

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 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent.



Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*. In today's prophecy, Isaiah gives us the most important detail concerning the Messiah, Christ. He was to be God as well as man. This is what Christ was, as he claimed and as he proved by his miracles and by his resurrection. What a stunning, and at the same time, what an inspiring fact this knowledge is for us! We call the Incarnation, the coming of the Son of God among us in human nature, a mystery. It is one of the basic mysteries of our Christian religion, but the mystery lies not so much in how it was done ("with God all things are possible"), but rather in the infinite, mysterious love of God for us, who are so much below him and so unworthy of his love.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*. In today's reading, we have the opening verses of that Epistles. In it, he calls himself a servant of Christ, an Apostle, set apart (chosen) to preach the gospel of God. This gospel is the news of the Incarnation, through which and by which, all men are called to follow Christ, and become his brothers, and thus sons of God destined to be saints in heaven.

The **Gospel** of this Sunday, from the *Gospel of Matthew 1:18-24* begins in a typical Hebrew fashion, by giving the genealogical table of Jesus, who was born of Mary. He does not mention the Annunciation, nor Mary's problem of preserving virginity while becoming a mother. But the revelation given to Joseph, Mary's betrothed, which Matthew here describes, brings out the fact of the virginal conception of Jesus, and his messianic mission of salvation. Matthew then adds that Christ was the Messiah, to be born of a virgin, of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke, seven centuries later.

This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's birth. Like Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honor of welcoming him into our hearts and our homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in God's goodness. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

The feast of Christmas should draw the hearts of every child of God towards the furnace of divine love. In the manger, the infinite love of God for us miserable sinners is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby, represented by a statue, we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he

would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

"Unsearchable indeed are the judgements of God, and inscrutable his ways." But though we are unworthy of his infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the Incarnation. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love, but let us imitate Joseph and accept the honor which God is giving us, as we trust that he will continue to make us daily less unworthy.

—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

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA. (902) 785-4018

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, December 23, 2022

HGA 11:00AM

+Huguette Martell

Saturday, December 24, 2022

HGA 4:00 PM

+ Gavin Sampson

SH 5:30 PM

Sunday, December 25, 2022

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Lloyd Richards

SP 10:30 AM

+ Rose & Ambrose Sutherland

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

December 10, 2022

Envelopes & Loose \$ 696.75

Candles 8.00

Missals 5.00

Indigenous Collection 5.00

Total **\$ 714.75**

St. John the Baptist
December 11, 2022

Envelopes & Loose **\$ 1,360.00**
Memory Tree **720.00**

Total **\$ 2,080.00**

St. Peter's
December 11, 2022

Envelopes & Loose **\$ 958.00**
Candles **6.00**
Missals **60.00**
Memory Tree **500.00**

Total **\$ 1,524.00**

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 You

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.

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

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.

Sundays 7 - 9pm

**Entre Deux Rivières/Between Two Rivers with Fr Peter LeBlanc
on CKJM FM: Coopérative Radio Chéticamp Ltée**

Uplifting reflections and spiritual music. Aired on 106.1 FM in the Cheticamp area, 92.5 FM in Pomquet and 97.5 in Sydney.

Listen via radio or the CKJM website:

<https://www.ckjmf.ca/>

Some items needed for family moving to St. Peter's: beds for 4 people and 4 kitchen chairs. If you have anything to donate please call Alfred Sampson at (902) 535-2309 Thank You

HGA: Parishioners of Holy Guardian Angels Parish in L'Ardoise invite friends and families to join us as we commence celebrations for our 200th birthday on Sunday, January 8th. Beginning at 3:00 P.M we will celebrate eucharist followed by a reception at the L'Ardoise Community Center. Our theme banner will be unveiled along with a display of over 60 family banners. Everyone is welcome.



200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**Holy Guardian Angels Parish
Sunday, January 8, 2023**

**Unveiling of Theme Banner
Over 60 Family Banners
on display.**

**Mass of Thanksgiving - 3 PM
Reception to follow at the
L'Ardoise Community Centre
"Everyone Welcome!"**

** Church will be open at
1:00 PM for viewing of
Family Banners.*

