

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053
Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Next bulletin publication will be for the week of January 10th to 16th inclusive

Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Prophecy of Micah 5:1-4. In today's reading we hear words of hope that focus on one who is to be born in Bethlehem and who will bring in the day of peace when all nations will look to Jerusalem.

The **second reading** is taken from Hebrews 10:5-10. The perfect offering of Christ restores us to oneness with God. Jesus came to do the will of God perfectly. He overcame the power of evil that separates us from God and became our bridge back to God when we fall into evil. David prefigures Christ's sacrifice. The Psalm is now seen from the perspective of Christ.

The **Gospel** of this Sunday, Luke 1:38-45 recounts the visit of Mary to St. Elizabeth. An ancient title of Mary is Ark of the Covenant. The Church Fathers saw the parallels between the Old Testament wooden chest containing the divine presence and the Virgin about to give birth to Jesus. This theme is developed in a tape series by Tim Staples. Tim brings out the similarities between today's Gospel and the ascent of the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6:1-15).

1. As the ark is brought to Jerusalem, King David is overcome with awe saying, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" (v. 9)

2. The ark remains three months in the hill country near Jerusalem, bringing great blessings to the house of Obed-edom. (v.11)

3. King David leaps for joy -- dancing before the ark. (v. 13) (Tim Staples, *All Generations Shall Call Me Blessed*)

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth says to Mary, "Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" She tells how the babe (John the Baptist) leaped in her womb as she became filled with the Holy Spirit. Finally Mary remains three months with her kinswoman before returning to her home. This Sunday, so close to Christmas, the Church invites us to focus our attention on Mary, round-wombed because of the God-child. As we say in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin: "Ark of the Covenant, pray for us."

--Excerpted from Fr. Phil Bloom

Update on COVID restrictions from Dr. Strang via Bishop Kirkpatrick

I want to share with you the latest update that we received from Dr. Strang yesterday. As you know we are going to have to bring back SOME of the restrictions that were in place with Phase Four. We are doing this to slow the spread of COVID and keep people safe. **Masking** will be required, along with gathering limits and **physical distancing**. We will need to provide safe distancing for our faith services. At this point we are not required to do contact tracing. **We will be limited to 50% capacity up to 150 people indoors** and 250 people outdoors even though we do not have outdoor faith services. Please read the details in the email directed to Faith Leaders that come into effect Friday, December 17 at 9 a.m. As Bishop, I support these restrictions.

Fraternally,
+ Wayne

Dear Faith Leaders,

As you've likely heard, we announced earlier today (Dec. 13th) that due to the arrival of the omicron variant and the current epidemiology in Nova Scotia, we are returning to provincewide restrictions. While we don't have an end date, it's intended to be a

short-term measure to protect Nova Scotians and our health system while we learn how this new variant behaves and continue to increase our vaccination coverage.

The **key restrictions that come into effect at 9:00 am Friday Dec. 17th** and which will affect faith organizations are:

- **Return to physical distance requirement**, as in phase 4, of 6 feet between individuals or between groups of no more than 20 people from the same household or pre-established close social group.
- **Return to gathering limit** for gatherings hosted by a recognized business or organization – 50% of an indoor venue's capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors.
- Return to people must be seated to remove their masks for eating and drinking.

Our website will be updated with these restrictions this Friday. In the meantime, you can the news release here:

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20211213007>

The following is an updated overview of rules and guidance for faith organizations with the new restrictions included:

- **Starting December 17, faith services, events and other activities need to abide by the physical distance requirement and formal gathering limits – 50% of an indoor room or venue's capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors. This means if your facility normally holds 100 people, then your limit is 50 (because that's 50% of capacity).** If your facility normally holds 600, your limit is 150 because that is the maximum. During this time, we strongly recommend that singing only be done by the choir or leader(s) of song, and not by the congregation. Faith organizations with large venues that have a previously approved plan to accommodate multiple, but fully separated groups of up to 150 people, can re-implement this plan.
- **Proof of full vaccination is required for any other events and activities hosted by a faith organization, including social time after a service, bible study, youth group, retreats, community meals, fundraisers or meetings, holiday concerts and special events, and activities and events held in rental spaces.** It is also required when people rent/use the church's facilities (like a hall or other rooms) for events like a wedding reception or leisure activities/clubs like quilting or book club. Masking is required at such events except when people are actively eating or drinking (starting

December 17, they must be seated to eat/drink), when officiants are speaking, or when performers are speaking/singing/playing a wind instrument. In addition, from December 17 to at least the new year, physical distance is required and formal gathering limits are in place for these events and activities – 50% of an indoor venue’s capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors.

- **Proof of full vaccination is not required for a regular faith service, such as daily or weekly services. Services that are part of your faith’s annual calendar (such as Christmas and Easter services in Christian faiths) are considered the same as regular daily/weekly services – no proof of full vaccination is required.** If a singer, organist or choir needs to practice for a regular service and if people need to clean or prepare the place of worship for regular services, proof of full vaccination is not required.
- If a faith organization holds multiple regular or special services in a single day, they are encouraged to **consider making one or more of the services for vaccinated people only to accommodate people who require or are seeking a greater level of safety** and to decrease overall exposure risks.
- **Masking is required throughout these services, whether people are seated or not, except for officiants or singers when they are speaking or singing.** Both you as an organization and the people who attend your services and activities have a responsibility to ensure mask rules are followed. While people with a valid medical reason for not wearing a mask need to be accommodated, these valid medical reasons are infrequent and this should not be a reason for significant numbers of people in a single congregation to be unmasked. Supporting the use of this medical exception is inappropriate.
- **Home-based activities hosted by a family or individual are considered informal gatherings.** Proof of full vaccination, masks and physical distance are not required. However, starting December 17 and until at least the new year, **there can be no more than 20 people indoors or outdoors and they must all be from the same household or consistent social group – in other words, they are the same people you do all your socializing with.** This may mean that you aren’t able to host some of your usual activities at someone’s home for a little while.

- **Proof of full vaccination is not required for officiants or employees of a business or organization (including faith organizations) but it is required for volunteers.** It isn't required for business meetings in the workplace when they involve people who regularly work together and where the general public is not present (unless they're held in a rental space). However, from December 17 to at least the new year, physical distance is required and formal gathering limits are in place for meetings hosted by a recognized business or organization – 50% of an indoor venue's capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors.
- **Proof of full vaccination is required for participants (not officiants) at weddings, funerals and other ceremonies – even if they take place in a church or other faith facility.** In addition, from December 17 to at least the new year, physical distance is required and formal gathering limits are in place for weddings and funerals hosted by a recognized business or organization – 50% of an indoor venue's capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors.
- **Proof of full vaccination is not required for indoor and outdoor funeral services with a maximum of 25 participants (not including officiants or funeral home staff). Everyone must wear masks and physical distance is required.** For any visitation and receptions, proof of full vaccination is still required, masks are required in indoor public places, and physical distance is required and formal gathering limits are in place – 50% of an indoor venue's capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors.
- **If a faith organization is offering mental health and addictions support groups, programs, services for vulnerable populations, food bank services, shelters or meal programs for vulnerable populations (including dine-in), or space for any of these activities, proof of full vaccination is not required for people accessing those services or for employees providing them, but it is required for volunteers.** From December 17 to at least the new year, physical distance is required and formal gathering limits are in place – 50% of an indoor venue's capacity to a maximum of 150, or 250 outdoors. Masks continue to be required except when people are eating/drinking and they must be seated for this.

- **Due to the highly infectious nature of the Omicron variant it is strongly recommended that there not be congregational singing at this time.** If members of the congregation do sing they are required to remain masked.

I understand it's a difficult time of year to reintroduce these restrictions. However, our cautious approach has served us very well through the pandemic to date. I ask for your continued support to help keep your faith community and everyone in our province safe.

Sincerely,
Dr. Robert Strang
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Department of Health and Wellness
PO Box 488
Halifax, NS
B3J 2R8

Diocesan Liturgical Commission Advent Newsletter

Emmanuel: God-with-Us

The season of Advent has been a holy time of longing, waiting, hoping, praying and yearning for the coming of the Lord into our world. During Advent Christians sing the hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel." Emmanuel is the Hebrew word meaning "God -is -with- us." The promise of the Saviour foretold so many years ago was a promise that the coming of the Savior would transform all life: human life and the life of all creation. We are certainly aware that our present world does not always reflect the values of righteous living, justice or fairness most days. When we consider that millions of people go without the most basic necessities of life each day in a world that boasts of natural, material, financial and ecological abundance, we realize that this reality does not reflect the world that God intended. Advent is always a special time of deep listening when we are invited to be still and listen to God's Word in the scriptures, to God's word crying out for justice in our world, and to pay attention to the cries of creation crying out for a more ethical care for God's world.

The season of Advent invites us to take time to listen, to be more reflective through spending quality time with God, in prayer so that we can, as individuals and as communities of faith, respond to the cries of God's people and God's creation as we do our part to help restore and transform the face of the earth. Advent invites us to pray for eyes to see Emmanuel's imprints in our lives, in our families, in our

communities and in our world. In our prayers we long for the gentle comfort and strength of the Divine Presence. We have already received the gift of God-among-us, in the birth of the child Jesus thousands of years ago. We have been given the Gift of God's only child who came to bring peace and goodwill to all peoples and creation. It is now time to share God's love, peace and presence to all who are in need of this goodness in our families, communities, parishes and country. Indeed we need this healing presence of Emmanuel (God –with-us) more than ever, as we seek to heal our world and regenerate new hope for a better tomorrow.

We are now beginning the fourth week of Advent, a week of intense preparation of our hearts, our homes, parishes and communities for the coming of God in our midst. The celebration of the Nativity of Christ is an important Feast Day. It is on Christmas Day that we remember and give thanks to God for the greatest gift and love that we could ever receive: the Gift of God-With Us in human form! We have received the Gift of one who has shared everything that is human, except sin. Jesus came to live among us to show us how to love one another, how to make the world a more just, more welcoming and more inclusive home for all God's people everywhere. As Christians we are called through our Baptism to become God-bearers and to continue the redemptive work of Jesus on earth every day! Christmas is a time of giving and receiving, not only material giving but also sharing the gifts of our love, our presence, our time and our tenderness in the grind of everyday life, just as Jesus has done for all. We will, in our homes and parishes, hear the story of the birth of the Christ Child! We will recall with wonder and joy the many Christmases we have celebrated with family and friends. We will also recognize that many who live among us do not have the experience of warmth, of giving and receiving love, food, housing and the basic necessities of life. We are seeing in the local and world news, countless stories that reveal a huge divide between the rich and the poor, which is widening more each month as the cost of a global pandemic impacts all people. Can we find room in our hearts, homes and communities to welcome and assist those who are most in need-among us? Some families are choosing to assist a family in need, to share some food with our hungry families, to welcome those who are alone, to comfort those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, to share friendship and welcome with new neighbors and newcomers in our communities. Christmas can at times reveal memories of hurt, misunderstanding and a need for healing and reconciliation among us all.

As we enter the Fourth week of Advent and prepare ourselves spiritually to welcome Christ into our hearts and homes, let us reflect on the small steps we can take in being a welcoming presence for all who are struggling in our midst. The greatest commandment we have been given is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds and being and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Luke: "Whenever we seek to serve the needs of the most marginalized in our midst, this is

an “Emmanuel moment”, and we become the hands, heart and feet of Christ for others. Whenever we try to resolve misunderstandings and conflicts within families and among friends or colleagues, this is an “Emmanuel moment”. Whenever we recognize our need for forgiveness and reconciliation, this too, is an Emmanuel moment. Whenever we use our voices to speak out against an injustice in our world, this is also an “Emmanuel moment”. As we celebrate Christmas Eucharist, let us commit ourselves to becoming “Christ” for others, of being bread for the world, broken to heal the wounds of human pain.

Sacrament of Baptism

please call the office:
Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699
Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011
Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.
Call Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia to register for upcoming courses 902-849-4772. Ask for Tasia Boucher, tboucher@fsens.ns.ca

Weekday liturgy

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

SJB 11:00 PM
Mass of the Resurrection for
+John Patrick Touesnard

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, December 24, 2021

SH 3:30 PM
HGA 5:30 PM
+ Mildred & Gavin Sampson

Requested by Steve

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, December 25 2021

SJB Mass 9:00 AM
+Clifford Goyetche
SP Mass 10:30 AM
+John, Frank & Mike Sutherland

Sunday, December 26, 2021

SH 9:00 AM
SP, HGA, SJB at SP 11:00 AM

Friday, December 31, 2021

HGA 5:30 PM (note this is a correction from the print copy of
+The Taylor Family the bulletin which incorrectly stated mass was
at 11:00AM)

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, January 1, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM
+ Florence King
SP 10.30 AM

Sunday, January 2, 2021

SH 9:00 AM
SP, HGA, SJB at SP at SP 11:00 AM

Saturday, January 8, 2021

SH 4:00 PM
HGA 5:30 PM
*** Special Intentions**

Sunday, January 9, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

SP

10:30 AM

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at the office, not with Fr. Yake.

December 12, 2021 Receipts

<u>Holy Guardian Angels</u>	\$ 698.75
Candles	22.75
Christmas Offering	50.00
Total	<u>\$ 771.50</u>

St. Peter's (Dec. 5, 2021)

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 815.15
Candles	3.00
Missals	36.00
Parish Dues	5.00
Christmas	5.00
Memory Tree	550.00

Total	<u>\$ 1,414.15</u>
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St. Peter's (Dec. 12, 2021)

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 870.00
Memory Tree	875.00
Cemetery	20.00
Missals	20.00

Total	<u>\$1,785.00</u>
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Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 625.00
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Total	<u>\$ 625.00</u>
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Christmas/New Year's Schedule

Christmas Eve, The Nativity of the Lord

Friday, Dec 24, 2021

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 3:30 pm

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 5:30pm

Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday, Dec 25, 2021

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 9:00am

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 10:30am

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday Dec. 26, 2021

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00am

All three parishes at St. Peter the Apostle at 11:00am:

- ❖ St. John the Baptist
- ❖ St. Peter the Apostle
- ❖ Holy Guardian Angels

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 3:30 pm

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 5:30pm

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, January 1, 2022

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 9:00am

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 10:30am

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00am

All three parishes at St. Peter the Apostle at 11:00am:

- ❖ St. John the Baptist
- ❖ St. Peter the Apostle
- ❖ Holy Guardian Angels

- Parishioners at these three parishes may choose to celebrate any of the feasts: The Nativity of the Lord, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and the Epiphany of the Lord at Sacred Heart Church in Johnstown or a parish of their choice.
- There will be no weekday Masses from December 27 – 30, 2021 and from January 3-7, 2022.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MASS FOR SHUT-INS **CHRISTMAS DAY**

We will be airing Christmas Day Mass, Saturday at 11:30 am AT. Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will be the presider for that Mass this year.

Next St. Peter's parish council meeting will be held on January 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Eva Landry's house.

St. John The Baptist Memory Tree: Donations may be made in memory of a loved one. We will have the name placed on a dove, angel, or star; which will be placed on the tree during the Christmas season. Donations and names can be given to Marie Fougere or Mimi Fougere, or simply place the name and donation in the collection. Proceeds will help with purchases of heating oil and electric bills for the church this winter. Thank you."

SJB: Any donations towards the cost of Christmas flowers will be greatly appreciated. **SJB CWL**

SJB CWL \$150 was raised for Chalice through sale of recyclables. A pair of goats will be purchased and sent to a third world family. A sincere thanks to all who donated.

HGA: Anyone wishing to donate money towards Social Action Foodbank may do by placing an envelope with Social Action on it and putting it in the collection basket. **Thank you**

A Christmas tree will be displayed in the St. Peter's Church again this year, from Nov 27 throughout Advent. A decoration will be placed on it for each name received. All funds will go directly to St. Peter's Parish. Donations may be dropped in the collection box at Sunday Mass, dropped at the Glebe Monday through

Thursday 9AM to 1PM or transferred to memorytreestpeters@gmail.com. Security answer is memory tree and in the message section add the names you would like placed on the tree. **Security answer is memorytree (one word only)**

Diocese Information

Louise Campbell attended a Diocese meeting for financial people a couple of weeks ago. Here is some interesting information that came from the meeting:

- The Diocese has paid off all the loans from the abuse scandal
- The Diocese will no longer be selling any parish property, and property that was for sale has been taken off the market
- A Parish now has the power to sell/ not sell their property (it is not up to the diocese anymore)
- If the parish decides to sell any property the parish will be able to keep most of the money (the diocese still needs to be the seller and will keep any expenses associated with the sale, the rest of the money will go to the parish)
- 66 of 99 parishes in the Diocese do not pay their Levy, 21 of 99 parishes do not pay their insurance. Sacred Heart has always paid both.

TO ALL THE FAMILIES OF OUR PARISHES FATHER YAKE AND THE OFFICE STAFF JOIN IN WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND GOOD HEALTH IN 2022, A YEAR OF PEACE.