



Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00

Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

March 13th, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Masks are
 mandatory in
 the Church**

Sunday Readings:

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Chronicles 2 Chron:36:14-16, 19-23. It refers to the edict of Cyrus, the king of Persia, permitting the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, which had been burned by the Chaldeans as a punishment from God for the infidelities of the Chosen People.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10. In today's extract St. Paul is emphasizing the gratuitousness of the gift of faith which the Ephesian converts have received. This gift which God gave them, even when they were sinners, had united them to Christ, and has given them the right to share in His glorious resurrection and inherit heaven with Him and through Him.

The Gospel is from St. John 3:14-21. This man Nicodemus had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that he had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word, "believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, are not many of us often like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to our following of Christ? There are Catholic men who would like to, and should, go much more often to Holy Communion but are afraid of what their fellow-parishioners, who receive but rarely, would think of them. There are many, far too many, Christians who will not defend or stand up for their religion when it is insulted and attacked in their place of work or in a saloon. There are Christians who stand idly by, and give at least tacit approval, when grave injustices are being carried out by individuals or by local or national groups. These and many more like them are Christian types of Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval, the worthless esteem, of their sinful associates, are prepared to forfeit the esteem of God and their own eternal welfare.

Nicodemus probably thought he had made reparation for his lack of openness to Jesus when he assisted at his burial. What value, however, had that work of mercy for one of his frame of mind? There are amongst us today, humanists, most of them ex-Christians, men and women who make assisting their neighbor, while excluding Christ and God, the essence of religion. While the assistance the neighbor receives will benefit him materially, what spiritual or

religious value can it have for the humanist who excluded God and our Savior Jesus Christ? Humanism or concentrating on our neighbor to the exclusion of God, is an imitation of religion and a very false imitation at that. Helping our neighbor because he is a son of God is part of our true religion, and the second of the two great commandments of love; but helping a neighbor from whom we have effaced the image of God has not and cannot have any religious value or significance whatever. It is as meaningless as lighting a candle before the photograph of a wife one has deliberately deserted.

Thank God, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole mind. It is through him that we have been made sons of God. It is through him that we have learned to love God and learned of God's infinite love for us. Because all men are God's sons also, and our brothers in Christ, we will gladly help them whenever and wherever we can because God has commanded us to do so. This is true humanism which sees in the neighbor the workmanship of the almighty Creator, and what is more important still, the elevating effects of the divine Savior, as well.

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

Collection:

March 06th, 2021

Envelopes	\$250.00
Cemetery	\$200.00
	\$450.00

Notices:

1: Please book your seat for Good Friday, April 2nd, and Holy Saturday April 3rd. You can call Louise at 535-3107 or email louise.campbell@stpeterscable.com to book your church seat for those dates.

2: A Take-out Fish Cake and Bean supper will be held on Friday April 2nd (Good Friday). The supper will be available at 4pm at the Parish Hall. To order a meal please call Louise at 535-3107 or email louise.campbell@stpeterscable.com Cost: \$12.00

3: Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) is an international Catholic lay organization whose mission is the re-evangelization of the Church that St. John Paul has emphasized. MFC typically sends teams to parishes but with COVID they continue their mission virtually. They are offering us a workshop for next Saturday, March 20 to begin at 9:00am. More information will be forthcoming next week and the link to the Zoom Meeting will be sent to you via e-mail.

4: The Solemnity of the St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph Parish in North Sydney will host a Northside Victoria Deanery Holy Hour live on facebook. Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick is our homilist for the Deanery Lenten Mission. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated by priests and deacons of the diocese.

7 pm - O Salutaris Hostia with Exposition

7:05 - Scripture readings

7:15 - Mission talk, Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick, Diocese of Antigonish.

7:40 - Silent Adoration

7:50 - Tantum Ergo, Benediction, Divine Praises, Reposition to Holy God We Praise thy Name.

8 pm - Litany of St. Joseph.

We are inviting parishioners in all parishes in the deanery to pray with us and your bishop on line on Friday, March 19th at 7 pm from your home. Given the pandemic we advise people to watch and pray from home, but a maximum of 100 people are permitted in the church on a first come basis. Please consider saying the Novena to St Joseph using the Litany in the bulletin nine straight days before March 19th, starting Wednesday March 10th.

5: Silver Rose: The Knights of Columbus in St. Peter's are planning to invite the Silver Rose, an image associated with the pro-life message of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to come to us in April (see the schedule and info in the link below). Fr. Yake suggested that since Sacred Heart, Johnstown, has a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe that we might hold the (out-of-doors) Mass there. It would offer an opportunity to gather Catholics around this important truth of our faith. Our time slot is Tuesday April 13th in the afternoon, time to be determined. <https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/life/silver-rose.html?1tab=1tab5>

4: Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 27/28 – Regular Sunday Schedule - Palm branches could be distributed by someone with gloves, in this way no one is directly touching the branches as they are distributed

Thursday of the Lord's Supper
(Holy Thursday, April 1st)

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

April 1

4:00pm HGA

5:30pm SP

7:00pm SJB

There will be no foot-washing.

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good

(Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday Service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.)

Since there can be no contact with the Cross, the Veneration of the Cross will be by a simple but reverent bow. Genuflecting remains a possibility, as long as people do not need to touch anything that would then need to be sanitized.

Last year parishes had to double up but with COVID that cannot happen this year.

SJB - (officiant TBA)

Chapel Island and SP- (officiant TBA)

HGA – Mr. Arthur Doary officiating

SH, Johnstown – Fr. Yake

The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)

There remains some doubt about the Rite of Sprinkling throughout the Church on

Easter Sunday. The concern is for those cleaning and sanitizing the church.

At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night: Saturday, April 3

6:30pm SH

The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday): April 4

8:30am SJB

10:00am SP & Chapel Island

11:30 HGA