

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

August 4, 2024 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Memorial of [St. John Vianney](#) is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Exodus* 16:2-4, 12-15. The food which the Israelites had brought with them out of Egypt was now used up, and so they were hungry. They murmured against Moses and against God who, they said, had brought them there to die in the wilderness. God answered their complaint by giving them each day bread and meat to eat.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of Paul to the Ephesians* 4:17, 20-24. St. Paul is urging the Ephesian converts to live as Christians. They must forget their Gentile past, which was a life of folly as far as their real purpose in life was concerned. They are now Christians, adopted children of God; they must live according to their new status in justice and holiness.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John* 6:24-35. According to St Paul, if Christ is really active in our lives (and who among us wants to claim he isn't?), our very way of thinking will have been turned upside down; that is, it will have been put right, because sin has perverted the order of our values. Our priorities (when we vote, when we wonder if we should have more children or not, when we choose our entertainment, when we go shopping, when we're tempted to cut corners at work, take advantage of a customer, or skip our homework, and when we make any of the countless minor decisions of every day) will not be the following — "what's in it for me," "what will this do for my bank account," "is it pleasurable" or "can I get away with it," but rather, "how can this help me reach my real goal, eternal life," "is this what God wants," "does it bring me closer to God," "will this help others," "will it be a better witness of Christian life?"

Unrealistic? No, unless Jesus should be called "unrealistic" when he reproached people who were far needier than any of us for being more interested in today's lunch than in the bread of life (Gospel). No, because this is the only realistic attitude: this is the way God sees things and only he sees things in all their reality. We're the ones who need to "get real". Did Jesus really become man and die on a cross merely so his followers could be just like everybody else?

Fruitful communions: To achieve this means taking Communion far more "seriously" than we regularly do; being quite certain that it is a food that will, gradually, transform me. No, you won't lose weight, but you will begin to think differently about life.

In practice, it means seriously preparing yourself: before Mass, during Mass and when going to receive. Before Mass: arriving, having made some kind of real

attempt during the week, to do God’s will in your life, and to open your heart to him regularly in prayer, and to people in need. During Mass: offering yourself as best you can with Christ who is offering himself for you, having an idea of what you need from him (from this Communion), telling him this. When you go to Communion: remembering who you are: this needy, weak, selfish, tempted, grieving, overworked... individual. And who the One you are about to receive is: the Jesus who gave — and gives — sight to the blind, consolation to the grieving, strength to the weak... who was tempted, and overcame temptation, for you; who invited his followers to come aside and rest with him; who gave and gives himself up for you, so that you can do it for others...

Then, after Mass, maybe we’ll be ready to do something about “the thousand inconsistencies of a ‘globalized’ world where the weakest, the most powerless and the poorest appear to have so little hope!”, aware “that it is ‘unworthy’ of a Christian community to partake of the Lord’s Supper amid division and indifference towards the poor”. —*Excerpted from [Sacerdos](#)*

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:
902-535-2053

Office Hours: 9:00 AM– 12:00

Monday & Tuesday (Laureen Burke)

Wednesday & Thursday (Mary Sutherland)

Note: When calling the Parish Office please leave a message and a contact number.

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

SJB

4:00 PM

+ *Leda Konning*

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

SP

9:00 AM

+ *Marilyn Groom-McNamara*

Friday, August 9, 2024

HGA

11:00 AM

+ *Bridget Goodwin*

Saturday, August 10, 2024
SJB 4:00 PM
+ *Lenova & Bernard Sampson*
SP 5:30 PM
+ *John & Frank Sutherland*

Sunday, August 11, 2024
SH 9:30 AM
+ *Robert Pictou*
HGA 11:00 AM
+ *James & Elizabeth Martell*
Deceased members of Martell, Peters & Logan families

Receipts

<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
<u>July 27, 2024</u>		
Envelopes & Loose	\$	663.00
Cemetery		1,410.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>2,073.00</u>
 <u>St. Peter's</u>		
<u>July 28, 2024</u>		
Envelopes & Loose	\$	933.00
Candles		28.00
New Tractor Donations		50.00
Cemetery		40.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,051.23</u>
 <u>Holy Guardian Angels</u>		
<u>July 27, 2024</u>		
Envelopes & Loose	\$	845.25
Candles		63.60
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>908.85</u>

NOTES

Please note the error in last week's bulletin about Masses in August.
Fr. Yake will be away from August 19 – 30, and so there will not be any weekday Masses within that time frame but there are weekend masses as usual on August 24- -25 to be celebrated by Rev. Charles Cameron.

The Blasphemous Opening of the Olympics: A Christian Response

A Comment from Fr. Yake

You must have heard about the opening exercises at the Olympics in Paris, France and of the disgusting mockery that was made of our faith by its satirizing the Last Supper by drag queens, members of the leftist, atheistic woke culture. Jesus said of this supper, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;” (John. 22:15) because it anticipated the Cross that brought about the salvation of the world. What might our response be to this blasphemous event?

Anti-Christian forces have and will always be a reality that must be faced; there will never be a time when Christ, who told us that we, like him, will be persecuted (John 15: 20) and so anger will always tempt us to act. The current issue raises the question of a Christian response and what can we learn from this recent and very public assault on Christianity.

St. Thomas Aquinas addressed the issue of anger by saying that it can be a legitimate response, what the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen called, *holy anger*, as Jesus himself expressed anger when he saw that the temple was turned into a marketplace of dishonest dealing. Thomas even suggested that not to get angry is a sin of not taking responsibility; he was not suggesting the capital sin of anger that drives one to hatred. Christian anger is expressed by praying for one’s enemies and increasing one’s religious commitment and devotions so that the Evil One cannot use justifiable anger to have us sin. This does not mean that we should remain complacent but that we should rightfully express our anger, as anger is a call to act, to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to tell them that the disrespect shown to our religion is unacceptable. This may be done by sending an e-mail to the International Olympic Committee at webmaster@olympic.org, or phone Montreal 514-861-3371, or Toronto 416-962-0282.

It should also be noted that the so-called apology from the International Olympic Committee spokespersons was no apology at all but added *insult to injury*. It simply repeated the woke ideology that pretends to be inclusive while the actual disgraceful depiction of a sexualized Jesus was anything but unifying. Those who spoke basically told Christians worldwide that if they were offended it is their problem because there was nothing evil about their demonic presentation.

In my opinion, the fact that the atheistic left we’re confident to express their hatred and fear of Christ and his body, the Catholic Church, on a global stage serves as a warning to us; if we do not express and defend our faith the enemies of Christ who are bent on destroying Christianity will have no resistance. Perhaps the Left is taking advantage of the current situation of apostasy that sees dwindling numbers of Catholics attending the sacraments.

Borrowing from Sacred Scripture and a theologian’s interpretation of this text from St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that has been entitled, *the whole armour of God*, we read the first protective shield on Paul’s list, “*Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.*” (Ephesians 6: 14) Paul appeals here to person’s heart that needs to love God and to fasten your waist, loins, in some translations, with truth. Your waist, or your loins, refers to your seed, your offspring, the next generation. It’s your children, your grandchildren, and your godchildren that we are required by God to teach the truth, to show them that the things that the world produces are sometimes beautiful but sometimes garbage that is destructive of a happy and fulfilling life. The young need guidance to be able to distinguish between the two so that when they go out into the world and have to discern their own decisions about what is true and real versus a foolish ideology that’s trying to consume the world in chaos they will know the truth because you girded them with the gospel, the breastplate

of righteousness, the armour that protects the heart, the core of one's mind and soul, wherein one's true self resides. St. Paul is calling us to protect the essence of our life with the commandments of God. Like St. Peter going towards the Lord in a crazy storm, we're all lost in it and need divine protection.

A positive outcome of this disrespectful mockery of the Christian faith is that the agenda of the Left, its vision of a future secular world, has dramatically been exposed: It is a pagan world devoid of God and which is inviting of the works of the demon.

Our young people are glued to the Olympics because sports often dominate their lives, and this mockery of Jesus has come to them with the authority of the media that celebrates and promotes anti-Christian values and behaviours. If they do not hear any voices of resistance, or they are not taught humanizing values in a supportive communal context, they can only conclude that Jesus is not the divine saviour of the world, is not the centre of history, is not worth our respect or our time. The challenge posed to Christianity at our moment of history is, are we going to allow this terrible and dehumanizing falsehood to stand unopposed but accepted as the formative agent in the lives of the young?

Princeton Pro Musica is a semi professional choir from New Jersey who will make one stop in Cape Breton on their tour. In concert on Wednesday, August 7th at 7:00 p.m. at United Heritage Church in Sydney. Admission is by free will offering at the door and all proceeds will be given back to the host venue.

The CB Chorale will be holding auditions on August 22nd and 23rd. The choir is also holding a song arrangement competition. Full details on our website. <http://capebretonchorale.com>.