



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

February 19, 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Readings, Cycle A:

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18*. Today, we hear one of the rules of conduct which are set out in chapter 19; that of love of neighbor. Other rules included reverence for parents, observance of the Sabbath, avoidance of idolatry, upon harvesting leaving some of the grain in the fields for the poor, and the practice of justice and charity in social dealings.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-23*. As we work our way through the first part of 1st Corinthians, last week we heard Saint Paul tell of the true wisdom of God. This week he again addresses the divisions in the people of God and reminds the Corinthians (and us) who we really belong to.

The **Gospel** is taken from *St. Matthew (5:38-48)*. The lesson we have to learn from today's gospel hardly needs any emphasizing. We must, if we are truly Christian, forgive those who offend or injure us. We must love all men, whether they be friends or enemies. G. K. Chesterton says: "We are commanded to love our neighbors and our enemies; they are generally the same people." This is very true for all of us. It is very easy for me to love (in a theoretical way) all Japanese, Chinese, Russians and most Europeans—they never come in contact with me and never tread on my corns. But it is my neighbors, those among whom I live and work, who are liable to injure me and thus become my enemies.

Charity begins at home, because it is here that it can and should be learned and practiced. It is first and foremost necessary for Christian peace in the home. Husband and wife must learn to understand and tolerate each other's imperfections and faults. If one offends in what the other would regard as something serious, the offended one should not demand an apology but should show forgiveness before the other has humbly to apologize. No two persons in the world, not even identical twins, can agree on all things, so it is vain and unrealistic to expect even one's married partner to agree with one in all points. Christian charity alone can cover the multitude of faults of both partners.

If there is peace and harmony between husband and wife, as there will be if both are truly charitable, the children will learn too to be understanding and forgiving. Such a home will be a truly happy home even if it has little of the world's riches.

Our charity must spread from the home to our neighbors—to all those with whom we have contact. It is easy to get on with most people, but in every neighborhood and in every village or town there will always be those who are difficult. There will be the dishonest, the tale-bearers, the quarrelsome, the critic of everyone and everything. It is when we have dealings with such people that all our Christian charity is necessary. Most likely we will never be able to change their ways of acting, but charity will enable us to tolerate their faults and will move us to pray for their eternal welfare.

Life for many, if not for most people, has many dark, gloomy and despairing moments. The man or woman who is moved by true Christian charity can bring a beam of sunshine, a ray of hope, into the lives of these people. Fr. Faber in a booklet on kindness has a poem which we could all learn and practice with great profit for ourselves and for a neighbor in need of kindness. He says:

"It was but a sunny smile,
 And little it cost in the giving,
 But it scattered the night like the
 morning light
 And made the day worth living.

It was but a kindly word,
 A word that was lightly spoken,
 yet not in vain for it chilled the
 pain
 Of a heart that was nearly broken.

It was but a helping hand,
 And it seemed of little availing,
 But its clasp was warm, it saved
 from harm
 A brother whose strength was
 failing."

Try the sunny smile of true love,
 the kindly word of Christian
 encouragement, the helping hand
 of true charity, and not only will
 you brighten the darkness and
 lighten the load of your brother
 but you will be imitating in your
 own small way the perfect Father
 of love who is in heaven.

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

Collection February 12, 2023

Envelopes	\$210.00
Loose	\$10.00
	\$220.00

NOTICES:

1: Save the Date: The St. Patrick's Day event in 2020 was the last of our winter events before the COVID19 shutdown. Since then we have had a number of new people move into our communities. A group got together and decided that it was time to have another community get together, and to welcome our new neighbours. So come to the Red Islands Fire Hall on Saturday March 11th, at 7pm. We will have Tea and Desserts and great conversations. So, if you lived in the area for most of your life or just for a few years come and enjoy.

2: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: We are pleased to announce the second season of the Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market. This year the Market will operate 10 am to 1 pm every SUNDAY from June 25 to September 24. Interested vendors should contact johnstownlanding@gmail.com or Rita Campbell 902-631-0209. Note: vendors do not need to commit to attending every week. Johnstown Landing is located across from the Johnstown Parish Hall.

3: Congratulations are due **Louise Campbell** who was recently awarded **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal**. Everyone in this community is aware that Louise provides tireless leadership. Few of us are aware of how very much she does. This honour is given for deep commitment to the service of community, province, and country. We applaud her achievement of this very appropriate honour. We also appreciate that she will blush as she responds to our request to insert this item in the Parish Bulletin; just another of the tasks she manages year in and year out. Congratulations, Louise.

4: Men's Spiritual Reflection Day

“St. Joseph – Husband, Father, Worker – A Model for our Time”

A men's Spiritual Reflection Day Sponsored by KOC Council 9476 will take place on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Parish 1452 Kings Road, Sydney River. With Speakers Rev. Conrad Edwards, F.X MacNeil (Parish Council Chair, OLF) and Deacon Lorne MacNeil (St. Leonard's Parish, New Waterford). Program: Praise & Worship, Rosary, Mass, Teachings, Adoration, Silent Reflection and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please Pre-Register by contacting Frank Howell at 902-562-2957 or by email whowell72@gmail.com. Doors open at 8:30 am for registration. A \$10 registration fee, for the lunch, to be paid at the door. Open to all men.

5: St Joseph Lenten Lecture Series

St Joseph Parish in North Sydney is hosting a lecture series at St. Joseph Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm during lent. 34 Archibald Avenue, North Sydney. Side door of St Joseph Parish Hall
6:30 pm - Lecture, 7:15 pm - Questions, tea & coffee

March 1st - History of the Foodbank in North Sydney by Mr. Lawrence Shebib

March 8th - Palliative Care and Hospice by Dr. Anne Frances D'Intino & Lynette Sawchuk

March 15th - History of the Industrial Areas of CBRM & Diocese of Antigonish by Dr. Peter Ludlow.

March 22nd - Ms. Kathleen MacKenzie - Early history of St. Joseph Parish and Parishioners

We warmly welcome everyone to come.

Peace be with you,

St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council

6: The Season of Lent

A Perspective on Lent from the Pastor

As a child I recall a priest preaching a Lenten Parish Mission threaten, “This could be your last Lent.” Why an intimidating warning? He certainly got our attention, but he also brought a sense of realism to the holy season. Among other things the preacher's intimidating approach reminds of Christ's two comings: At Christmas he comes in humility to address sin, to reveal the compassionate heart of the Father, to offer the gospel's proclamation of the forgiveness of sin, and to reveal the resurrection at the core of the divine plan. At his second coming, however, the Christ will be quite different; his presence will signal the end of time and his purpose will be, as we profess in the creed, “... he will come to judge the living and the dead.”

The preacher's dramatic statement challenged his listeners to take their Christian commitment seriously. We read, “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16: 16) By belief and baptism Jesus did not mean an intellectual experience or undergoing a rite to be interpreted as we like, but they are intended to be life changing events, measures to define and focus one's sense of meaning and purpose.

Lent is an opportunity to revisit one's religious commitments because they have eternal consequences. It is an occasion to revisit the Precepts of the Church that may have become trivialized, and especially, to ask how I am taking advantage of the means of salvation that Christ gave to us at his first coming. For example, what is my

participation at Holy Mass? We read, “By the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass the death of Jesus Christ on the cross confers the grace of salvation to eternal life upon believers. As a sacrament the Mass is “necessary for salvation.” (The Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1129) Nothing, no good works, can compensate for missing Mass. 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

7: Report on damages to St. Ninian’s Place (From an unsigned note)

As you may have heard, St. Ninian Place and the parish offices have suffered tremendous damage as a result of a pipe burst on Sunday, February 5, 2023. The pipe burst shortly after 8:30pm.

I had just left the parish office and everything was fine. Upon arriving at home, I was called back to the office and shocked to see water running like rain through the ceilings. Within a short period of time, the floors were 4 inches deep in water as we gingerly tried to retrieve important documents and avoid falling ceiling tiles.

St Ninian Place kitchen was destroyed and sections of the hardwood floor in St. Ninian Place needs to be replaced. The link between the offices and the Cathedral was damaged so it is not accessible. The vault was not damaged and its contents are secured. All computer equipment and telephones were destroyed; we are in process of trying to retrieve computer data.

St. Ninian Place, Cathedral parish offices, and the link are now considered a construction zone with only authorized personnel being on site. The main Church was not affected and daily mass and funerals continue. Our day to day working plans are still quite fluid. Some parish staff will be working from the Chancery effective this week. Some of us are temporarily in meeting rooms located down the hall.

8: See the film: Mother Teresa: No Greater Love

Mother Teresa is one of the most inspirational figures of the 20th century. In honor of the 25th anniversary of her passing, the Knights of Columbus has produced a feature-length documentary film on the life and legacy of this beloved humanitarian and the singular vision she and her sisters have embraced to serve the poor. Far more than a documentary, this film is a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, and a guidepost for all who seek hope today. Join the Knights of Columbus Council 9476 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall on February 21 following the 6:00 pm Mass to watch this inspiring, feature-length film.