



**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

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

September 24, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 55:6-9*. In this text the prophet urges the Chosen People to seek Yahweh, to come close to Him in friendship. To do this the sinner must abandon his evil ways. He need not fear: Yahweh is "rich in forgiving," He will forgive all sins of a repentant sinner. Though He is infinite and transcendent, yet He can and does come close to and is a true friend of all who seek Him. He is a personal God, not an abstract idea.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a*. St. Paul wrote the letter from a prison cell in Rome or possibly Ephesus. It is a friendly letter, giving some news of his work to the converts in Philippi, warning them against certain enemies of the faith and exhorting them to remain humble.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 20:1-16a*. The call to the vineyard (to the Church), through God's gift of faith and the sacrament of baptism, is a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank God. If we remain in the vineyard and labor honestly, that is, if we cooperate with the actual graces God is continually giving us, we are assured of reaching heaven when our earthly days are ended. The work we have to do in God's vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life.

By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly we are doing the will of God and earning heaven. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honoring God, have a supernatural value. For this we have to thank God for His goodness and generosity.

He could have made the attainment of heaven so much more difficult. He could have demanded extraordinary mortifications and renunciations and the reward (heaven) would still be exceedingly great. Instead He allows us to live our everyday life, to enjoy the love and friendship of our family and friends, to satisfy the natural desires of our bodies, within the commandments, and yet to merit a supernatural reward while so doing. As He tells us through St. Paul: "whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10 : 31)."

Looking back on our past life, how many years have we really given to God since we came to the use of reason? Those school years, the time spent learning a trade or profession, the weeks, months, years working in an office or factory or farm, the hours among the pots and pans in the kitchen — have we earned some credit in heaven for all of this, or is it all crossed off our pay sheet through lack of right intention or through sin?

If so, those years are lost to us. We were "idle" all that time. Today's parable, however, should give us new hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life but we can still earn heaven if we listen to God's call and set to work diligently in His vineyard. If we put our conscience right with God today and resolve to be loyal to Him from now on He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

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

**Collection
September 10, 2023**

Envelopes	\$105.00
Loose	\$13.40
	\$118.40

NOTICES:

1: The Final Johnstown Market will be held on Sunday September 24th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm., at the Johnstown Landing. Please support.

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: COMFORT TEA ... Come For Tea: We all experience many types of losses throughout our lives. You are invited to stop in for tea and a sweet treat. You may bring a friend, photo, memento, memory, or experience to share or sit quietly with others who understand. Drop by anytime between 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at the United Church Hall, 9915 Grenville St., St. Peters, N.S. The afternoon is sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society. All are welcome.

4: 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

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: 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

7: 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/>

8: Our first Ultreya will be held on Thursday September 28 at Our Lady of Fatima starting at 7:30. All are invited and encouraged to attend. It will be held downstairs in the McMahon room. We're Excited to be holding our first Men's Cursillo Weekend since Covid. It will be held November 2-5 @ Camp Bretondean with Rector Kevin McSween. Our Women's Cursillo weekend will be held November 9-12 weekend at Camp Bretondean with Rector Sharon MacNeil. Please pray for our Rectors and teams as they prepare to start their meetings. For more info contact Sean O'Leary 902-565-9323 or Karen MacSween 902-317- 5425

9: St. Joseph's Bras d'Or CWL are happy to host their Fall Fair on Sept. 27th, from 11am to 4pm at the Bras d'Or Community Hall. Come and find some treasures, buy some baked goods and crafts, have a delicious lunch, and connect with friends. We will be selling tickets on a Cellophane Supper (turkey Dinner fixings with all the trimmings!) for \$1.

Lunch is \$12.00 for Turkey or Hamburger Soup, tea biscuit, and strawberry shortcake!
You don't want to miss out on this fun!!

10: 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.