

2ND Sunday of LENT

- Gn 15:5-12,17-18
- Ps 27
- Phil 3:17-4:1
- Lk 9:28-36



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Genesis 15:5-12; 17-18*. God made a Covenant or pact with Abram in which he promised to make Abram the father of a great race to which he would give the land of Canaan as their territory. The faith of Abram is praised because he believed God's promise, i.e., that he would have descendants even though his wife Sarah was barren.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of *St. Paul to the Philippians 3:17; 4:1*. In the preceding verses St. Paul has been telling his converts that he has given up all earthly things for the sake of the Christian faith and promise. He admits he is far from perfect but he continues to press forward on the road to heaven.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 9:28-36*. It was out of the abundance of his divine love that God gave a glimpse of the future glory of Christ in his risen humanity to the three disciples on that memorable occasion. And with Christ he showed two others of his faithful servants also in glory. He understood the human weakness of the disciples, and foresaw the shock to their faith which the sad scenes of the passion and crucifixion of their beloved Master would be some weeks later. So, to strengthen and forearm them for that sad trial, he gave them a glimpse of the future glory which was to be theirs, too, if they persevered.

It is for this same reason that this all-important event in the life of Christ and of his Apostles has been preserved for us in the Gospels and is put before us today.

Like the Apostles, we, too, believe firmly in God. We, too, are convinced that Christ was sent by God to bring us to heaven. We now have much more convincing proof that Christ was not only the Messiah, an envoy of God, but the very Son of God—something the Apostles did not then understand. But we are still very like them in our human weakness, and in our half-hearted acceptance of God's purpose for and promises to us.

The Apostles had to face the awful test to their faith and trust in God, which the passion and crucifixion of Christ was for them. We now accept with gratitude and realize that Christ "had to suffer and thus enter into his glory." We even understand that the very purpose of Christ's passion was that, in spite of our mortality and weakness, we also might enter into eternal glory through his suffering, on condition that we remain true to our faith.

In our moments of cool, calm reasoning we can see clearly how good God has been to us, how wonderful his love which has arranged for us an eternity of happiness, the perfect fulfillment of every rational human desire. We can also see how little God asks of us during our few short years here, in return for the everlasting happy home he has prepared for us.

But unfortunately we have many moments in life in which cool, calm reasoning does not prevail. We have moments when our vices and not our virtues take charge, moments when we are prepared to sell our eternal heritage in exchange for a mess of earthly pottage. Some of us may already have bartered our heavenly home for some temporal gain or pleasure—but while there is life there is hope. We can still put things right with God.

"Lord, it is good for us to be here"; it is wonderful to be adopted sons of God on the road back to our Father. It is wonderful to be assured that in death this body of ours with its pains and aches, its attraction to earthly things and worse still its propensity to sin, will give place to a glorified body. This glorified body will be free from all pain and corruption and will possess all the human spiritual gifts of intelligence and will to so much greater a degree as will enable us to appreciate and enjoy the eternal happiness in store for us.

—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 March 02, 2025

Envelopes	\$265.00
Heat	\$140.00
	\$405.00

No Mass on March 9.

Notices:

1: 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.

2: 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.

3: Wednesday Morning Coffee get together Wednesday March 12th, 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: 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.

5: TEA and TALK : Sydney Tuesday, March 18, 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.

6: 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)

7: Jubilee Pilgrim's Way

March 19 – December 28, 2025

Our Diocesan Pilgrim's Way for the Jubilee Year includes parishes, shrines, and sacred celebrations honouring namesake saints, cultures, and traditions woven into the rich tapestry of our diocese.

The Way begins with the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, and ends with the Jubilee closing Mass at St. Ninian Cathedral, Antigonish.

Passports are being prepared. Map now available online:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/pilgrims-way/>

We are invited to visit any of our diocesan sites on or around their special dates, or at any time throughout the year. Events for each site will be posted online and shared via bulletin notices as details are available. Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine is listed.

8: Camino Nova Scotia

Since 2014, as part of the educational outreach of the Atlantic School of Theology, Camino Nova Scotia has "made pilgrimage local." Pilgrimage is spiritual travel for transformation. Camino Nova Scotia offers guided group walking pilgrimages in—you guessed it—Nova Scotia!

This summer we are offering Caminos along the South Shore of Nova Scotia and on the Western shore of Cape Breton Island, both of which highlight the seaside beauty of our beautiful province. Join us on pilgrimage and discover more about yourself in community, as you also discover the Gaelic, Mi'kmaq, and Acadian histories of the Land under your feet.

Visit www.caminonovascotia.ca for more information.