



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

November 26, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

The new weekly Mass books for 2022-2023 are available at the front of the church – Cost: \$5.00 each

### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 2:1-5*. Today's lesson from Isaiah contains one of the encouraging speeches which God's great prophet addressed to his fellow-Jews, to help them persevere in their faith in God. Days of distress and tribulation lay ahead. Jerusalem, their beloved and holy city, the site of the temple where the true God manifested his power and his mercy among them, was to be razed one day to the ground, because of their sins. But when the great day came and God fulfilled his promises to them, Jerusalem would once more be the glory and the pride, not only of the Jews, but of all nations.

This prophecy of Isaiah, spoken 700 years before the coming of Christ, has been fulfilled. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." And we today, thousands of miles from Jerusalem, and almost two thousand years after his coming among us, are preparing ourselves for the annual commemoration of that greatest event of history.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14*. In the verses chosen for today's second reading, St. Paul urges Roman Christians to keep the purpose of their conversion, of their acceptance of the gospel, of true salvation, always before their eyes. They had accepted Christ in order to merit eternal salvation; for this reason, they must "Cast off the works of darkness," in which they indulged before their conversion.

**The Gospel** is taken from *Matthew 24:37-44*. St. Matthew gives us a discourse which our Lord held with his disciples concerning the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem and the Parousia, or the second coming of Christ as judge of the world. In the verses we read today Christ is speaking of his second coming, and emphasizes its unexpectedness and suddenness.

In today's lesson it is Christ himself who is asking each one of us so to live our lives that no matter when we are called to judgement we shall not be found wanting. This does not mean that we must always be praying. Nor does it mean that we must take no interest in the affairs of this life. Of the two men working in the field and the two women grinding corn, one of each was found unworthy, not because of the work he or she was doing, but because that work had for them wrongly excluded God and his purpose in life. The two found worthy had room for God and their own eternal welfare in their hearts—their work was part of their loyal service to God and was a means towards their salvation.

Christmas comes but once a year but its meaning, its lesson, must remain in our hearts and minds all the year round. God wants us in heaven forever. He sent his Son on earth to bring us there. Aided by God's grace we resolve today so to live our lives that when death claims us we shall meet Christ, not as condemning judge, but as a loving brother.

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

The First Sunday of Advent marks the new Liturgical Year, and the Church shifts into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2022-23 returning to **Cycle A, the Gospel of St. Matthew**. In the Sunday Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44) Jesus invites us to recognize the signs of the last days. This is a reminder that Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come....you also must be prepared, for an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The traditional Collect (Opening Prayer) of the last Sunday of the Church year began "Stir up the wills of Thy faithful people, we beseech Thee, O Lord..." With this request to God to "stir up" our wills, this day was traditionally called Stir-Up Sunday. Because the Ordinary Form celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the year, "Stir-Up Sunday" can now be the First Sunday of Advent. The traditional Collect of the First Sunday is asking God to stir up His might: "Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come." Many families create a traditional plum pudding or fruit cake or some other recipe that all the family and guests can "stir-up." This activity of stirring-up the ingredients symbolizes our hearts that must be stirred in preparation for Christ's birth.

## Collection

November 19, 2022

Envelopes	\$155.00
Loose	\$35.00
Heat	\$115.00
Missals	\$5.00
	\$310.00

### NOTICES:

#### 1: Johnstown Community Development Co-op AGM:

The Annual General Meeting of the Johnstown community Development Co-operative will take place on Sunday, November 27, 2022 at **2:00 p.m.** at the Johnstown Parish Hall, Johnstown, NS. Everyone welcome

#### 2: Cape Breton Chorale: On Saturday, October 29, make plans to join the Cape Breton Chorale and guests for Moonlight Masquerade at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre.

Start time: 7:30pm with cocktails and appetizers.

Special guest musical and dance performances.

Semi-formal dress code, Party masks optional.

Tickets are \$65.00 per person, up to 10 people per table, sold online at [capebretonchorale.com](http://capebretonchorale.com) or from chorale members.

#### 3: Bras d'Or Lakers AGM: The Bras d'Or Lakers will be holding their Annual Meeting on **Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm** at the Red Islands Fire Hall. All are welcome

**4: Christmas Toy/Clothing Drive:** It's that time of year again. Bras d'Or Lakers annual toy and children's clothing drive is under way. We are looking for toys and children's clothing to be donated to the St. Peters Food Bank for distribution to needy children at Christmas.

As usual, we request new, unwrapped gifts, either toys or children's clothing.

Please bring your gifts to the Red Islands Fire Hall, between 2:30 PM and 4:00 PM on Sunday, December 4th. We look forward to seeing you there. Tea and snacks will be provided

#### 5: Events in L'Ardoise: Saturday, December 3rd Breakfast and Food Drive.

Sunday, December 4th, Bake Sale and Merchandise Bingo.

All events at L'Ardoise Community Centre.

#### 6: Change of Mass Time: On Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>, Sacred Heart will switch their Mass time with Holy Guardian Angles in L'Ardoise – We will have Mass at 5:30 on December 10<sup>th</sup>

**7: 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.

#### 8: Christmas Concert: St. Joseph Parish Bras d'Or Christmas Concert Fundraiser Bras d'or Hall, 24 Villa Drive Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 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!

#### 9: Christmas Eve: Mass for Christmas Eve is set for 5:30 pm