



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

January 19, 2025

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

The water has been
turned off in the church.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 62:1-5*. Isaiah compares Yahweh to a young man who marries a virgin. His love transforms her. She used to be called "Forsaken." Now she has a new name, "My Delight."

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians*, 12:4-11 and teaches that God is the origin of spiritual gifts. The various graces which the members of the Church receive are a living reflection of God who, being essentially one, and so is a trinity of persons. Therefore, diversity of gifts and graces is as important as their basic unity, because all have the same divine origin and the same purpose—the common good. —Excerpted from *The Navarre Bible, Corinthians*

The **Gospel** is from *John 2:1-12*. There are many lessons we can learn from this incident in Christ's life: for example, Christ's approval of marriage—there were some heretical sects later who said marriage was sinful, unfit for a Christian. Or we could see in it the intercessory power of our blessed Mother. Christ anticipated his "hour" for working miracles in order to grant her request. But the theme of today's readings is the goodness and kindness of God and we surely have a convincing proof of that loving kindness in today's gospel story.

Christ worked his first miracle in order to grant a temporal favor, an earthly gift, to save the newly-married groom from embarrassment. It had the other effects of convincing his very recent disciples of their belief that he was the expected Messiah, and also it convinces all Christians of the efficacy of our Lady's intercession for us, but its primary purpose was to confer a temporal benefit on the groom.

By this kind act he has shown us that he is interested in our earthly affairs also. He became man in order that we could become sons of God, he came on earth so that we could go to heaven, but this miracle at Cana proves that he has a deep interest in our many and varied activities during the course of our journey to heaven.

He told us "ask and you shall receive." That "shall" is very definite, our prayers will be answered, and what we should ask for is not only spiritual gifts, but the temporal aids also which we need. The "shall" applies to them too, as the miracle of Cana proves. We shall get our temporal requests, provided of course that they won't impede us on our journey to heaven. No kind father would give his child a gift that would injure him—God is the kindest of fathers and he sees what will or will not impede or endanger our eternal happiness. We can and should therefore make our temporal needs known to God in our prayers, confident that he will give us what we ask if it is for our real good.

But, someone may object: how often have I asked God for temporal favors I needed so badly, and my prayer was unanswered? Was it unanswered really? Perhaps you did not get the exact thing you asked for but you got something more useful, more necessary, something you never thought of asking for, but the good God saw your need of it. We have a father in heaven who really loves us, and cares for us, let us make our temporal, as well as our spiritual needs, known to him in confident prayer. Our requests will not go unanswered.

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

Collection January 12, 2025

Envelopes	\$195.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Loose	\$10.00
Election Rental for Hall	\$227.11
	\$442.11

Notices:

1: Statement for 2024: The 2024 statement is now available in the church.

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: 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

5: 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.

6: What is a Jubilee, Holy Year?

On Christmas Eve, 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica to open the Jubilee 2025. In the December 2024 issue of Columbia magazine, Supreme Knight, Patrick E. Kelly, wrote an article entitled, The Anchor of Hope, in which he described a jubilee. I quote from Mr. Kelly's article, pg. 3.

“In the Catholic tradition, a jubilee year, also called a holy year, is celebrated every 25 years. It's an ancient practice, dating back to 1300. The Church teaches that a jubilee year is a special time of reconciliation and conversion - an opportunity to look back on our lives, to ask the Lord for forgiveness and to seek his help as we strive to lead lives of greater holiness. Pilgrimage is also a fundamental aspect of a holy year. Most especially, it's a year to encounter Christ through the grace of the sacraments - particularly, the Eucharist and reconciliation.

“The opening of the Holy Door is also an ancient practice that is rich in symbolism. It recalls the words of Christ: “I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture (John 10: 9). By walking through the Holy Door, pilgrims affirm that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the gatekeeper, and make an intentional decision to be guided by Christ.

“Pope Francis has made hope the central theme of the Jubilee 2025. An estimated 35 million ‘pilgrims of hope’ will travel to Rome during the holy year. “Writing about the jubilee year, the Holy Father reminds us that hope is the virtue that gives our lives “inward direction and purpose” (Spes Non Confundit, 18).

“The Christian symbol of hope is the anchor, Pope Francis explains, because it “helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life.” He then adds, “The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope... makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called.” (25)

Hope is an essential virtue, but it can be elusive in our day-to-day lives. The scriptures remind us that, as Christians, hope is our inheritance. The author of the Letter to Hebrews tells us that God has made us a promise so that “we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner.” (6: 18-20)”

9: TEA and TALK Sydney Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:30 -3:30 pm

An invitation to join with other women to share TEA and TALK at Holy Redeemer Convent 24 Neville St. Whitney Pier, just behind the Pier Post Office.

This invitation is open to women of all ages. This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with others to simply share a cup of tea and to experience the joy of being together. For further information phone 902 270 4840 or 902 539 6331.