



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

July 27, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Genesis, 18:20-32*. Last week we heard of Abraham's encounter with the three visitors and the promise of a son. Today we hear of Abraham's bargaining with God over the fate of Sodom.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of Paul to the *Colossians, 2:12-14*. To better understand today's reading, it is necessary to back up one verse: "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ." The "circumcision of Christ" to which Paul refers is baptism. In the Old Covenant, the rite of initiation into God's family was circumcision. In the New Covenant, this same rite of initiation is baptism. In the Old Covenant, the mark was on the physical body but under the New Covenant, the mark is placed on the soul.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke, 11:1-13* in which we hear Luke's rendition of the "Our Father" and Jesus' teaching on prayer.

The Our Father is certainly the most sublime formula possible and contains the whole essence of the most elevated mental prayer. However, Jesus gave it as a formula for vocal prayer: "When you pray, say. . ." (ibid. 11:2). This is enough to make us understand the value and importance of vocal prayer, which is within the reach of everyone even children, the uneducated, the sick, the weary.... But we must realize that vocal prayer does not consist only in the repetition of a certain formula. If this were true, we should have a recitation but not a prayer, for prayer always requires a movement, an elevation of the soul toward God. In this sense, Jesus instructed His disciples:

"When thou shalt pray, enter into thy chamber, and having shut the door, pray to thy Father in secret.... And when you are praying, speak not much as the heathens" (Mt 6:6-7). It is interesting to note that in St. Matthew these prescriptions concerning the exterior and interior dispositions necessary for well-made prayer immediately precede the teaching of the *Our Father*.

Therefore, in order that our vocal prayer be real prayer, we must first recollect ourselves in the presence of God, approach Him, and make contact with Him. Only when we have such dispositions will the words we pronounce with our lips express our interior devotion and be able to sustain and nourish it. Unfortunately, inclined as we are to grasp the material part of things instead of the spiritual, it is only too easy in our vocal prayer to content ourselves with a mechanical recitation, without taking care to direct our heart to God; hence we should always be vigilant and alert. Vocal prayer made only by the lips dissipates and wearies the soul instead of recollecting it in God; it cannot be said that this is a means of uniting us more closely to Him.

—*Divine Intimacy* Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D

Collection July 20, 2025

Envelopes	\$280.00
Loose	\$120.00
Cemetery Fund	\$50.00
	\$450.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: The Market will operate 10:00 am to 1 pm every SUNDAY from June 29 to September 7th. Interested vendors should call 902-631-0209. Note: vendors do not need to commit to attending every week. Johnstown Landing is located across from the Johnstown Parish Hall.

2: Cemetery Mass: Sunday August 10th –9:00 am

3: Pancake Breakfast: Sunday August 10th – 10:00 am

Pancakes, Sausage, eggs, tea and coffee

Johnstown Parish Hall, 15290 Highway 4

\$12.00 per person

4: Musique Royale 40th Summer Festival with the Halifax Rättvik Trio:

Thursday August 14 at 7 pm

Sacred Heart Church:

Halifax Rättvik Trio Featuring Jennifer Publicover (flutes); Peter Rousu (guitar, bass), and Stefan Ekedahl (cello, flutes, bagpipes), the trio is a trans-Atlantic collaboration and exploration of folk genres between Canada and Sweden, as well as all the geographical points in between. Hear music from their new album Havet!

5: Fifth World Day For Grandparents and the Elderly This year's theme chosen by Pope Francis, 'Blessed are those who have not lost hope' (cf. Sir 14:2), fits into the context of the Jubilee of Hope, and invites us to recognize in the elderly not only recipients of pastoral attention, but witnesses of hope and active protagonists of ecclesial life. Their life and faith experience is a valuable heritage, capable of enriching new generations and strengthening the community fabric. To read the Message of Pope Leo XIV and learn more:

<https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/eventi/2025/fifthworld-day-for-granparents-and-the-elderly.html>

Sunday, July 27, 2025 9:00 AM ♥For Grandparents and the Elderly

6: Join us in celebrating the United Church of Canada's Centennial Anniversary, Friday, August 1 st , 2025 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Bonnie Brae Seniors Club, 14 Toulouse St., St. Peter's, NS Cost: Free. Drop in for live music by Jason MacDonald, games, refreshments, hot dogs, cake and historical milestones from the past century. Bring a friend, share a laugh, and be part of this joyful day. Whether you are a longtime member or new to the community, it is a chance to connect and celebrate together.

7: Highland Village Day Concert

Saturday August 2, 2025

2:00pm – 6:00pm

Enjoy an afternoon of fun and Gaelic arts and experience traditional Nova Scotia Gaelic culture in this outdoor concert overlooking the scenic Bras d'Or Lake. The 64th Annual Highland Village Day Concert will feature Adam Baldwin, Lucy MacNeil, Bradley Murphy & Mia Gould, Andrea Beaton, Cameron and Aidan MacNeil, Beinn Mhàbu Trio, Joanne MacIntyre and Sons, Susan MacLean, MacArthur School of Dance, Highland Village Cleasaichean (and more!), and will be hosted by Matt Moore.

Admission \$20 per person, children 12 and under free. Tickets available at the gate (gates open at 12PM). Bring your own chair!

8: Milling Frolic – the 93rd Milling Frolic is only about a month away. Please remember that we are looking for donations for the Fancy Booth (crafts, sewing, knitting, etc), Bake Sale and Lunch

9: Schedule of Events that will take place at the Johnstown Parish Hall this summer: More information will be provided as the event get closer

Sunday August 10th – Cemetery Mass – 9:00 am

Sunday August 10th – Pancake Breakfast – 9:45 am

Friday August 22nd – 93rd Annual Milling Frolic and Square Dance: Music for the dance will be provide by Keith, Kyle and Colin MacDonald