

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes

(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*. Even if we took this prophecy of Isaiah as relating to the return from Babylon only, it would still be a source of consolation to us, and a reason for thanking our good God who, in this return of the Jews from Babylon, was preparing the way for the coming of his divine Son among us. The Exodus from Egypt in the 13th century, and the liberation from Babylon in the 6th, were big steps taken by God on the road to our eternal liberation.

But as we know from our Lord's own interpretation (Mt 11:5), these words of the prophet referred also to God's greatest act of love and mercy—the Incarnation of his divine Son, which was to liberate all mankind from the slavery of sin and worldliness, and make men citizens of an everlasting homeland, heaven.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of James 5:7-10*. "The coming of the Lord is at hand." These words of St. James are true for all of us, in two senses. His first coming, which we shall be commemorating in ten days or so, is very near. The sincere Christian, who prepares, need have no fear of the second coming of Christ, as his judge—the coming of which St. James speaks today.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Matthew 11:2-11*. The Church brings John the Baptist, the man who prepared the people for Christ's public mission, before our minds today, as an example that we should follow, even if only from afar. John prepared himself for the test of welcoming and introducing Christ to others, by a life of self-mortification and penance. He told the people that the first essential for getting Christ, and profiting by his coming, was that they should turn away from sin and give up any evil ways, which hitherto they had followed. He himself practiced what he preached and his preaching, therefore, bore fruit among many of his hearers. John is calling on us too today, to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming this Christmas, by turning away from sin, and by the mortification of ourselves in many ways.

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

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

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CHRISTMAS, 2022

From Bishop Kirkpatrick

Given our Atlantic coastline, we all know about lighthouses. A lighthouse is designed to emit light to serve as a beacon for navigational aid, for maritime pilots at sea or on inland waterways. Lighthouses mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals, reefs, rocks, and safe entries to harbours. I was inspired to write this reflection after learning of the memorial lobster trap Christmas tree tradition, made up of lobster traps with buoys and lights with a lighthouse on top. The buoys bear the names of people lost at sea. It is a memorial tree for all who did not return home. The lighthouse placed on top is to guide them home.

A lighthouse provides direction through the rough seas to the harbour of safe waters and home. We have lived through so many rough days together with Covid and most recently with the wind and rain of tropical storm Fiona and all the havoc that has followed. When we think of this image of the lighthouse, we might think of the bright star of Bethlehem guiding the pilgrims to the Christ-child. They too lived amid a sea of economic and political turmoil. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone." These words from the prophet Isaiah reverberate during our celebration of the Christmas Season.

There are so many concerns today: the illness or death of loved ones; rising costs of gas, food and everything essential; homelessness and food insecurity; access to medical care and viruses that continue to affect us; war and conflicts around the globe and millions of refugees with no place to call home; intergenerational trauma through residential schools; the future of our church as discernment continues for the upcoming Synod; and in general trying to carry on in faith amid so many issues. What are we to do?

We have every reason to hope that brighter and better days are ahead. The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. The Christmas Season reminds us of the goodness of our God and the people around us who are guided by God's love and concern for all people. This Christmas Season brings out the best in people who try to brighten the lives of others. Yes, it is a season filled with partying and buying but it is also a season filled with sharing. This Christmas Season is highlighted by our neighbourly concern, generosity, and unselfish love. Such love is a light that pierces the darkness of our world. Such love is prompted and celebrated. God sent us the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ to be the Light of the World to guide and direct us. As we celebrate the coming of that Light, we become a light for others. When we live our faith we become a light to our world. Our faith does not free us from problems and hardships, but enables us to find peace, to persevere, and to hope because we know we are not alone. Faith assures us that God is with us in our struggles, and that the love of God and the peace that Jesus promised are ours for the asking. The lighthouse calls us to look to him for direction, especially amid turbulent waters. He will guide and direct us to a safe harbour and peaceful waters. He will guide us home.

May you have a peaceful Christmas, filled with love and joy.

Faternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick
Bishop of Antigonish

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, December 16, 2022

HGA 11:00AM

+ Lawrence, Clara, Ralph & James Bona

SH 4:00 PM
HGA 5:30 PM
+ Robert P. Sampson

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 762.30
Candles	15.75
Missals	45.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 823.25</u>

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 961.00
Memory Tree	645.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,606.00</u>

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,609.70
Candles	3.00
Dues	5.00
Missals	20.00
Christmas Donation	15.00
Memory Tree	520.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 2,172.70</u>

WANTED: Website Administrator: A volunteer Website Administrator is needed for our parishes. Mr. Mike Dallien was hired by Rev. D. Lamey and has served us well. Mike wishes to retire. Interested persons should please contact the office at 902-535-2053. Mr. Dallien wrote about the website usage, "With respect to the "readership" of the website, I can only report the raw numbers of users who access the website and which pages they access. I cannot say how much of the content they actually read. Month over month the site is garnering between 90 and 130 "hits" and the most visited pages are the bulletin page and the calendar page. Also, some of those 90 to 130 hits are undoubtedly repeat visitors who are in the habit of visiting weekly. So, in actual fact the 130 hits per month may be 130 unique visitors or 32 people who visit the site four times a month. Regardless, the website is being used on a consistent basis by some parishioners; so all is not in vain."

SP: A Christmas tree will be erected in St. Peter's Church again this year, from Nov. 27 throughout the Advent season. Each name received represents a donation. The names will be announced each week until Christmas. Charitable donation receipts will be issued. All funds raised go directly to St Peter's Parish. Donations may be dropped in the collection plate at Sunday Mass, emailed to memorytreestpeters@gmail.com, or dropped off at the glebe between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm Monday to Thursday. Security answer is memorytree. In the message space please add the name(s) that you wish to remember.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Tickets being sold on a Yamaha Clavanova electronic piano valued at \$3000. Draw date is December 15, 2022

SJB 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 for the church this winter. Thank you.

SJB: The squares for the Manger were sold out at the CWL meeting Sunday so it was drawn at the end of the meeting. The winner was Rosemary MacLean (the director of the Richmond County Men's Choir) from D'Escousse. Thank you once again to all who supported our fundraiser.

Marlaine Merry Christmas

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

THANK YOU to the parishioners of the East Richmond parishes for your warm welcome and generous response to the presentation and petition last week. These petitions will be presented to our MP early in the new year. Know that your voices will be among those speaking for justice wherever Canadian companies work around the world. For more information anytime: www.devp.org

Anne Cooke, SJB

HGA: Social Action Weekend. Winner of the 8-piece set of Christmas Dinnerware was Elaine Sampson, L'Ardoise.

HGA: Holy Guardian Angels Social Action Committee would like to acknowledge the tremendous support of our friends and neighbors who contributed to our Social Action weekend. We are grateful to those who were able to attend many of the events and donated time and financial assistance. Special thanks to those kind individuals who volunteered their services to assist our food drive and the Men's Club who organized and served a wonderful breakfast. Our sincere wish is for a blessed holiday season. **L'Ardoise Social Action Committee**

HGA: Time changes for Mass at Holy Guardian Angels and Sacred Heart parishes.
December 24 Christmas Eve Mass will be held at HGA 4:00 pm (children's Mass). Sacred Heart Mass 5:30 pm.

HGA: Holy Guardian Angels will be decorating the tree Monday December 19 at 9 AM. Hope to see some helpers. Thanks

Religious Christmas cards for sale: There are available many different designs and also mixed packs of religious Christmas cards through www.lifecyclebooks.ca.

You may order online or Maureen Sampson of HGA has ordered several mixed packs for anyone in our surrounding communities who may be interested. The cost is \$5 for a pack of 10 cards.

Phone 902-587-2517 for more information.

SP United Church: December 21- 6:30 p.m.-Blue Christmas Candlelight Service at the St. Peter's United Church. We hope that you will join with us on this longest and darkest night of the year.