



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

The **First Reading** is taken from *Acts 13:14, 43-52* and the event described takes place in the middle of St. Paul's first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas quote *Isaiah 49:6* in support of their decision to preach to the Gentiles. The *Isaiah* text referred to Christ, ...but now Paul and Barnabas apply it to themselves because the Messiah is "light for the Gentiles" through the preaching of the Apostles, for they are conscious of speaking in Christ's name and on his authority. —*The Navarre Bible—Acts of the Apostles*

The **Second Reading** is from the Book of *Revelation 7:9, 14b-17*. Last week we heard St. John describing his vision of the heavenly liturgy where he saw the Lamb of God in the Holy of Holies in His perpetual offering to God, the heavenly offering of Jesus Himself which we join at every Mass. Today we join St. John as he again views this heavenly liturgy and describes the Church in heaven (what we call the Church Triumphant) as it glorifies God.

The **Gospel** is from *John 10:27-30*. This Sunday is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus intended the beautiful parable of the Good Shepherd with its many consoling truths and promises for men of every century, including the twentieth. We are all too prone to evaluate the words of the Gospel in an exclusively historical sense. The liturgy's primary aim is to portray the present, not the past, to give grace and life along with history. You must, therefore, give the parable a present day context, apply it personally. After each sentence stop and say: Christ is doing this today — and to help me.

The parable brings to our attention three consoling truths: Christ gives His life for His sheep; He remains with them constantly through the bond of grace; He will not rest content until there be but one flock and one shepherd.

Now how do these points affect me personally? a) My Shepherd's death means my deliverance—why, even at this very moment of Mass, redemption's graces are flooding my soul. b) Between Christ and myself there must exist a closer intimacy than even that between brothers, relatives, or friends. c) It is through Christ's efforts that I have been brought into the fold, and He is ever striving to make me a more perfect member of His flock.

In order to realize these ends, Christ instituted His Church. This Church is His representative. There we may approach Him, there He is close to us, there He continues His presence: "I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world." Through the Church He speaks to us; in the Church flow the rivers of grace from Calvary's Cross; by means of the Church Christ seeks to become united personally with each of us. Oh, if we only would regard the Church as Christ mystically present in our midst! At this point I would like to single out two ways by which Christ fulfills His office of Shepherd in the Church, viz., through His words and through His very body.

The words He spoke will never die. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Christ's words are as pregnant with life now as when they were first spoken. They give us the mind of our Good Shepherd as He instructs, warns, and consoles us; they are the words of a father, a mother, a brother, a friend, a judge. Once upon a time Christ's words performed miracles, they have not lost their power! "Young man, I say to you: arise. This day you shall be with Me in paradise." Treasure Christ's words most highly.

Christ's body in the Eucharist gives flesh to His words in the Gospel. Never disjoin one from the other. For together they constitute our most valuable earthly treasure, together they give us the whole Christ. What He promises in the Gospel He fulfills in the Eucharist. And thus the Mass, comprising the word and the body of Christ, brings Him completely to us. In the Gospel He says, "I am the Good Shepherd"—in the Eucharistic Sacrifice the Good Shepherd becomes present. In the Gospel He proclaims, "I lay down My life for My sheep"—in the Eucharistic Sacrifice He pours His life into our souls. In the Gospel He tells us, "I know Mine and Mine know Me"—in the Eucharistic Sacrifice He fulfills His claim: Whoever eats My flesh abides in Me and I in Him. In the Gospel He says, "Other sheep I have ... them also must I bring"—through the Eucharistic Sacrifice He builds up His flock, gathering stray sheep into the fold.

These, then, are our two greatest treasures, Christ's words and Christ's body. By embracing both we embrace our Savior whole and entire.

—*The Church's Year of Grace*,
Pius Parsch

Collection
May 04, 2025
No Collection

Notices:

1: 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.

2: COMFORT TEA ... Come For Tea - May 21, 2025: We all experience many types of losses throughout our lives. To promote awareness of the impact of grief, you are invited to join us for a beverage and sweets. You may bring a friend, photo, memento, or memory to share or just be with others who understand. 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 at the Johnstown Parish Hall, 15290 Highway 4, Johnstown, N.S. Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society and Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association Healing Pathways. All are welcome.

3: Gaelic Workshop Saturday, May 31 10 - 3 Red Islands Firehall Instructor: Stacie MacLean Beginner to Intermediate level \$10 We will be making the mid-day meal as part of the class.

4: Heavy Garbage Collection Schedule:

Waste should be placed curbside by 8am on Monday of the scheduled collection week for the area. Items placed at the curb after collection has started in the are may not be collected.

Week 3 (May 19 – 25)

Johnstown, Loch Lomond to St. Peters

Please see: <https://www.richmondcounty.ca/news-and-announcements/> for items that are allowed/not allowed

5: Public Notice

May 1, 2025

The Municipality of the County of Richmond is proud to support the launch of the **Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR)**.

The VVPR is a voluntary, self-referral list of individuals who may require support during emergency situations. It provides important information to Emergency Management staff, volunteers, and first responders to help appropriately respond to resident needs in situations such as sustained power outages, severe storms, and more.

Who should consider registering?

Individuals who reside in Richmond County who experience severe difficulty with any of the following :

- Mobility
- Vision loss
- Hearing loss
- Developmental disabilities
- Cognitive impairment
- Mental health conditions
- Persons who require electricity for life-saving equipment such as oxygen and dialysis

Registration is now open.

To register or learn more about the program, please visit <https://www.richmondcounty.ca/voluntary-vulnerable-person-registry.html>

6: 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 July 6th, Our Lady of Guadalupe Outdoor Mass – 2:00 pm -Richmond County Men's choir will be singing. Please bring your own chair.

Sunday July 6th – Strawberry Festival – 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Saturday July 19th – Cold Plate Supper

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