



**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

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

January 21, 2023

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Readings, Cycle A:

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-4*. This reading is another prophecy, concerning the messianic days, given by Isaiah in the eighth century B.C. It describes the new era of liberty and joy, which the future Messiah will usher in.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*. St. Paul corrects the Corinthians for the pride that was causing them to form factions and divisions.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 4:12-23*. The prophet Isaiah announced a future of liberation and great joy for all of Galilee, through the image of light that dispels the darkness in which the people walk. The Gospel, quoting verbatim the same passage of the prophet Isaiah, presents Jesus as the Light thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. He is the light that was promised to dispel the darkness of sin and to free man from the obscurity in which he is enclosed.

The light becomes an efficacious means to express God's involvement in human history. God manifests Himself as 'The Light' that disperses the darkness. The light illuminates, encircles, defines things, emphasises the colours and gives depth to space. The light heartens and comforts: to be in an enlightened place helps us to accept reality for what it is and makes one feel happier, more certain and protected.

God's initiative with regard to men permits them to have a renewed relationship with reality. In God's light everything assumes a new significance, its authentic and definitive meaning. A light which illuminates gives strength and permits the disclosure of the universe and man. This is why, after saying, 'on those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone' (Is 9:1), the text adds, 'you have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing' (Is 9:2).

A joy and happiness that became real in Jesus' presence. He is the promised light that has come into our midst, His physical presence that expresses the definitive arrival of the Light. The light that shines brightly marks God's initiative performing His first merciful and free step towards a wounded humanity.

This dynamic is expressed through Jesus call of the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, 'Follow Me'. Faced with God's sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new 'catch', a new definitive horizon. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples 'you did not choose me, no, I chose you' (Jn 15:16).

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to remember that our personal vocation is founded on God's original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.

Let us ask the Lord, for us and the whole Church, for the gift of a true conversion of our hearts enabling us to receive Christ as the only Light to follow. Christ is the only one that really dispels the darkness within and around us.

**Collection
January 14, 2023**

Envelopes	\$205.00
Jan 01/23	\$25.00
	\$230.00

NOTICES:

1: Please note changes in Mass times: Beginning Saturday, February 4th, 2023 Mass at St. John the Baptist will be at 4:00 PM and St. Peter's at 5:30 PM. **On Sunday, February 5th Mass at Sacred Heart will be at 9:30 AM** and Holy Guardian Angels' Parish at 11:00 AM. This change is made to accommodate those parishioners who do not have the opportunity to attend Mass on Sunday at their own parish. We hope this will be satisfactory for everyone. Mass requests will be changed accordingly.

2: All are invited to the upcoming first Ultreya meeting after the Christmas break!
Will be taking place Thursday, January 26, 2023, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, McMahan room in the basement. Start time is 7:30pm and the event will be livestreamed on the Cursillo Facebook page.

3: T.J. Tracey will be hosting an old-fashioned pancake breakfast at its new location, 6 Churchill Drive, Sydney, 902-539-7175 January 28, 2023, 8:00 – 11:30 am. All proceeds will be going to Loaves & Fishes. We do this annually at our location in Glace Bay for the local food bank there and it is very well received. It would be nice to support the local food bank here as well.

4: Receipts: The 2022 receipts are either in the mail or delivered at mass

5: UPDATE: A steering committee has met and discussion has become on the best way to move forward with the new Fire Hall/Community Hall. The steering committee consists of members from the Fire Department, Sacred Heart Parish, Sacred Heart Ladies Group, Bras d'Or Seniors and the community.

We are still waiting on Public Works to sign over the right-of-way to the Diocese. We have both the Diocese and our MLA working on getting this step completed as soon as possible.

Watch for future updates.

6: Emmaus Center in Membertou is having a sale on the remainder of our Christmas Stock. Sale prices vary depending on the item – January 23-27