

**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

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 11, 2022**

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of *Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14*.

During the forty days that Moses spent on top of Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments the people melted their gold and made a small effigy of the Egyptian bull, a golden calf. They declared this to be their god who brought them out of Egypt. They had returned to paganism and idolatry. God decided to punish them, but because of the intercession of Moses He stayed His hand and forgave them.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to Timothy 1:12-17*. The Apostle wrote two letters to Timothy, advising and encouraging him to continue his great work for Christ. This First Epistle was written in 65 or 66 A.D. from Macedonia. St. Paul spent his Christian life regretting his sinful past and wondering at the infinite mercy of Christ, the Son of God, who not only forgave all his past sins but showered His graces on him so abundantly. He realized that his past crimes against Christ, whom he judged as an impostor who was perverting the Chosen People of God, and also his persecution of the Jewish converts to Christ, were caused by his own pride. Yet he blames himself for the ignorance which caused this pharisaical pride in him, while Christ on the other hand excused him because of this ignorance. The conclusion he rightly draws from this is that there is no sinner so wicked but can be forgiven, and will be forgiven, if only he listens to the call of Christ.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 15:1-32*. The lesson that these stories, made up by our Lord himself, has for us is clearly a lesson of hope and confidence in the infinite mercy of God in His dealings with us. We are all sinners in one way or another. We have all gone astray, got lost like the sheep and the coin in those stories, sometime or other. What is worse, we are all capable of going astray from God again at any moment. If we had only the justice of God to deal with we might well despair, our chances of reaching heaven would be slight indeed.

We are dealing, however, with a God of infinite mercy, who loves us with a love we cannot grasp or understand. All this infinite mercy of God is there for our benefit as long as we have the breath of life in us in this world. The whole of the Old Testament is full of examples and proofs of this mercy of God for man. It is in the New Testament, however, which begins with that almost incredible act of divine mercy, the Incarnation, that the infinite mercy of God for all mankind is seen in its fullness. The coming of the Son of God on earth in our human nature, His teaching, His sufferings and death, His resurrection were all accomplished for us, so that we could rise glorious from the dead and share the joys of heaven, to

which we have no claim whatever, except the merciful goodness and generosity of God.

God does not need us to make his existence happy. He is all-powerful, all-perfect, all-happy in himself. Because He is a God of love, a God of infinite generosity, He wants to give us a share in His happiness. At times one must wonder how any man who knows of God's generosity and of what that generosity has led Him to do for us, could ever think of abandoning that loving God, or get lost in futile earthly folly. Yet that does happen when we sin grievously.

God does not cast us out forever as sinners unworthy of His gifts. Instead, He foresees such folly on our part, and has left us lessons of encouragement, as in today's parables, and set up in the Church ways and means to carry on His work of mercy for weak, mortal men. During His life on earth, Christ dealt mostly with sinners—he said he came to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He told the Pharisees that it was the sick who needed a doctor, not those who were well. The Pharisees in their pride thought they were not sick but they were, and He was only too ready to heal them too if only they would let Him.

He spent his days then among sinners, the tax-gatherers, the robbers, the adulterers, the usurers. The twelve special friends He chose from amongst His followers had more than their share of human failings.

We are all sinners to a greater or lesser degree. With this knowledge and conviction, which any true Christian must have, of the infinite mercy of God, no sinner need ever, and should never, despair. No sinner was ever lost and no sinner will ever be lost, because of his sins. Sinners are lost only because they will not trust and believe in God's mercy and turn to Him to ask for pardon.

Not a day passes but our merciful Father sends out and calls to us His erring children to return to our Father's household. Today, one of those calls is in the very words of the parables you have heard. There may be another call for the sinners amongst us. There may not. Heed this one and the other call will not be necessary. Turn to God today with a truly contrite heart. God will do the rest.

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

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

Weekday Masses

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no weekday Masses from Sept. 12th to Sept. 16th

Saturday, September 17, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+ Trevor Mombourquette

Sunday, September 18, 2022

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Charles "George" Landry

SP 10:30 AM

+ Mike Sutherland

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

September 3, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 560.00
Candles	26.25

Total **\$ 586.25**

St. John the Baptist

September 4, 2022

Envelopes & loose	\$ 962.00
Cemetery	75.00
Donation	1000.00

Total **\$ 2037.00**

St. Peter's

September 4, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 837.00
Candles	17.00

Total **\$ 854.00**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HGA: Holy Guardian Angels Parish Anniversary Planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 P.M. L'Ardoise Community Center. All are welcome.

HGA: Social Action Committee wishes to acknowledge the support for our recent ticket sales on a homemade quilt. Winner of the quilt was Maxine Patton of Sackville. A special thank you to Elaine Sampson and

Betty Gillan for their contribution.

SP Parish Council: Four new members are required for periods of 1 to 3 years and nominations for these positions are requested from the parish. Please note that each person nominated must be approached for confirmation that he/she is willing to allow their name to stand. If there are more than four names put forward an election will be held next weekend. Contact the parish at (902) 535-2053 or Bernie Landry (506) 523-8994

Knights of Columbus: The regular meetings of the Father (Pere) Vincent de Paul Council 14280 will be held on the following dates.

Friday September 9th – beginning at 9:30 am in the St. Peter's Parish Glebe.
Thursday September 15th – beginning at 6:30 pm in the St. Peter's Parish Glebe.

All members are urged to attend these important meetings.

RTO – Meet & Greet

Sept. 13/22 – La Picasse, PDG

9:30-11:45 – Activities/Social

Morning Refreshments & Lunch \$10.00/Person

AGM Meeting -12:30

-Secretary & Treasurer positions up for nominations

Contact Donna at: dmmachin@nstu.ca or 902-535-2074 by Sept. 7th.



Flames engulf St. Jean Baptiste Church in Morinville, Alta., June 30, 2021, in this still image taken from video obtained from social media. The fire was believed to have been deliberately set. *CNS photo/Diane Burrell, social media via Reuters*

‘Staggering’ rise in anti-Catholic hate in Canada

BY TERRY O'NEILL, CANADIAN CATHOLIC NEWS

• September 1, 2022

Canadian and international observers are condemning media, politicians and other opinion leaders for turning a blind eye to a startling new report that shows a 260-per-cent increase in anti-Catholic hate crimes in the past year.

The increase is almost 10 times higher than for all hate crimes combined and was by far the single largest percentage growth recorded in any category in the numbers released by Statistics Canada.

At the same time, experts and activists are also calling for Catholics to more forcefully respond to the sort of prejudice and bias that the media-blackout epitomizes.

"We should stop talking and take action against it," said Marc Vella, president of the Christian Civic Affairs Committees of Canada.

StatsCan reported on Aug. 2 that the number of police-reported, hate-motivated crimes in Canada increased by 27 per cent last year, to 3,360 from 2,646 in 2020. Hate-motivated crimes targeting religion grew by 67 per cent, to 884 from 530.

The number of anti-Catholic hate crimes grew to 155 in 2021 from just 43 the year before. Crimes directed at Black persons accounted for the largest number of all incidents. Anti-Jewish incidents topped the hate-crime list in the religion category, up 47 per cent with 487 reported incidents.

While StatsCan provided no explanation for the huge anti-Catholic crime increase, the figures correspond to an explosion of arson, vandalism and threats directed at Catholic institutions last summer following inflammatory news reports about the existence of possible graves at an abandoned cemetery at Kamloops Indian Residential School.

A search of Canada's largest mainstream media outlets did not find a single reference to the surge of anti-Catholic hate crimes.

"It's disappointing that the mainstream media did not responsibly cover the staggering rise in anti-Catholic hate crimes," said Christian Elia, executive director of the Catholic Civil Rights League.

"It's even more disappointing that they covered the StatsCan report in general terms, alarmed at the overall 27-per-cent increase in all police-reported hate-motivated crime, yet they did not acknowledge the eye-popping 260-per-cent increase against Catholics specifically."

"Government officials have been equally silent or made dismissive comments about this violence," said Janet Epp-Buckingham, a professor at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C., and director of the Laurentian Leadership Centre in Ottawa.

"The reality is that these churches are where Christians worship and find their identity as believers. Attacks on them are attacks on all Christians."

Madeleine Enzlberger, executive director of the Vienna-based Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe, said the Canadian numbers "are truly worrying" and probably represent only the tip of the iceberg.

"Unfortunately, we have seen similar trends of anti-Christian and -Catholic hatred in other Western countries as well," said Enzlberger. "It is a dynamic in which violence against Christian buildings, churches or even people to some extent is perceived to be a legitimate form of protest against what the Church said, did or represents."

Enzlberger warned that legitimizing violence against the Church by

ignoring it “could lead to a normalization that could socially legitimize the further escalation of violence to even more severe levels.”

“This spiral of violence needs to be broken at its earliest stages before it gets out of control,” she said.

The news media’s failure to report on the rapid rise of anti-Catholic hate crime is part of a pattern, she said.

Enzlberger said research conducted by the British Parliament found a prevailing anti-religious and specifically anti-Christian bias, as well as a high level of religious illiteracy among media.

“This bias often manifests itself in a toxic narrative that only allows for Christians to fit the role of the perpetrators and not the victim.”

Things are much the same in Europe, said Enzlberger. She pointed out that the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s most recent report revealed that anti-Christian hate crimes grew the most compared to other religions and also all other protected groups defined by gender, race and ethnicity.

Ian Dowbiggin, a professor in the Department of History at the University of Prince Edward Island and a writer on Catholic issues, said “there’s always been anti-Catholic sentiment down through Canadian history, leavened by anti-French and anti-Irish bigotry, for example, and the coverage of the Church’s sexual abuse scandals of the 1980s and 1990s.”

He has been warning of the problem for decades. Writing in the *Globe and Mail* in 1995, Dowbiggin said, “Anti-Catholicism is as alive as it ever was, but now it’s less recognizable.

The new anti-Catholicism expresses itself in the form of a hip discourse that tries to reduce a worldwide Church with hundreds of millions of parishioners to a handful of trendy slogans of dismissive contempt.”

Twenty-seven years later, Dowbiggin said he believes Catholics are themselves somewhat responsible for the ongoing problem.

“If anti-Catholicism and hate crimes against the Church still occur today, and the media won’t report them, it is due to a large extent because Catholics themselves don’t push back and defend their faith,” he said.

“Canada’s Jews rightly fight back when there is evidence of anti-Semitism, so why can’t Catholics in the face of things like the church burnings of 2021 and the orchestrated humiliation of the Pope in recent days?”

Vella, a member of St. James Parish in Abbotsford, B.C., is one Catholic who is fighting back. He said the mainstream news media has been pushing an anti-Catholic narrative for decades.

“We Catholics should not bellyache and complain about how unfair our treatment in the press is,” Vella said. “Rather, we should stop talking and take action to fix the problem.”

He suggests Catholics need “to become far more savvy” in response to the media, be better informed on issues confronting the Church and not rely on mainstream media, and to get involved in public affairs and politics.



**Blessed John Paul I, precursor
of the Francis style**

Pope Francis this Sunday will
beatify John Paul I (1912-1978),
the man who in just 33 days
ushered in a new, more pastoral
style in the exercise of the papacy.