



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Readings, Cycle A:

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46* and concerns the regulations enforced by the priests regarding certain bodily diseases which made a person unclean and a menace to the health of his neighbors.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 10:31, 11:1* and speaks of our imitation of Paul as he imitates Christ for the sake of the Gospel, as well as of the unity of the Church of God.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:40-45*. We see both the divine power and the divine compassion of Jesus in this act of healing. The divine power was necessary in all instantaneous cures. Even if the diseases were curable, the ordinary process of nature took time to fight off the causes and to return to normality. Therefore, where there was an instantaneous recovery some power above nature, some supernatural cause brought it about. But where the disease was incurable, as real leprosy then was, to remove it by a simple word of command was more emphatically still the result of divine power. This divine power Jesus had, for he was himself divine, the Son of God.

His compassion for suffering humanity was, however, co-terminus with his power, it was also divine. It was out of compassion for the sad lot of the

human race on earth that he descended to man's level, becoming man, equal to us in all things except sin, in order to suffer with us and for us. By his human sufferings he made an atonement, a satisfaction for all the sins of the world—a satisfaction which all mankind could never make—to his heavenly Father, and so obtained for us God's pardon. At the same time, 'by joining our human nature to his divine nature, he brought us into the divine orbit and made us adopted sons of God and heirs of the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity. Because this seems almost too good to be true, there are men who deny it or refuse to accept it. Such men make the mistake of measuring the infinite compassion of God with the limited yardstick of their own finite and puny compassion.

Thanks be to God, for his infinite compassion! Thanks be to God, for Christ his Son, who came and dwelt amongst us! He put heaven and a share in the life of God within our reach; he has shown us how to attain them, giving in his Church and the sacraments, all the necessary aids. But we still need all of Christ's compassion if we are to get there. Because of our inclination to sin and because of the many times we unfortunately give in to that inclination, nothing but the mercy of God can save us from our own folly. However, that mercy is available, if only we ask for it. What we sinners need is the faith and confidence of the leper in today's gospel reading. He believed firmly in the power and the mercy of Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean," was his approach to Jesus.

This should be our approach too, if we have the misfortune to fall into serious sin. Jesus does will and does want our salvation. His incarnation, and death on the cross, proves that. The fact that he left the power to forgive sins to his Church is another proof of both his will and desire to help

us. "All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth," he stated. Part of that power which he left to his Church is in the sacrament of penance where the leprosy of sin can be washed away and the sinner restored to new and perfect spiritual health. What folly for any Christian then, to commit sin and isolate himself, like the unclean leper, from God. But it is greater folly still, to remain in this unclean state when the cure for his disease is so easily available to any sincere penitent.

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

Collection January 28, 2023

Envelopes	\$230.00
Loose	\$5.00
	\$235.00

NOTICES:

1: Fire Hall/Community Hall Update: Received this note from the Diocese this week:

Apparently that land (the right-of-way behind the hall) was deeded to the Diocese almost 50 years ago but according to the file a fee hadn't been paid and therefore the deed was not sent to us or recorded

The deed will be sent to the diocese and then be registered.

The Diocese will get back to us once that has been completed

The Steering Committee will be meeting this week and Martin Thompson from CB Partnership will be in attendance

2: The Season of Lent

We read from the Church's Ordo, "The highest point in the Church's year prayer is the Sacred Paschal Triduum celebrating the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. We prepare for this three-day period during the Season of Lent and prolong it for the great 50 days of the Easter season.

"Lent has a dual purpose. It helps catechumens prepare for celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil and it invites those who are baptized through penance and prayer to prepare to renew their promise a baptismal faith at Easter." Ashes placed on believers' foreheads has been the traditional way to mark one's entry into the Season of Lent. Ashes will be distributed on the Sunday following

Ash Wednesday and at the following Masses:

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

(The vigil of Ash Wednesday using the readings for Ash Wednesday.)

(Ash) Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, Feb. 24, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM

3: In the Diocese

Local Seminarians Admitted as Candidates

With Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto presiding, David Jude Anthony Rankin and Joseph Alexander MacMaster were admitted as Candidates for the Sacred Orders of Diaconate and Priesthood for the Diocese of Antigonish at St. Augustine's Seminary on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Congratulations to David and Joseph! Candidacy is the rite by which our Church recognizes a seminarian is worthy of being ordained, hence the seminarian becomes a 'candidate' for ordination in the future.

4: Pope Francis' Emphasis on Synodality: The Gospel and Culture

(Why we pray the synod prayer)

Pope Francis has emphasized a new consciousness in the Church that is called synodality. This is not new but a neglected aspect of the Second Vatican Council that insisted that the Church not be defensive but to take its message of truth into cultures, into the world beyond the Church. In a lecture at Toronto's Regis College back in November 2021 Cardinal Michael Czerny focussed on this new perspective. He pointed out that in 1979 the decree, *Sapientia Christiana*, that addressed the neglect of theological studies in church institutions had been ignored for 40 years. In 2017 Pope Francis raised the same topic in *Veritatis Gaudium*. There Francis tried to revive the Vatican II project to open theological studies to dialogue with the world. This is the *aggiornamento* that St. Pope John XXIII wanted by calling the Council.

The Second Vatican Council had set a new path for theology. To quote Czerny, "The Church (at Vatican II) put a definitive end to an attitude that for centuries had conditioned its way of doing theology. I am referring to the defensiveness that, since the advent of modernity, had led the Church to conceive of itself as a stronghold besieged by internal and external enemies of the faith. Vatican II decided to discontinue the path traced by Catholic apologetics after Trent; it chose a more dialogical and constructive tone. Czerny warned against an inward looking, obsessive parsing of old formulas that do not address the world in which people live their lives. He said, "Faith without the struggle for justice risks abstraction from reality, insignificance, limitation to mere cult and ritual." He insisted that if theology is going to be at the centre of the Church, dialogue and synodality will be key. Czerny concluded, "It is at the heart of the Church's renewal efforts now and will be in the years ahead."

5 :Reflections of Richmond: We are currently gathering information for The Spring 2023 Edition of the Reflections of Richmond which will cover the period from April 1, 2023 until May 31, 2023.

* Spring photo submissions for our cover and any community events or news happening throughout Richmond County can be submitted to Ronalda at rboudreau@richmondcounty.ca

* Recreation programs/instructors can be submitted to Sharla at smombourquette@richmondcounty.ca

Please send all information to us on or before the end of the day on Friday, February 24, 2023.