



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

March 02, 2025

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Sirach 27:4-7*. The author was a wise and pious Jew who lived about 200 B.C. His purpose in writing was to encourage his fellow Jews to live devout lives following the Law of Moses and the pious traditions handed down to them. He treats of the individual, of the family and of the community, of their relations with one another and with God. In these verses he emphasizes how a man's speech shows up his character and his religious outlook.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58*. St. Paul is speaking of the resurrection of the dead which the death and resurrection of Christ have won for us. In these verses St. Paul ends his discussion on death and resurrection with a hymn of triumph.

The **Gospel** is taken from *St. Luke (6:39-45)*. These statements of Christ spoken centuries ago to his fellow Jews of Palestine are as true and as crystal clear today as they were in the year 29 A.D. They are the words of him who was the Truth. They are put before us today for there are few amongst us who do not need to be reminded of their lesson. We are all so prone to see the neighbor's faults and shortcomings and so inclined to cover up or deny our own.

While we ourselves are blind to, or wanting in, many necessary virtues, yet we can spot this lack in our brother Christian and have the audacity to offer to lead him on the right road. We are often lacking in the basic knowledge of the teachings of our faith and yet we can find a thousand faults in the official doctrine of the teaching Church. We can all criticize minor defects in our neighbor's Christian behavior whilst our own Christian way of living is giving far greater scandal.

In other words, most if not all of us, are to some degree hypocrites. We pretend to be what we are not, but should be. We pretend to be producing good fruit: figs and grapes, whereas we are only thornbushes and brambles which produce nothing but harmful thorns which sting and poison ourselves and our neighbors. And while I am making these comments I shouldn't be at all surprised if some of my listeners are saying in their hearts: "Mrs. X or John Y is getting it today, I hope they are taking it in," when what we should all be saying is: "How truly our Lord read my heart. How many times in the past week have I criticized my fellow men without knowing all, or any perhaps, of the true facts. How seldom have I honestly examined my own conscience to see my own more serious defects and tried to correct them?"

When our Lord spoke these words, his purpose and intention was not to condemn his hearers, the vast majority of whom were guilty of the defects he mentioned, but rather to open their minds and their hearts to their shortcomings so that they would change for the better and learn to live with their neighbor's faults, and do all in their power to correct their own.

It is for the very same purpose the Church has selected this particular lesson for us today. We are all guilty of rash judgment and unjustified criticism, to a greater or lesser degree. Let us turn this criticism on ourselves rather, and judge ourselves honestly and sincerely and in a short while we may, with God's grace helping us, notice a change in our Christian conduct. We shall not become saints in a week or a month but little by little, imperceptibly at first perhaps, we shall find ourselves becoming more Christian and therefore more charitable towards our neighbor and less critical of the faults of others.

—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 23, 2025**

Envelopes	\$230.00
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Notices:

1: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group meets every Thursday, 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.

2: Next weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers Wednesday March 5th, 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.

3: A Classical music Concert will be held at St. Mary's Church. East Bay, Sunday, March 2, at 3:00 p.m. Admission: donation at the door. The concert features Katheryn Gordon on piano, Barbel Albert on violin and Geffrey Lee-Dadswell on cello.

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: St. Patrick's Day Supper: St Patrick's Day is on its way. We are planning our Irish Stew dinner for 5:00pm on Monday, March 17th. The menu will include Irish stew, dinner rolls and dessert, with tea and coffee. The cost will be 13.00 per person. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can join us at District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

If you are planning to attend, please email howardmacintyre@gmail.com, or call 902-631-5643 to let us know how many will be in your party, for food planning purposes.

6: Tea and Tunes Sunday March 9, Bonnie Brae Club 2-4 Wayne Tyrone and Mannie. Admission 5 dollars Half and Half tickets sold Light Lunch will be served.

7: 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.

8: The Catholic Women's League The Catholic Women's League invites you to St. Peter's Journey: A Story of Faith, Repentance, and the Transformative Power of God's Grace, experienced through scripture, art, music, and reflection. This powerful Lenten event offers a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for Easter. There will be two one-hour live performances: Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7 pm, Holy Redeemer Church, 1135 Victoria Road, Sydney, NS and Sunday, March 23, 2025 2 pm, St Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, 40 Cabot Street, Sydney, NS. All performances are free of charge. Everyone is welcome. Join us for fellowship after each presentation! Bring a friend and be inspired by the story of the man who became the rock of the Church!

9: French Mass: There will be a Mass in French at the Centre Communautaire Étoile de L'Acadie (**15 Inglis St, Sydney, NS**) on Saturday March 8, 2025 at 5:30PM. Pot Luck supper to follow along with music from Le Cercle Musicale de la région de Sydney. Everyone welcome !

Il y aura une messe en français au Centre Communautaire Etoile de l'Acadie, (**15 rue Inglis, Sydney, N-É**) samedi le 8 mars , 2025 à 17:30. Un souper de genre " Pot Luck " suivra avec de la musique par Le Cercle Musicale de la région de Sydney. Tous sont les bienvenus!

10 : THE MANY FACES OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER

You are invited to join us for two sessions on prayer and the many ways we can come to God in our prayer.

1. Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 10:00 until 12:00
2. Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 10:00 until 12:00
3. (Weather Date if needed) Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 10:00 until 12:00

Sessions will be held at Bethel Presbyterian Church Hall, 9 Brookland St, Sydney.

Sessions are facilitated by members of the Cape Breton Local of the Atlantic Association of Spiritual Directors. There is no fee although a donation is welcomed. Registration is required to reserve your space.

To register, please contact: Gary Fancey (gafancey@netscape.net) (902-862-7580) or Julia Townsend (juliat@eastlink.ca) (902-562-8423)