



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

January 12, 2025

Mass will be held in the
Guadalupe Chapel
(Vestry) for the winter.

The water has been
turned off in the church.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The **First Reading** is from *the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 42:1-4; 6-7*. This prophecy of Isaiah was chosen today's feast which commemorates the baptism of Christ in the Jordan, because on that occasion the Father's voice from heaven proclaimed that Christ was "his beloved servant in whom he was well pleased." Following the interpretation of the inspired Evangelists and of the ancient and constant tradition of the Church, we can have no hesitation in seeing in these works of Isaiah, written five centuries or so before Christ, a description of the Savior who came on earth to teach Jew and Gentile the new law of God, the law of love and mercy.

The **Second Reading** is from *the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38*. These verse of Acts are read for use today because they contain a reference to our Lord's baptism. That day, nearly two thousand years ago, when Christ by his baptism in the Jordan, began his public preaching of salvation for all men, is a day—a feastday—no true Christian can ever forget. The baptism of John was for sinners—a sign of change of heart and a turning to God. Christ had no sin, he had never turned away from God, he was God—but he was the representative of sinful humanity. He represented us sinners that day and opened the door of salvation for us. In that ceremony Christ was proclaimed by the heavenly Father to be his son and faithful servant, and the power of the Holy Spirit came upon him.

But this was all for us; as God he already had all things in common with the Father and the Holy Spirit. But in his human nature—our weak human nature—he was one that day proclaimed God's true and faithful servant. At the same moment we human beings were accepted *in him and through him* as God's adopted children.

The mission of Christ was for us. There is no comparison between what God has prepared for us, and promises us, and the trifling conditions he asks us to fulfill in order to earn his promised reward.

The **Gospel for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** is from *Luke 3:15-16; 21-22*. Of the hundreds of Jews who had flocked to hear John the Baptist's message, and who were present when Christ insisted on going through John's baptismal rite and who had probably heard the words from heaven proclaiming him to be the expected Messiah, only two left the Baptist and followed him. One of these was Andrew and the other was most probably John the Evangelist. Later in that day Andrew told Peter, his brother, that he had found the Messiah and Peter joined him, too.

What was wrong with the hundreds of others? We are told they were all agog about the Messiah and were wondering in their hearts if John was not he. Yet when the real Messiah was pointed out to them they did nothing about it. John had told them the Messiah would baptize them, not with water as he did, but with the Holy Spirit of God, and with fire. As Jews they must have understood that this meant he would make of them a holy people, a spiritual people, a people close to God and cleansed from all earth attachments.

Was it this that held them back? Were their hearts so centered on the things of earth, the things of this life, that they had no time for the things spiritual? Were they so anxious for a king, a messiah, who would set them free from the hated pagan Romans and give them once more a powerful earthly kingdom, that talk of the kingdom of God and of a spiritual life made no impression on them? Their dealings with Christ during his public mission amongst them, their disbelief, their opposition, their persecution, which led eventually to the death on the cross answer these questions for us. The vast majority of the Jews of that day did not want a spiritual Messiah or kingdom. They were interested in a heaven of the future, they wanted their heaven, their happiness, and prosperity here on earth.

Before we pass any judgment on such folly let us have a look into our own hearts today. We are Christians, we are followers of Christ, we know he was God, we believe his word. We are convinced that getting to heaven is more important than getting all the treasures and pleasures this earth has to offer. But do we always live up to these convictions, are we true Christians the seven days of the week? In our work, in our speech, in our dealings with others, in our family life are we truly following Christ and his teaching?

Is my way of life, my daily conduct, such that it would cause a non-Christian to say: "That man has something noble and sensible about him, that man is concerned with the things that really matter; that man has an inward peace and sense of security which I have not got, a sense of peace and security which comes not from the things of this world. I must find out what it is and get it for myself?"

In all sincerity I cannot see any non-Christian speaking thus of me today, but helped by God's grace, it could and may be truly said of me in the days to come. God grant that this may be so.

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

News Year Day
January 05, 2025

Envelopes	\$135.00
Loose	\$5.00
	\$140.00

Notices:

1: Envelopes for 2025: The 2025 envelopes are now available.

2: Church DeDecorating: Thank you to all who stayed and helped to take the Christmas decorations down and to set up the Vestry for the winter.

3: 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.

4: 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.

5: Gaelic for Beginners: Start you new year right by learning Scottish Gaelic. Whether you have a little Gaelic or no Gaelic, this is the class for you. Join eight weeks of Gaelic instruction in a fun, interactive and conversational style. Brush up on those phrases you've heard your elders say. Where: Red Islands Fire Hall. When Wednesdays, starting January 15th. Time: 2:30 – 4:30. Cost \$40.00 Call to register at 902-217-2088

6: The Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 is an opportunity for all people to enter into a pilgrimage of hope. Whether we celebrate locally in our dioceses, cathedrals, or Canada's National Shrines, our local shrines or make a pilgrimage to Rome, we are called to search for signs of hope and be signs of hope in our families, for our neighbours, the imprisoned, the sick, and dying, the young and old. The Jubilee Year will remain open until December 28, 2025. For more on the Jubilee: <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/jubilee-2025/> Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick

7: Vatican II: From January until May, Fr. Bill Burke will be presenting a series of eight sessions on the documents of Vatican II. The first two will take place Sunday, January 19 and Sunday, January 26 at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish from 2:00-4:00pm. All are welcome. The sessions will be livestreamed. Future dates will be announced by the end of January.

8: The Municipality of the County of Richmond is conducting a needs assessment and feasibility study to explore the development of a new multi-use facility. The study will evaluate the anticipated service needs, associated costs, and opportunity for improvements to help the Municipality decide whether to proceed with the facility's development.

To support this process, Architecture49, in partnership with WSP Canada Inc. and Nustadia Recreation have been engaged to collaborate with Municipal staff. The study is now in the design development phase and we're excited to share the proposed design with you.

We invite you to attend a Public Open House to review the design, ask questions, and provide valuable feedback. Your input will ensure the facility meets the diverse needs of Richmond County residents and serves as a hub for recreation, community gatherings, events, and more!

When and Where:

- Scratch Eats Market: January 16th, 2025, 11:30am – 1:30pm, 2392 Hwy 206, Arichat, NS B0E 1A0
- Richmond Arena: January 16th, 2025, 7:00pm – 9:00pm, 3122 Whiteside Rd, Louisdale, NS B0E 1V0
- The Farmer's Pantry: January 17th, 2025, 9:45am – 11:45am, 10042 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, NS B0E 3B0

Unable to attend a session? View the proposed design and share your feedback online.

Online Platform: Multi-Use Facility Design Feedback Form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mocr-phase2?fbclid=IwY2xjawHuAztleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaTBOLGubNNagVLjkwq0KkfC3X5uzOfbW6qbppU48C82U1hfNMeyG_uOgA_aem_3TAA_dg00PmqNFTiprCICw