



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Samuel* (1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23). The prophet Samuel, on the instruction of God, anointed David to be the second king of Israel. Saul the first king, because he had displeased God, was to lose his kingship. His throne was to pass not to his son, but to David, an unknown stranger from the village of Bethlehem. This reading describes the event that occurred during Saul's search for David. Think of the this story of David's example of mercy, forgiveness and piety today. Compare what he so unjustly suffered and how easily he could have put an end to that suffering, had his respect for God not prevented him. Compare that with your own case of unjust suffering, which is not always so undeserved as your own self-esteem makes out. Perhaps, with God's grace, your piety and the thought of your own need for mercy will enable you to be forgiving and merciful to those who offend you.

The **Second Reading** is taken from *St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1 Cor 15:45-49). In this Chapter of Paul's first letter to Corinthians the Apostle is speaking of the resurrection of all men from the dead. St. Paul himself said he had no human words or images in which to describe a glimpse of heaven which he had had. Neither could he give a positive description of what we shall be like when risen from the dead. However, we have enough knowledge of that happy state to make any sane man want to share in it. We shall be living and certain of never dying again. We shall be free from all anxiety, all care, living in a state of absolute security. We shall be intelligent beings, but much more so than while on this earth, and the scope for the use of our intellect will be infinite. It will be especially God himself, in his divine nature who will be the object of our intellect.

But our knowledge of his infinite nature will cometh us in limited stages, as we shall still be finite beings. It will therefore be for us a new source of joy forever. With such a future awaiting us how trivial are the trials and troubles of life. How happy a moment death should be for the true Christian, for it is the gate to heaven, and the beginning of real life. Our risen life therefore will not be a return to the conditions of the present life, but to those of a life of the spirit, in a spiritual body as St. Paul puts it. It will be the life already possessed by the risen Jesus and communicated from him to those who believe in him.

The **Gospel** is taken from *St. Luke* (Luke 6:27-38). It would at first sight appear that the demands that Christ makes on our charity here are anything but easy. Loving one's enemies is asking a lot. Blessing them and praying for them might be all right for St. Francis but expecting it of us seems to be going very far. Asking for a blow on the second cheek while the first is still twinging with pain seems fit only for a martyr. Not to try to take tack what was stolen from us looks very foolish. Yet it was Christ who made all these demands.

However, before we give up in despair, and decide that this type of Christianity is not for us, let us look a little more closely at the demands that are made. To love our enemy does not mean we must throw our arms about him every time we meet him (he would not let us anyway !). It means we must do all in our power to rid our minds of any hatred of him, and try to see the good that is in him. Not judging and condemning comes under this heading. Human sinful beings that we are, our faculty for seeing in our neighbor the real man as he is before God, is very limited and very prone to error. There are justly convicted robbers and murderers in our jails, in whom God can see a lot of goodness even now, and perhaps future citizens of heaven later on.

Not demanding back what was unjustly taken from us does not mean that we may not have recourse to the legal or other means available to us for obtaining compensation in such cases. What it does forbid is personal (generally forceful) restoration of our rights and property.

Another consoling point to bear in mind is that the vast majority of our fellowmen have no inclination to injure us in our person or our property and will never do so. If we feel we have a lot of enemies only waiting for the chance to pounce on us, we would do well to examine our own consciences very carefully and then look for the many good points there are in our neighbour's character.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, life for life" was the practice amongst the Jews at the time of Christ and for centuries before (Ex. 21 :23-25). Christ sets up the "golden rule" of fraternal charity in place of this Law of Talon. Every man should truly love his neighbor for he is his brother. What is more, Christ's mission on earth has made him a son of God and an heir to heaven. Our chief interest in our neighbor must therefore be a spiritual interest. If he offends us, he offends God which is much more serious. Our charity should help him to seek God's forgiveness. That he should seek ours is of very minor importance in comparison with that.

You would like your neighbour to help you to reach heaven. "You go and do likewise" to your neighbor, and you will both get there.

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

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email louisecampbel@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to the parish, but do not have an envelope you can e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. A receipt will be provided.

Collection
February 16, 2025

Envelopes	\$135.00
Loose	\$10.00
Donation I/M of Elaine MacNeil	\$300.00
	\$445.00

Notices:

1: Pancake Breakfast - Wednesday, February 26th - 9:00 to 11:30 – District 10 Fire Hall in Red Islands All are welcome. Small donations are appreciated but certainly not necessary. No need to reserve a spot, just show up. Gluten free options are available.

2: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet again starting on Thursday January 9th, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

3: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will resume on Wednesday January 8th, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.

4: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER “... a global ecumenical movement... who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.” 2025 Theme: I made you wonderful. This year’s service will be held at St. John the Baptist Church, River Bourgeois, on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 1:30PM.

5: Cold Plate Fundraiser: L'Ardoise Community Centre will be hosting a Cold Plate Fundraiser on Sunday, March 23. The meal includes turkey, ham, potato and macaroni salad, coleslaw, roll and dessert. To purchase tickets contact Raymonde @ 902-587-2675, Andree @ 902-587-2201 or Cotie's Convenience. Deadline for tickets is March 16. \$17.00 per person. Advance sales only. Eat in or take out. Fundraiser is to purchase a new upright freezer. Thanks for your support.

6: Recovery of Pope Francis Message by the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary and CCCB President, praying for the health and recovery of Pope Francis Wednesday, February 19, 2025
As President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), I wish to assure the faithful of Canada that I am united with my brother Bishops in praying for the full recovery of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he continues to lead the Church with courage and a generosity of spirit. I invite individuals, families, parishes, and all Catholic movements and associations in Canada to join their local Bishops in lifting up Pope Francis in their prayers and intentions.
May the Lord, through Our Lady’s powerful intercession, grant him renewed strength, health, and energy in his vocation to serve the Church as the Successor of Peter and the Vicar of Christ on earth.