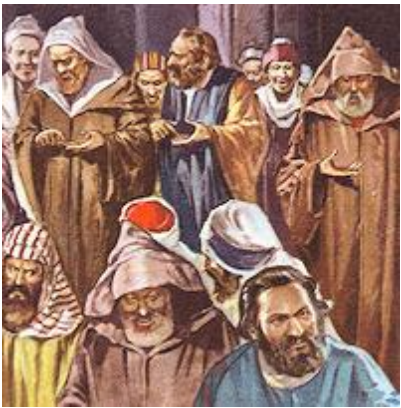




Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

September 20, 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah* 55:6-9. In this text the prophet urges the Chosen People to seek Yahweh, to come close to Him in friendship. To do this the sinner must abandon his evil ways. He need not fear: Yahweh is "rich in forgiving," He will forgive all sins of a repentant sinner. Though He is infinite and transcendent, yet He can and does come close to and is a true friend of all who seek Him. He is a personal God, not an abstract idea.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians* 1:20c-24, 27a. St. Paul wrote the letter from a prison cell in Rome or possibly Ephesus. It is a friendly letter, giving some news of his work to the converts in Philippi, warning them against certain enemies of the faith and exhorting them to remain humble.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 20:1-16a. The call to the vineyard (to the Church), through God's gift of faith and the sacrament of baptism, is a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank God. If we remain in the vineyard and labor honestly, that is, if we cooperate with the actual graces God is continually giving us, we are assured of reaching heaven when our earthly days are ended. The work we have to do in God's vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly we are doing the will of God and earning heaven. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honoring God, have a supernatural value. For this we have to thank God for His goodness and generosity.

He could have made the attainment of heaven so much more difficult. He could have demanded extraordinary mortifications and renunciations and the reward (heaven) would still be exceedingly great. Instead He allows us to live our everyday life, to enjoy the love and friendship of our family and friends, to satisfy the natural desires of our bodies, within the commandments, and yet to merit a supernatural reward while so doing. As He tells us through St. Paul: "whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10 : 31)."

Looking back on our past life, how many years have we really given to God since we came to the use of reason? Those school years, the time spent learning a trade or profession, the weeks, months, years working in an office or factory or farm, the hours among the pots and pans in the kitchen — have we earned some credit in heaven for all of this, or is it all crossed off our pay sheet through lack of right intention or through sin?

If so, those years are lost to us. We were "idle" all that time. Today's parable, however, should give us new hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life but we can still earn heaven if we listen to God's call and set to work diligently in His vineyard. If we put our conscience right with God today and resolve to be loyal to Him from now on He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

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

Collection
September 13, 2026

Envelopes	\$150.00
Loose	\$50.00
Donation to Shrine Fund	\$50.00
	\$250.00

Notices:

1: Funeral Service: The funeral service for Peggy Ouellette will be held on Thursday October 8th, at 11:00 am., in Sacred Heart Church, followed by the burial and a reception.

2: 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

3: Rainbow Comfort Tea with the Palliative Care Society: Thursday September 24th, 2026, 1:30pm – 3:00 pm. We all experience many types of loss – death, illness, relationships, or life changes. For members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, grief can be more complex due to factors like fear, discrimination, and limited supports. Join us for a supportive conversation about grief, connection, and how we can better support one another. Beverages and sweets will be provided. You're welcome to bring friend, a memento, a photo, or a story to share. All members of the community and allies are welcome.

4: THE NEXT TEA & TUNES will be on Sunday Sept. 27, 2026 2 to 4pm at the Bonnie Brae. Entertainment by Evelyn MacRae, Mannie, Wayne and friends. Admission \$5.00, Half and half tickets will be sold along with a light lunch. Sept. 26-27

5 COMFORT TEA ... Come For Tea – September 29, 2026: 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 – 3:30 pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at the Creignish Recreation Centre, 2123 Highway 19, Creignish, N.S. Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society. All are welcome.

6: Oct. 2-4

Our Lady of Grace Monastery

Includes screening of Laudato Si': A Canadian Response; Mass for Care of Creation celebrated by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick; Conversation in the Spirit with Sr Donna Brady; and Engaging Youth, Ecology and Action with Ishara Munazi, youth ambassador, Development and Peace

For details:

<https://antigonishdiocese.com/season-of-creation-3/>

Registration by Sept. 24 is appreciated to determine numbers for accommodations and meals

7: Oct. 3-4 Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Annual Collection

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established in 2022 by Canada's Catholic Bishops to support healing and reconciliation initiatives. The fifth annual collection in our diocese will launch the weekend of Oct. 3-4, 2026, concluding the Season of Creation and on the first weekend of Mi'kmaq History Month. Donations may be made at any time in church collections with envelopes marked 'Indigenous Reconciliation Fund' or online through the Donate link on our website. Money contributed by our diocese will be returned to our diocese through funding for initiatives that support healing, cultural revitalization and community building. For details on funded projects and the application process: <https://irfund.ca/>

8: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft group will meet every Thursday at 1 pm, starting October 8th. Bring a project or idea and sew, knit and/or craft with others. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Department, Red Islands. Contact: Rita Campbell 902 631 0209

9: 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. Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, 8 weeks, beginning October 7 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, Fee: \$30

10: 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. Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, 8 weeks beginning October 7 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm, Fee: \$30

11: Saturday October 31st. Halloween get together for witches and friends, to take place at the Johnstown Landing and the Parish Hall. More details to follow. This will take place in the early afternoon.

12: Save the Date: Our Christmas Bingo will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday November 8th.