



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Bulletin**

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

**September 10, 2023**

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel* 33:7-9. The vocation of a prophet, as envisioned in terms of Ezekiel's oracles, is to judge the evil and the wicked and to dissuade them from their ways. The prophet has the responsibility of announcing the judgment of God, not his own judgment, and non-fulfillment of preaching the message of God involves death for the prophet, whereas he will save his life if he is faithful to the message given to him to preach. — Excerpted from *A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary—A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

**Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans* 13:8-10. In the first seven verses of this chapter St. Paul urged the Christian converts of Rome to obey all lawful civil authority. He now turns to the obligation each Christian has of loving his neighbor. —Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 18:15-20. Unfortunately, there are far too many Christians today who pay no heed to the serious obligation of encouraging an erring brother to give up his sinful ways. They shrug it off by saying : "I have more than enough to do to keep myself from sin" or "am I my brother's keeper"? The answer is in this lesson we have just read. We are our brothers' keepers, and even if we have many temptations and inclinations to sin we shall not overcome them if we have no time to think of our neighbors' need.

There are, alas, millions of lapsed or lukewarm Christians who could and would have been active members of Christ's mystical body if their neighbors had fulfilled this grave obligation which Christ has imposed on us all. They are now a source of scandal to the weaker and youthful members of the Church, and an impediment to the possible acceptance of the faith by non-Christians. Would the Reformation, which has caused whole countries of the western world to lose almost all faith in Christ and indeed in God, have had such disastrous effects, if those who remained within the Church had put this law of fraternal charity into practice? However, it is no use crying over spilt milk! Let us see our present-day obligations and what we are doing to help our neighbors retain their Christian faith and practice. How much of the indifference to religion which the youth of today seems to be showing is due to lack of parental control and example? How many children of Christian families grow up as practical pagans because their Christian faith meant little or nothing to their parents? It is in the home that the religion of the next generation is firmly established or lost. When parents are loyal to their faith in their daily lives, their children will, as a rule, be loyal to it too; where parents are careless and lax their children will be still more careless and more lax.

Parents! the first neighbors and fellow Christians whom you must kindly and charitably correct are your own children. Their future salvation and your own too will depend on how well you fulfill this obligation. Parents who are obedient to Christ in this will find time and many opportunities to have a charitable word of help for an erring neighbor outside their household. On the other hand, the

lax parents, who give little or no thought to getting to heaven or to their children getting there in God's good time, will hardly bother with their neighbor's salvation. Thus this cancer of infidelity and irreligion grows and spreads.

Let each one of us look into his past conduct in relation to this law of charity. Have we really tried to help our fellowmen on the road to heaven? Have we given them the good example of a truly Christian way of living? Have we offered advice and encouragement when it was needed, and correction in private where that was possible? If so "we have gained our brother." We have brought a prodigal son back to a loving Father and that loving Father will repay us a hundred-fold in this life and especially in the next. —Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Collection  
September 03, 2023**

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Envelopes</b>              | <b>\$425.00</b> |
| <b>Loose</b>                  | <b>\$75.00</b>  |
| <b>Cemetery Fund</b>          | <b>\$295.00</b> |
| <b>Donation Cemetery Fund</b> | <b>\$200.00</b> |
|                               | <b>\$995.00</b> |

**Correction from last week, the donation for Catherine MacLean was to the Cemetery Fund**

## NOTICES:

**1: The Johnstown Market** will be held on Sunday September 10, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**2: Beginner Gaelic** running for 8 weeks. (\$80) Starting, Tuesday, September 12 1 - 3:30, District 10 Fire Hall, Contact: Cathy Campbell 902-217-2088 (phone or text)

**3: Richmond County Registration information:** Registering & Payment Options → Register online by visiting <http://www.richmondcounty.ca> → Register by phoning 902.226.0663 → Pay online via credit card or hybrid card → Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office → Pay via credit card over the phone  
**QUICK AND EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT! 902.226.0663**  
[www.richmondcounty.ca](http://www.richmondcounty.ca)

**4: Beginner Line Dancing** Ladies and gentlemen, Belinda welcomes you to a fun and rewarding way to get a total body wellness both physically and mentally all while having fun dancing to many different music genres. If you can count to 8, you can line dance. The best steps you will ever take! No partner required. United Church Hall, St. Peter's Tuesdays, for 8 weeks, beginning September 19 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Fee: \$40.00 or \$5.00/drop-in Instructor: Belinda LaRoche

**5: 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

**6: Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:30 pm – St. Francis Xavier Schwartz School of Business, Room: 205.** After a summer where we have experienced the disastrous effects of climate change-related wildfires and flooding, it is hard not to be anxious about the future.

Dr. Hilda Koster will offer a presentation bringing the wisdom of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* to the work of reimagining our lives together for a future that is just and sustainable for all. All are welcome to attend.

Dr. Koster is Associate Professor of Ecological Theology at Regis-St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, University of Toronto where she directs the Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology. Her presentation is part of the St. FX Vicar of the Founder lecture series.

For more information:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/hope-in-a-time-of-climate-emergency/>

### **7: 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

**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](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.