



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Joshua*, 5:9, 10-12. Today's reading recounts the celebration of the Passover in the Promised Land by Joshua and those who had sojourned with him in the desert for 40 years.

The **Second Reading** is from the second letter of Paul to the *Corinthians*, 5:17-21. The reconciliation of mankind with God has been brought about by Christ's death on the cross. Jesus, who is like men in all things "yet without sinning" bore the sins of men and offered himself on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for all those sins, thereby reconciling men to God; through this sacrifice we became the righteousness of God.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke* 15:1-3, 11-32. This reading recounts the parable of the Prodigal Son, one of Jesus' most beautiful parables. It teaches us once more that God is a kind and understanding Father. The son who asks for his part of the inheritance is a symbol of the person who cuts himself off from God through sin. "Although the word 'mercy' does not appear, [this parable] nevertheless expresses the essence of the divine mercy in a particularly clear way" (John Paul II, *Dives in misericordia*, 5).

Mercy — as Christ has presented it in the parable of the prodigal son — has *the interior form of the love* that in the New Testament is called *agape*. This love is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to every form of moral misery, to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and 'restored to value'. The father first and foremost expresses to him his joy, that he has been 'found again' and that he has 'returned to life'. This joy indicates a good that has remained intact: even if he is a prodigal, a son does not cease to be truly his father's son; it also indicates a good that has been found again, which in the case of the prodigal son was his return to the truth about himself" (*Dives in misericordia*, 6).

Laetare Sunday: Jerusalem, Our Mother

Easter is coming! With childlike joy the Church begins to count the days. Just as on the third Sunday of Advent we felt the thrill and happiness of Christmas, so now we anticipate the joy of Easter. Herein lies the whole significance of Laetare Sunday. It brings to the catechumens a foretaste of the good things they will receive at Easter: e.g., the grace of divine worship, a new spiritual mother in holy Church, the Eucharist as the true manna. And we, the faithful, awaken in our breasts a new consciousness of these tremendous blessings.

Easter will soon be here! That is the new theme which permeates and dominates this Sunday's liturgy. From it all other motifs and topics take their inspiration. Christ, the new Moses, provides heavenly manna, the Eucharist, for His disciples. He leads them to the heavenly Jerusalem, the Church, and makes them God's free children.

Sunday March 30th will be the last Sunday in the Vestry. We will be moving back into the main church for Sunday April 6th.

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 23, 2025

Envelopes	\$160.00
Cemetery	\$50.00
Fund I/M of Denise MacDonald	
	\$210.00

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. Last sewing day will be Thursday April 10th.

2: Wednesday Morning Coffee get together Wednesday March 26th, 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: Gaelic Classes: An 8-week session of beginner Gaelic classes starting Wednesday, March 26. \$40
Contact Cathy for more details at 902-217-2088

4: Fish Cake Supper - Friday April 18th, 4:00 pm Eat In or Take Out - Fish Cakes, Homemade Beans, Biscuits, Cost \$12.00, Johnstown Parish Hall. If you would like to donate a package of salted cod bits, or would like to order a meal please contact the following: Louise: 902-535-3107 Barbara: 902-828-2079 Rita: 902-631-0209 Edie: 902-322-6543 or email louisecampbel@gmail.com

5: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: We are pleased to announce the fourth season of the Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market. This year 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.

6: Chair Yoga 55+ Chair yoga is a great way for older adults to get the wonderful health benefits of yoga. It also makes yoga accessible to more people. Staying seated while doing yoga means that even frail seniors or those who aren't flexible can safely do the exercises. The benefits of chair yoga for older adults include loosening and stretching painful muscles, reducing chronic pain, decreasing stress, and improving circulation. It also reduces anxiety, helps lower blood pressure, protects joints, builds strength and balance. Instructor: Lynne Doucette **Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, for 10 weeks, beginning April 9 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm, Fee: \$30**

7: Gentle Yoga 55+ For seniors who are looking for a safe, effective way to enhance their physical health and overall wellness, the stretching, breathing, and meditation practices of yoga can be a great solution. In fact, as you will see, doing yoga regularly can result in a host of benefits for older adults, from greater flexibility and improved balance to lower stress and better sleep. Instructor: Lynne Doucette **Red Islands Fridays, for 10 weeks, beginning April 11 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Fee: \$30**

8: Easter Confession Schedule at Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney River

Saturday, April 12/25

10:00 Bill Burke
11:00 Doug Murphy
12:00 Fr. Alphonus
1:00 David Rankin
2:00 Bedford Doucette
3:00 Fr. Conrad Edwards

9: Holy Week Celebrations

Chrism Mass Monday, April 14, 2025, at 3:00 pm Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral

Note: Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations. Following the instructions on the Sacred Triduum from the Clergy Days (November 2023), and with the bishop's permission that emphasized that the Sacred Triduum is one liturgy and should be celebrated in one parish church, the following schedule is close to the ideal.

This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at Holy Guardian Angels Church.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Thursday, April 17, 2025 HGA 4:00 PM

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, April 18, 2025 HGA 3:00 PM

Note:

Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

The Resurrection of the Lord

At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Saturday, April 19, 2025 HGA 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 20, 2025

Sacred Heart 9:00 AM

St. Peters 11:00 AM