



**Masks are
mandatory in
the Church**

Bulletin

**Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00**

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November 7th, 2020

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him. This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the helps they needed, will never reach heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him. Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation, and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Wisdom 6:12-16 and cites watchfulness as the key to a faithful religion and understanding of wisdom.

The **second reading** is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18 where he addresses a practical and doctrinal problem faced by the community. Paul had preached to them and left them with the impression that the second coming of Christ was imminent. Some died before the parousia and their concern is what has happened to them. Paul states firmly and categorically that what matters is that they interpret these events because of their faith and hope in the Lord.

The Gospel is from St. Matthew 25:1-13. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians.

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him. It will be too late then to do anything; even their best friends cannot help them. Each one must stand before the judge just as he is: there can be no borrowing of the oil of merit from others and there will be no time to buy any.

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

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

Collection: October 31th, 2020

Envelopes	\$335.00
Loose	\$10.00
	\$345.00

Notices:

1: 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 candle light service of remembrance on the Saturday mass on November 7th. 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.

2: Tickets on a quilt: The tickets are out on the quilt. You can purchase tickets from any member of the Sacred Heart Ladies Group, or e-transfer money to Louise Campbell, by sending her a message on Facebook. These tickets will be drawn on November 15th at the JCDC AGM

3: AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Johnstown community Development Co-operative will take place on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the Johnstown Parish Hall, Johnstown, NS.
Betty MacNeil, Secretary, JCDC Ltd.

4: AGM: The annual general meeting of the Bras d'Or Lakers will take place on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 3:00 PM at the Johnstown Parish Hall. Face masks will be required to enter the building and social distancing and sanitation practices will be in place. Chairs will be spaced six feet apart, and there will be ample seating available.

5: Christmas Toy Drop-off - Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors

It has been a quiet year for our club. But we will end this year on a positive note, with our annual donation of new toys or new children's clothing to be distributed to needy families by the St. Peters Food Bank.

This year we need to deliver the gifts to the food bank on Monday morning, November 30th. To that end we will be at the Johnstown parish hall on Saturday, November 28th, between 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM (approximately) to receive the donated gifts.

As usual, the toys or children's clothing need to be new and unwrapped. If you are unable to deliver your gift personally that day, please consider having someone else drop it off for you.

Unfortunately, we can't have a reception this year because of Covid 19 restrictions. However the families who receive the gifts at Christmas will be just as grateful.

6: Development and Peace was established in 1967 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in response to Pope Paul VI's encyclical letter Populorum Progressio. This founding principle exists today and states that D & P must strive towards a more perfect justice among all human beings.

We believe that Canadians of all religious beliefs have a responsibility to help the world's poor and disadvantaged, either by urging governments, corporations and others to implement change, or by donating time or money to support development efforts which can be done at www.devp.org.

Share Lent is the annual fundraising campaign of Development and Peace. Because of the Pandemic, this did not take place; however, our Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick has designated November 14/15th weekend to be a time when we, can ensure that the good work being done by Development & Peace will still go on in communities of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Please consider supporting this collection or go to the website at www.devp.org and participate with your support. Feel free to use your own envelope and deposit your contribution in the weekly collection basket with your name and envelope collection number. On behalf of Development & Peace I thank you.....

7: Christmas Bake Sale: Sacred Heart Ladies Group will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday December 6th. Come and do some Christmas Baking without the hassle. We will also be looking for donations to the Bake Sale, so if you have time to help bake that will be greatly appreciated. Time: 12pm – 2pm. This will be our last event for the year.