



**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

Mass: 4:00 pm – Saturdays
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

December 10, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

REMINDER:
Mass today will be
at 5:30

Sunday Readings, Year A:

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*. Even if we took this prophecy of Isaiah as relating to the return from Babylon only, it would still be a source of consolation to us, and a reason for thanking our good God who, in this return of the Jews from Babylon, was preparing the way for the coming of his divine Son among us. The Exodus from Egypt in the 13th century, and the liberation from Babylon in the 6th, were big steps take by God on the road to our eternal liberation.

But as we know from our Lord's own interpretation (Mt 11:5), these words of the prophet referred also to God's greatest act of love and mercy—the Incarnation of his divine Son, which was to liberate all mankind from the slavery of sin and worldliness, and make men citizens of an everlasting homeland, heaven.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of James 5:7-10*. "The coming of the Lord is at hand." These word of St. James are true for all of us, in two senses. His first coming, which we shall be commemorating in ten days or so, is very near. The sincere Christian, who prepares, need have no fear of the second coming of Christ, as his judge—the coming of which St. James speaks today.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Matthew 11:2-11*. The Church brings John the Baptist, the man who prepared the people for Christ's public mission, before our minds today, as an example that we should follow, even if only from afar. John prepared himself for the test of welcoming and introducing Christ to others, by a life of self-mortification and penance. He told the people that the first essential for getting Christ, and profiting by his coming, was that they should turn away from sin and give up any evil ways, which hitherto they had followed. He himself practiced what he preached and his preaching, therefore, bore fruit among many of his hearers. John is calling on us too today, to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming this Christmas, by turning away from sin, and by the mortification of ourselves in many ways.

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

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

The Optional Memorial of St. Damasus I is superseded by the Third Sunday of Advent liturgy.

**Collection
December 03, 2022**

Envelopes	\$180.00
Missals	\$5.00
Sacred Heart Ladies Group	\$7,000.00
	\$7,185.00

NOTICES:

1: 2023: Envelopes: The envelopes for 2023 are at the front of the church

2: New Bench: Thank you to a very generous parishioner who donated the new Bench, which is located at the front of the upper graveyard. This new Bench also indicates that this is Sacred Heart Cemetery. The bench will provide a spot to stop and reflect as you look out over the Bras d'Or Lakes.

3: St. Mary's Parish Frenchvale Fundraiser: 4 cords of firewood split and delivered with the CBRM, or \$500.00 cash. Tickets: \$1.00 each available from Cathy Johnston, 902-535-2774. Draw date: December 10th, at St. Mary's Parish.

4: Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine "The Gift Shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine will open for a Christmas Shopping sale for one day only. On December 10th from 1 to 4 pm. all gift items in the shop will be 50% OFF.

The Shrine remains open for visitation year round.

5: Christmas Concert: St. Joseph Parish Bras d'Or Christmas Concert Fundraiser Bras d'Or Hall, 24 Villa Drive Sunday, Dec. 11th at 7:00 P.M Tickets \$12.00 For tickets call the parish office at 902.736.9633

Talent Co-ordinator: Fred Lavery

Appearances by Children's Parish Christmas Choir, Aaron Lewis, Kimberly Fraser, Jenn Roland, Buddy MacDonald, MacArthur Dancers, Ian Aker & Fred Lavery, Hugh Toner, Dane Pedersen, Finney Boys, Father Godwin, Alan Gale, Andrew Doyle, St. Joseph Men's Choir, Ward Glogowski & Hughie MacDonald and Earl Warhus.

50/50 and Canteen Service Available Accepting Food Bank Donations.

Not to be missed Christmas Event of the Season!

6: Christmas Concert: You are invited to a Christmas concert at St Theresa's church (381 Whitney Ave, Sydney) Dec 18 from 2:30 to 4:00pm. Local choirs and groups. Good will offering. Come in, sit down and enjoy the music!

7: Decorating for Christmas: Decorating the church for Christmas will be on Monday December 19th, at 10am. All are encouraged to come and help us get ready for Christmas Eve

8: Christmas Eve: Mass for Christmas Eve is set for 5:30 pm

9: CHRISTMAS, 2022

From Bishop Kirkpatrick

Given our Atlantic coastline, we all know about lighthouses. A lighthouse is designed to emit light to serve as a beacon for navigational aid, for maritime pilots at sea or on inland waterways. Lighthouses mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals, reefs, rocks, and safe entries to harbours. I was inspired to write this reflection after learning of the memorial lobster trap Christmas tree tradition, made up of lobster traps with buoys and lights with a lighthouse on top. The buoys bear the names of people lost at sea. It is a memorial tree for all who did not return home. The lighthouse placed on top is to guide them home.

A lighthouse provides direction through the rough seas to the harbour of safe waters and home. We have lived through so many rough days together with Covid and most recently with the wind and rain of tropical storm Fiona and all the havoc that has followed. When we think of this image of the lighthouse, we might think of the bright star of Bethlehem guiding the pilgrims to the Christ-child. They too lived amid a sea of economic and political turmoil. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone." These words from the prophet Isaiah reverberate during our celebration of the Christmas Season.

There are so many concerns today: the illness or death of loved ones; rising costs of gas, food and everything essential; homelessness and food insecurity; access to medical care and viruses that continue to affect us; war and conflicts around the globe and millions of refugees with no place to call home; intergenerational trauma through residential schools; the future of our church as discernment continues for the upcoming Synod; and in general trying to carry on in faith amid so many issues. What are we to do?

We have every reason to hope that brighter and better days are ahead. The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. The Christmas Season reminds us of the goodness of our God and the people around us who are guided by God's love and concern for all people. This Christmas Season brings out the best in people who try to brighten the lives of others. Yes, it is a season filled with partying and buying but it is also a season filled with sharing. This Christmas Season is highlighted by our neighbourly concern, generosity, and unselfish love. Such love is a light that pierces the darkness of our world. Such love is prompted and celebrated. God sent us the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ to be the Light of the World to guide and direct us. As we celebrate the coming of that Light, we become a light for others. When we live our faith we become a light to our world. Our faith does not free us from problems and hardships, but enables us to find peace, to persevere, and to hope because we know we are not alone. Faith assures us that God is with us in our struggles, and that the love of God and the peace that Jesus promised are ours for the asking. The lighthouse calls us to look to him for direction, especially amid turbulent waters. He will guide and direct us to a safe harbour and peaceful waters. He will guide us home.

May you have a peaceful Christmas, filled with love and joy.

Fraternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bishop of Antigonish