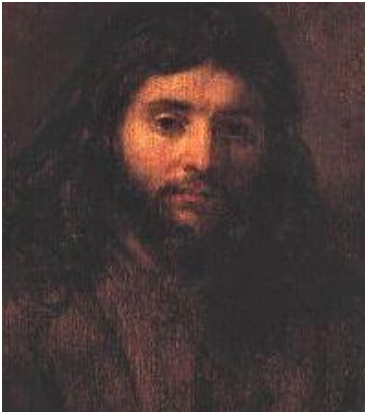




Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

September 06, 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel* 33:7-9. The vocation of a prophet, as envisioned in terms of Ezekiel's oracles, is to judge the evil and the wicked and to dissuade them from their ways. The prophet has the responsibility of announcing the judgment of God, not his own judgment, and non-fulfillment of preaching the message of God involves death for the prophet, whereas he will save his life if he is faithful to the message given to him to preach.

—Excerpted from *A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary—A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans* 13:8-10. In the first seven verses of this chapter St. Paul urged the Christian converts of Rome to obey all lawful civil authority. He now turns to the obligation each Christian has of loving his neighbor.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 18:15-20. Unfortunately, there are far too many Christians today who pay no heed to the serious obligation of encouraging an erring brother to give up his sinful ways. They shrug it off by saying: "I have more than enough to do to keep myself from sin" or "am I my brother's keeper"? The answer is in this lesson we have just read. We are our brothers' keepers, and even if we have many temptations and inclinations to sin we shall not overcome them if we have no time to think of our neighbors' need.

There are, alas, millions of lapsed or luke-warm Christians who could and would have been active members of Christ's mystical body if their neighbors had fulfilled this grave obligation which Christ has imposed on us all. They are now a source of scandal to the weaker and youthful members of the Church, and an impediment to the possible acceptance of the faith by non-Christians. Would the Reformation, which has caused whole countries of the western world to lose almost all faith in Christ and indeed in God, have had such disastrous effects, if those who remained within the Church had put this law of fraternal charity into practice? However, it is no use crying over spilt milk! Let us see our present-day obligations and what we are doing to help our neighbors retain their Christian faith and practice. How much of the indifference to religion which the youth of today seems to be showing is due to lack of parental control and example? How many children of Christian families grow up as practical pagans because their Christian faith meant little or nothing to their parents? It is in the home that the religion of the next generation is firmly established or lost. When parents are loyal to their faith in their daily lives, their children will, as a rule, be loyal to it too; where parents are careless and lax their children will be still more careless and more lax.

Parents! the first neighbors and fellow Christians whom you must kindly and charitably correct are your own children. Their future salvation and your own too will depend on how well you fulfill this obligation. Parents who are obedient to Christ in this will find time and many opportunities to have a charitable word of help for an erring neighbor outside their household. On the other hand, the lax parents, who give little or no thought to getting to heaven or to their children getting there in God's good time, will hardly bother with their neighbor's salvation. Thus this cancer of infidelity and irreligion grows and spreads.

Let each one of us look into his past conduct in relation to this law of charity. Have we really tried to help our fellowmen on the road to heaven? Have we given them the good example of a truly Christian way of living? Have we offered advice and encouragement when it was needed, and correction in private where that was possible? If so "we have gained our brother." We have brought a prodigal son back to a loving Father and that loving Father will repay us a hundred-fold in this life and especially in the next.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection
Aug 30, 2026

Envelopes	\$375.00
Loose	\$115.00
Cemetery Fund	\$20.00
Donation	\$300.00
	\$810.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer’s Market: The final market for the season. Please join us. It might be raining, but we will be safe and dry in the hall. Last time this season to see local vendors and start on your Christmas shopping.

2: Mass Intentions: The Mass intentions on Sunday September 6th will be for Martin, Elaine, and Alvin MacNeil

3: Our 1st Ultreya of the season will be held at Our Lady of Fatima on September 24th at 6:30. This season we hope to hold our Ultreyas at different churches in our area. Hope to see you in September. We have a Men’s weekend starting on September 24th and a Women’s weekend October 1st -4th. All weekends are held at Camp MacLeod in Albert Bridge. For more info contact Karen or Kevin Macsween 902-317-5425 or Arlene Edwards 902-577-4214

4: TEA and TALK
An invitation to join with other women to share at Holy Redeemer Convent 24 Neville St. Whitney Pier, just behind the Pier Post Office. Sydney Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:30 -3:30 pm 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.

5: Sacred Heart Pilgrimage - Medjugorje
September 27th to Oct 9th, 2026:
Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Father Mark Cherry, Spiritual Chaplain and Rhonda-Lynn Cormier, Group Leader.
Cost - \$3699.00 includes airfare and all airport taxes from Halifax; twin accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily, professional local guide, day trip to “Little Lourdes” shrine, Makarska, Croatia. Single room supplement - \$350.00 Contact Rhonda-Lynn for info: 902-448-3660.

6: Is God calling you to serve?
Come and See!
Permanent Diaconate, Diocese of Antigonish
Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 am - 2 pm
St. Joseph Parish Hall, Port Hawkesbury
Through our Baptism, we are called to a life of Holiness. It is within this call to holiness that as a man of faith you may feel a yearning to serve God as an ordained deacon. This call can be supported by your wife (if married), your family and your parish community who see something within you that is needed to serve God’s people. We invite you and your wife (if married) to come, listen, share a meal together and to meet some of our Diocesan deacons and their wives. It will be a time of being present to God’s call and how we are being invited to discern and answer this call.
Please call Deacon Berkley Guthro, Director of Deacons, at [902-631-0041](tel:902-631-0041), St. Joseph Parish, Port Hawkesbury