 4-5 PM

Where: St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish

Why: Human Trafficking can happen to anyone.

*Within 1 km of you someone is being lured into sex trafficking.

* 13 years old is the average age of entry into Sex trafficking.

*93% of Canadian human trafficking victims are born in Canada.

Education is our greatest weapon as we work together to end this horrific crime.

This event is open to everyone. Please come and join us.

7: TEA AND TALK Sydney Tuesday, Oct. 17, 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, situated 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.

8: Mass for Shut Ins will soon begin its 61st season. Starting October 15, Mass for Shut Ins will air Sunday mornings on the CTV channel. We would like to encourage all parishes and individuals to join us for the taping of the Masses every Saturday morning at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Sydney, at 10:00am.

Contact coordinator, Nick Vince, at nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca for scheduling details or for donations.

9: Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, October 28th, L'Ardoise Community Centre, Lower Level. Time: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Great selection, sponsored by L'Ardoise Social Action.

10: In remembrance of our loved ones: November is the month of remembering those who have died. It is customary in our parish to remember our loved ones who have died since November of the previous year. Consequently, there will be a candlelight service of remembrance on the Sunday mass on November 5th. As the names are read, a family member will be invited to come to the candle stand to light a candle. Those to be remembered can include parishioners who have died during the year, relatives of parishioners whose burials took place in other parishes or relatives of people who were buried in Johnstown. Please call or email Louise at 902-535-3107/ louisecampbel@gmail.com

11: 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