

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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August 22, 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God (John 6:67-69)."

Today would normally be the feast of [the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Joshua 24:1-2; 15-18 and concerns the general assembly of the tribes called by Joshua.

The **second reading** is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:21-32. In today's reading St. Paul sets up Christ's self-sacrifice for the Church as the model which all the members of the family should emulate in their mutual relations.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 6:60-69. As we heard last Sunday, St. John was writing about the promise of the Blessed Eucharist at a time when Christians accepted the Mass and Holy Communion as the essential act of Christian worship. Very probably he omitted many details when describing this promise. The "disciples" who murmured evidently saw nothing but a man in Christ. It was very natural, therefore, that they could not accept his saying that they should eat his body and drink his blood. Thus it seems most probable that when Christ says they lacked "faith," he had given them sufficient proofs that he was more than a man. These individuals among the disciples, however, refused to open their minds to these proofs; therein was their guilt. Their minds were earth-bound and were determined to remain earth-bound.

Faith is a gift of the Father, as Christ says to those disciples: "no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father," but the Father has offered them this gift and they have refused to accept it; otherwise they would not be guilty.

No one who accepts Christ for what he is, the Son of God in human form, has any difficulty in believing that he left us himself in the Eucharist as a sacrifice and a sacrament. This does not mean that we understand this gift of Christ in all its details—it was an act of divine power and as such beyond full human comprehension. However, we can understand enough about the actuality of the Eucharist because we accept the words of Christ, who "has the words of eternal life," even though its innermost nature escapes us. We are doing no violence to our intelligence when we accept as fact from a trustworthy witness what we cannot prove or confirm for ourselves. No more trustworthy witness than Christ ever existed. In Galilee he promised to give his body and blood in the Eucharist—to be our spiritual nourishment — communion — and our means of offering an absolutely pleasing sacrifice to God every time his body and blood are made present by the words of his ordained minister. He fulfilled that promise at the Last Supper. He gave to his Apostles and their successors the power to repeat this act of divine love when he said: "Do this in memory of me."

When Simon Peter answered Christ's challenge—"will you too go away?"—he spoke not only for his fellow-Apostles that day with: "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." but for all Christians who really believe that Christ was the incarnate Son of God. Peter, be it noted, made his act of faith before he was fully convinced of the divinity of Christ, but he was already convinced that Christ was close to God and spoke nothing but the truth.

We have the proofs of Christ's divinity which Peter and the Apostles later got. We have also the faith of two thousand years of the Christians whose belief in the Blessed Eucharist as a sacrifice and sacrament was at the very center of their Christian lives. We have also the noble example of many martyrs who gladly gave their lives in defense of this truth. Our faith may never be put to such an extreme test, but should it be, God grant that we will not be found wanting.

Many of us may need to examine ourselves as regards the full and effective use we make of that gift. Every time we attend at Mass do we realize that Christ is offering himself to his Father for our sanctification and the sanctification of the world? Do we realize that we, through his minister at the altar, are offering infinite thanksgiving, infinite atonement, infinite adoration, infinitely effective petition, to our Father in heaven through the sacrifice of his divine Son in the Mass? Are we always worthy to act this part, are our consciences fit to allow us to partake of this sacrifice in Holy Communion? A true Christian who realizes and appreciates what the Son of God has done and is still doing for him will try always to make himself less unworthy, for not even the greatest saint was worthy to partake of this act of divine love.

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

Weekday Liturgy

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

HGA 11:00 AM

+ James Peter Briand & parents Jim & Minnie Kate

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Richmond Villa 10:30 AM (Not open to public)

SJB 4:00 PM

+ Mary Catherine Cosman

Friday, August 27, 2021

SP 9:00 AM

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, August 28, 2021

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+ Lawrence, Ralph & James Bona

Sunday, August 29, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Lorraine Pottie

SP 10:30 AM

+ Delia Landry

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

(August 15, 2021 receipts)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes \$ 779.00

Candles 20.85

Total \$ 799.85

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Envelopes & Loose \$1,223.00

Cemetery Donation 175.00

Total \$1,398.00

Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose \$ 775.00

Roof Fund 1,440.00

Total \$ 2,215.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS`

Sundays with Fr Patrick and John Ratchford

7 pm on Facebook Live

Featuring conversations about church teachings and issues

Join live or watch later on Fr Patrick's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill>

The St John the Baptist CWL in River Bourgeois regrets that they will not be able to host funeral receptions until COVID restrictions have been eliminated.

12th Annual Boat Poker Run

Saturday, September 4, 2021 rain/wind date Sept. 5th or 11th

Registration at 10:00 AM at River Bourgeois floating dock

Hamburgers, hot dogs, pop/water available

All cards must be turned in by 2:30 PM

Prizes: 1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$100

All Covid-19 protocols will be followed. For more information, contact Peter Baccardax 535-3182

Events at Johnstown

The following is the schedule for the summer and fall season. Some events are tentative at this time and more information will be forthcoming closer to the event. These events are subject to change due to Covid restrictions:

1. Saturday September 4th: Take-out Supper 2. Sunday November 21st: Christmas Bingo.

A New Resource for Faith Development

Shalom World is a 24/7, family-friendly, Catholic TV channel whose mission is to bring the peace of Christ to all nations. The channel is a recipient of the U.S. Catholic Press Association's many Gabriel Awards, including one for the 'Best TV Station'. This commercial-free, high-definition network appeals to all ages, young and old alike. Shalom World is an official partner of the Vatican and is authorized to telecast all papal events and liturgies.

Apart from Shalom World (SW) being freely available in Canada, USA, Australia, and Europe, Shalom Ministries also offer SW Prayer, a channel dedicated exclusively for prayer. Through SW Prayer, viewers can participate in Holy Mass, various prayers, and daily devotions. Viewers become spiritually enriched and engaged, as they unite their prayers with those being offered across the globe. This prayerful momentum invites God's blessings into our hurting world.

All of this nourishing content is now easily available at SW+, a small button that brings all of Shalom World to your website. Parishes that already use SW+ have commended the ease with which they are able to use and engage with the tool. If you would like to see how it works, here are a few websites on which SW+ is installed:

Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, AB - <http://archgm.ca> (press on the round icon at the bottom right of the website)

<https://stlukerchamilton.org/> - **St. Luke Roman Catholic Parish, Hamilton, ON** (This has the icon at the center right of the website)

<https://stjamesparishokotoks.ca/> - **St. James Parish, Okotoks, AB** (This has the icon at the bottom left of the website)

Québec mother wants her 4-year-old son to die by euthanasia.

Alex Schadenberg

Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

The disability community has been rightly concerned with the cultural attitudes towards people with disabilities. This story clearly warns us about the pressure to extend euthanasia to children but also the belief that it is OK to kill children with disabilities.



Abel is now 4 years old.

An article by [Fabienne Tercaefs for Radio Canada](#) on August 12, 2021 (Google translated) concerns (mother's name withheld), from the L'Islet region in Québec, who wants her son, who has Mednik syndrome to die by euthanasia (MAiD).

According to the article he is severely disabled, he is deaf, lives with a severe intellectual disability and has daily intestinal problems and has already come close to death several times. His mother stated:

"There is no possibility that my son will recover from his illness. No possibility that his quality of life will improve."

The Canadian euthanasia law permits euthanasia (MAiD) for people who are at least 18 years old and capable of consenting, or had been approved for euthanasia, while capable of consenting. Clearly this mother is challenging the law.

According to the article she wants euthanasia expanded to children. On August 11, she invited her Member of Parliament Bernard Généreux (CPC) and Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu to her home to discuss extending euthanasia to her four-year-old son.

According to Tercaefs, Bernard Généreux stated:

The Conservative member believes that the subject must be broached, even though it is a delicate and, above all, very emotional issue. "These are not easy subjects, as a parliamentarian. There is no such thing as perfect law in this area. You have to go to people who have extraordinary experiences,"

Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu stated that he wants to champion the cause of child euthanasia. Tercaefs reported that (google translated):

He wants the mother to testify before the Senate to explain what she wants and, perhaps, to help change attitudes around end-of-life care. When we call on families who are going through the tragedies to which the laws must address, it is truly our experts at heart who make sure they will influence senators.

Tercaefs reported that Michel Bureau, President of the Commission on Life Care said that the issue of child euthanasia was being debated:

Michel Bureau recognizes that medical assistance in dying for children remains a taboo subject. In addition, he specifies that one must be extremely careful to avoid eugenics. "This is what is dangerous; a slippage that only allows those who are beautiful and perfect to live," warns the president of the Commission on Life Care. We must take the time to look at the question.

This problem is even more complicated than that of mental health.

For those who claim that legalizing euthanasia does not lead to a "slippery slope" think again.

When Canada legalized euthanasia it crossed the clear line in the sand by allowing medical killing. Once the line was crossed, there no longer remained a clear line in the sand.

Sadly, our Canadian current government wants to further expand euthanasia. It is my fear that this story, or a similar story, will cause parliament or the courts to agree to expand euthanasia to children. As I said, there is no clear line in the sand.