



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

December 31, 2022

New Year's Eve

Octave Day of Christmas: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Numbers* 6:22-27. After the Exodus (or coming out of Egypt) and after God had made a covenant on Mount Sinai with the Chosen People, Moses, on God's instructions, set the tribe of Levi apart so that they would offer the sacrifices and carry out the liturgy in the name of, and for, the rest of the tribes. The direct line of Aaron, head of the tribe of Levi, were to be the priests who would have the principal part in the offering of the sacrifices and in the other liturgical acts. One of the liturgical acts of the priests was to bless the people after the daily sacrifices and on other solemn occasions. The blessing was a reward for the keeping of the covenant by the people, and a guarantee that the blessing promised to all nations through Abraham would be fulfilled one day. The words of the blessing given by God to Moses are recorded in these verses of the book of Number read at today's Mass.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians* 4:4-7. The Galatians—pagans recently converted to Christianity by Paul—were being disturbed in their faith by Judaizers, that is, by Jews who pretended to be Christians but were not. These were telling the new converts that Christianity was not something really new, but only a new form of Judaism, and therefore the converts must accept circumcision and other practices of the old law. Paul in

his letter reacts strongly to this falsehood. Christianity is not a reform of Judaism, he states, but is its replacement. Judaism was only a preparation, Christianity is the fulfillment; the old law was but a shadow of things to come, Christianity is the reality.

The "fullness of time has come," the period of permeation and promise has ended. Men are no longer slaves of the law or slaves of their past pagan polytheism and its practices. They are now free men and new men, sons of God. They can now truly call God "Abba Father" "for God sent his Son born of a woman." The Incarnation has taken place, men are no longer mere human beings, they have a new life given them in Baptism. They now share in the divine life because Christ has shared their human life with them.

The **Gospel** of today's feast is from the *Gospel of Luke* 2:21. This story of the humble shepherds of Bethlehem coming to find Jesus "in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothe" already read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas Day, is repeated today because of the feast we are celebrating, the Divine Motherhood of Mary. It is the feast of Christmas again, the feast of the Incarnation and birth of our Savior, but it is Mary's part in this wonderful mystery of God's love for men that the Church is stressing today.

—Adapted from *The Sunday Readings* by Keven O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Octave Day of Christmas

Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**, our Lady's greatest title. This feast is the **Octave Day of Christmas**. In the current liturgical Calendar only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave. It is also the [World Day of Peace](#).

"Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."
—*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 721

Collection
December 24, 2022

Dec 25th Envelopes	\$980.00
Loose	\$165.00
Christmas Eve Envelopes	\$940.00
Donations	\$1,125.00
	\$3,210.00

NOTICES:

1: Moving to Vestry: Next Saturday, Jan 7th will be the last Saturday in the main church, we will be moving into the Lady of Guadalupe Chapel (Vestry) for the winter

2: Un-Decorating: Next Saturday, Jan 7th, after mass, the decoration will be taken down from the church, all are welcome to stay and help.

3: HGA: Parishioners of Holy Guardian Angels Parish in L'Ardoise invite friends and families to join us as we commence celebrations for our 200th birthday on Sunday, January 8th. Beginning at 3:00 P.M we will celebrate eucharist followed by a reception at the L'Ardoise Community Centre. Our theme banner will be unveiled along with a display of over 60 family banners. Everyone is welcome.

4: Sewing, knitting, handwork Thursdays: Will start again on Thursday January 12th, they will run from 1 pm until 3:30.

There is no charge for the classes because the Fire Department does not charge us for the room. If anyone would like to contribute to a donation I'll have a collection box and you can add a loonie or toonie when you attend if you wish.

If you have questions my phone number is 902 631 0209.

5: Gentle Yoga Flow - Connect to your breath and body and let go of your stress, worries and burdens. With a focus on action, alignment and breath, this practice features a nice tempo to find what feels good and listen to the body. This sequence is easy on the wrists and great for the spine. A good practice for those new to yoga - also great for fast paced yogis who want to keep a healthy and well-balanced yoga practice.

Instructor: Lynne Doucette

District 10 Fire Hall – Red Islands

Tuesday's for 6 weeks, beginning January 10 – **NOTE: The first class will start on Wednesday January 11th.**
1:30 – 3:00 pm, Fee: \$30.00

To register for a program, please contact Ronalda Boudreau at 902-226-0663 or by email at rboudreau@richmondcounty.ca.

6: Chair Yoga United Church Hall, St. Peter's Tuesdays, for 6 weeks, beginning January 10 10:00 am – 11:15 am, Fee: \$25.00 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

7: Water in the Church: The water in the church will be turned off this week. The washroom will be locked until the spring.