

**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes**  
**(902) 535-2053**

**Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei**

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## **December 8, 2024**

### **Second Sunday in Advent**

December 8 is normally the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*- This year the Solemnity was transferred from Sunday, Dec. 8 to Monday, Dec. 9 because of the Sunday Liturgy of Advent.

Mass for the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary** will be celebrated at SJB on Monday, Dec. 9 at 4:00PM. There will **not** be a Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at SJB.

## **Mass Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent**

The **First Reading** is from *Baruch* 5:1-9. To help us prepare for the commemoration of Christ's coming on earth at Christmas the Church has chosen these words of the Old Testament which spoke of the new Jerusalem, the new kingdom which the Messiah would set up when he came. As the Jews of old looked forward with hope to that day, we now should look back to it with joy and especially with thanksgiving. God created us, he gave us great gifts, we abused these gifts to insult him, yet he not only was willing to forgive us but he went to the length of sending his divine son to become like one of us, to live with us and die for us. Only God could have such love, such mercy, such a forgiving spirit.

The **Second Reading** is from *Philippians* 1:4-6; 8-11. The "day of Christ," the day of the parousia or of his coming in glory to judge the whole world, was anxiously looked for in the early Church. Many of the first generation Christians thought it

would come in their life-time. Christ did not reveal when his Second Coming would be, but he did tell us to be always ready. This much we know, each one of us will appear before him to be judged at the moment of our death and that moment will decide for us how his Second Coming will affect us. And the decision, granted God's grace, is up to each one of us.

The **Gospel** is from *Luke 3:1-6*. The preaching of John the Baptist, quoting Isaiah, which echoed and re-echoed around the Jordan valley nearly two thousands years ago, should ring in our ears today too. We are preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and the prophet tells us how we should prepare ourselves if the welcome we give our Sanrio's is to be sincere and true. Even the best and the holiest amongst us will have to admit that our paths—our dealings with God—over the past twelve months have been far from straight and smooth.

Alas, looking back over the past year, most, if not all of us, will have to feel ashamed of our meanness, our ingratitude towards the good God, to whom we owe everything we have.

However, Christmas is the commemoration of that greatest gift of his mercy which God bestowed on this world, and if we but humbly beat our breasts and admit our meanness—if we lower the mountains of selfish pride and fill up the valleys of laziness and forgetfulness by turning to him with hearts full of gratitude and repentance, there will be mercy in abundance even for the greatest sinner amongst us. Christ will come to us with the "salvation of God" and we can confidently hope to live the coming year as we should, as grateful children of our Loving Father in heaven.

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

## **Schedule of Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 9, 2024**

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**SJB**

**4:00 PM**

**+ Stan MacPhee**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

**SP**

**9:00 AM**

**+ *Special Intention***

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**HGA**

**11:00 AM**

**+ *Richard, Margaret, Gary, Shirley & Joan Sampson***

**Saturday, December 14, 2024**

**SJB**

**4:00 PM**

**+ *Marilyn Groom-McNamara***

**SP**

**5:30 PM**

**+ *Claire LeBlanc***

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**SH**

**9:00 AM**

**+ *Michael Marshall***

**HGA**

**11:00 AM**

**+ *Jessie & Germaine Durant***

## **Receipts**

**St. John the Baptist**

**November 30, 2024**

<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,238.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Missals</b>		<b>20.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>2,258.00</u></b>

## **St. Peter's**

**November 30, 2024**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 975.50
Candles	29.00
Parish Dues	30.00
Missals	5.00
Memory Tree	660.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,699.50</u></b>

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## **Holy Guardian Angels**

**December 1, 2024**

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 545.00
Candles	24.45
Missals	5.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 574.45</u></b>

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## **Community Notices**

**HGA** church will be hosting a Christmas Eve service at 4:00 PM. There will be a choir, readings and a pageant. Any children wanting to participate please contact Raymonde Burke @ 902 587-2675. All are welcome. Please note this is not a Mass due to Fr. Yake's busy schedule.

**HGA:** L'Ardoise Social Action Committee would like to acknowledge the tremendous support we received this past weekend with our annual fundraising activities. There were many volunteers who contributed time and financial assistance to assist the ongoing efforts of our Food Bank Operation and other special services. We are most grateful to the L'Ardoise Men's Club for sponsoring our breakfast and the Cadets who helped with our Community Food Drive. So

many wonderful people who donated a great variety of baked goods for our Bake Sale and to Carolyn and Madeline for coordinating our Merchandise Bingo, thanks a big bunch. We remain both humbled and grateful to everyone who respond in service to others in need of our support from time to time. May you all be blessed with peace, love, and happiness this Christmas season.

**HGA:** The winner of the \$500.00 Gift Cards was Wendy Marshall, Chapel Island.

### **Low-Income Tax Exemption Program Policy**

The Low-Income Tax Exemption Program Policy application deadline has been extended to February 28, 2025, for this year only. Eligible low-income property owners can apply for a low-income tax exemption by completing the Low-Income Tax Exemption Application form, Appendix A. Along with this form, applicants must submit proof of household taxable income. This proof can be provided in the form of either the CRA Notice of Assessment or the CRA Proof of Income Statement. It's important to note that the names of CRA forms may change periodically. Additionally, proof of income must be provided for all individuals aged 18 or older residing in the home. Submit completed forms along with accompanying documentation to the tax office by email, mail, or in person.

Email: [taxoffice@richmondcounty.ca](mailto:taxoffice@richmondcounty.ca)

Mail: Municipality of the County of Richmond, 2357 Hwy 206, P.O. Box 331, Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

In Person: Municipal Administration Building, during regular office hours.

Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. To view and download the policy or application form, visit: [www.richmondcounty.ca](http://www.richmondcounty.ca)

### **Do you receive our diocesan newsletters?**

Seven Ears of Grain is emailed each Monday morning, with news and events from our diocese and parishes, plus news and resources from the Vatican and national offices.

Witness of Hope is our seasonal newsletter.

To subscribe, visit <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/newsletter/>

or email [jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca)

### **75th Anniversary Mass and Celebration**

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Sydney River invite you to attend our 75th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, December 15th at 2 PM. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick and Pastors of the parish. All

are most welcome to help us celebrate this milestone. A time of fellowship will follow. We hope you can come and celebrate with us!

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, usually held in January, is scheduled this year for the week of Mon. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> through to Friday Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Venue TBA.

**Mass for Shut-Ins**

Change of airtime for Christmas Day, Mass for Shut-Ins will air at 11:00 AM on CTV on Christmas Day.