

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

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei
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September 8, 2024
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's feast of [the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) is superseded by the
Sunday Liturgy.

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 35:4-7* and contains the beautiful verse, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. James 2:1-5*. "It was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him." The subject is that we should not grade people according to external appearance, for a person's quality is something that derives from his union with God—the more humble and understanding he is, the more honor he deserves.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 7:31-37*. During his discussion with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, our Lord told her that "salvation was to come from the Jews" (Jn. 4 : 22). This was in accordance with God's plan when he took Abraham from his pagan family and surroundings, and elected him to be the father of a Chosen People from whom God's blessing would come for all nations (Gn. 12: 1-4). This was the historic beginning of "salvation" for men. It was, as yet, a vague generic promise but down through the following eighteen-century history of the Chosen People (Abraham's descendants) this blessing eventually became crystallized in the Messiah — the anointed and holy one of God. It was He who would introduce the messianic age of which the prophets so often had spoken, and it was in Him that all peoples, Jews and Gentiles, would find their true "blessing."

It was right and fitting, therefore, that Christ should proclaim his kingdom and his Gospel among the Jews and in their promised land. Those who would accept him and his message would later spread the good news among the Gentile nations. This is what happened. His Apostles, including St. Paul, and the faithful disciples having done their best for their fellow-Jews, left Palestine and carried the great news of the incarnation — a blessing greater than any man could have imagined — to the pagan peoples of the then-known world. It was surely from the Jews that salvation came to us Gentiles.

While Christ reserved his preaching to the Jews according to God's plan, he visited some of the Gentile lands bordering on Palestine — Tyre, Sidon, Phoenicia, the Decapolis — and worked some miracles there. However, he did not preach to them. This exception — going into pagan lands — was evidently important to St. Mark, for he goes into details in describing the faith of the people of the place who asked for a miracle, and their enthusiastic reaction to Christ's power when he did what they requested. Mark himself knew very well that Christ was fulfilling the divine plan when he restricted his preaching to the Jews, and that he had given a command to his Apostles to bring his Gospel to all nations (Mk. 16: 16). Possibly, however, some of his Gentile converts were questioning why Christ had not come to the Gentiles but spent all his public life in Palestine. In this short episode, Mark shows that Christ was interested indeed in Gentiles and showed his compassion for them by working miracles for them.

We have much for which to thank God the Father, Christ and the good Jews who preached the Gospel to our ancestors. We should not think of questioning why Jesus spent his short public life trying to convert his fellow-Jews. God thought of us from all eternity — the incarnation was his way of giving a truly satisfying meaning to the life of man — the masterpiece and master of all his creation. It has given us a new status in life, a new purpose and an end worth every effort we can muster to gain. Life, with its trials and troubles and its brevity, has a meaning, a profound meaning, for Christians — it is a short period of preparation for the future which awaits us after death if we use it properly.

Christ who carried out his Father's will even unto the death on the cross, deserves our unending gratitude. Eternity will not be long enough for us to thank and praise him. If ever we are tempted to be in any way anti-semitic let us first remember those of God's Chosen People who preserved the knowledge of God and trust in his promises until the time of their fulfillment had come. Secondly, we must never forget the Apostles and disciples of Christ who devoted and gave their lives in order to bring the Christian faith to us. The best way to show appreciation of a gift

is to use it fully and gratefully. Let us make full use of the divine gift of salvation by living according to its teaching all the days of our lives. —**Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.**

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

**+ *Children of Jimmy & Ethel Fougere:
Alex (Lou), John, Dan, Peter, Tommy & Anita***

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Agnes Johnson*

Friday, September 13, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Bridget Goodwin*

Saturday, September 14, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Everette Doary & daughter, Stephanie*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Elizabeth (Beth) Landry*

Sunday, September 15, 2024

SH 9:30 AM

+ *Bridget Goodwin*

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Alonzo G. Sampson & Freddie Sampson*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

August 31, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,155.00
Donation	600.00
Cemetery	25.00

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,780.00</u>
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St. Peter's

August 31, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 910.00
Candles	35.00

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 945.00</u>
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Holy Guardian Angels

September 1, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 823.00
Candles	57.75
Candidates for Priesthood	10.00

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 890.75</u>
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From the Office of the Bishop

The Bishop's Barbecue was a tremendous success. It was good to see over sixty clergy at Monastery on Wednesday, August 28, the feast of St. Augustine. I celebrated Mass there earlier that day. We will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Monastery next year.

We begin another school year with all its many challenges. We celebrate September as Nova Scotia Polish Heritage month. As we know, September 1st

marks the 85th anniversary of the invasion of Poland and the start of World War II. We continue to pray for peace in our world.

On Monday, September 16, we celebrate the feast of St. Ninian, the patron saint of our diocese. On the day before the feast, I will be celebrating Mass at St. Ninian Cathedral on Sunday, September 15 at 10:30 am. The Cathedral will be concluding their 150th anniversary with this Mass. St. Ninian, pray for us.

Beginning with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 until the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4, Pope Francis has designated this time as the Season of Creation. I will be celebrating Mass on this feast day on Friday October 4 at St. Ninian Cathedral at 12 noon. After Mass, as part of the Vicar of the Founder lecture series, Dr. Darlene O'Leary, Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry will offer a presentation on Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) at 1 pm. at St. Ninian Place with light refreshments to follow.

The second session of the Synod on Synodality with the theme "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission" will continue on Wednesday, October 2 to Sunday, October 27, 2024. We are encouraged to pray the Synod prayer at Sunday Mass.

Normally our Atlantic Episcopal Assembly, AEA meets in September in Halifax, but this year the meetings are on October 21 and 22. This delay was to enable the bishops to participate in the Eucharistic Congress offered by the Archdiocese of Halifax / Yarmouth. This year our Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary will be in Quebec City from September 23 to 27.

As you may recall, in September of 2021, our Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops agreed to establish a \$30 million national Reconciliation Fund to support and advance healing and reconciliation initiatives for Indigenous People. Every diocese committed to raising revenue for this fund over a five-year period. Ultimately, the monies collected in Nova Scotia will be used to support local projects and programs in order to promote education and healing. We had anticipated having this Collection on the last weekend of September but unfortunately this is when we have the envelopes in our boxes for the Needs of the Canadian Church Collection.

The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is on September 30 and Treaty Day on October 1. Posters and envelopes will be ready for distribution. I suggest having the Reconciliation Fund Collection on October 5/6, the first weekend of October. October is Mi'kmaq History Month.

We are fortunate to have the visit of the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis to the Diocese of Antigonish. The Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer at the age of 15 in 2006 is known for his great devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. He will be canonized in 2025 during the Jubilee Year. The relic will arrive at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sydney River on Monday October 21. There will be an evening liturgy to welcoming the relic. The next day, Tuesday, October 22, the relic will be transferred to St. Ninian Cathedral in Antigonish for an evening liturgy of welcome.

APPOINTMENTS

***Rev. Vincent Ikechukwu Emezue** age 45, ordained in 2008 from the Diocese of Okigwe, Nigeria. We welcome Father Vincent. He will serve as Administrator of St. Ann, Guysborough, St. Peter, Larry's River, St. Patrick, Guysborough Interval and St. Thomas, Salmon River effective September 2, 2024. He will be replacing **Rev. Isidore Chidi Enyinnaya** who plans to return to Australia.

* new to our diocese

Seminarian Joseph MacMaster completed his summer program with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the South Bronx. The program focused on serving the poor and homeless in the friars' shelter while being attentive to a life of prayer. Following this summer placement, Joseph will serve a pastoral internship year at Holy Family Parish in Sydney Mines beginning mid September.

Rev. Bedford Doucette is retiring as the Director of the Permanent Diaconate. He will continue to be a resource person with the Atlantic Dioceses' Diaconate Formation Program ADDFP. We are involved in this four-year formation program with the Archdiocese of Halifax / Yarmouth, the Diocese of St. John and the Diocese of Grand Falls. Father Bedford will continue to work out of the Pastoral Centre. He is offering a Ministry of Spiritual Direction as he finishes a little book he started in 1993, entitled, "Memories of Priests I call Friends." All of his contact information will remain the same. We thank Father Bedford for his continued service.

Deacon Berkley Guthro who had served as an Assistant to Father Bedford, will now serve as the Director of the Permanent Diaconate. We thank him for taking on this new responsibility.

Deacon Barry Miller has agreed to serve as Assistant Diocesan Master of Ceremonies with **Deacon Berkley Guthro**.

Thank you to all for providing such good and faithful service.

Fraternally,

+ Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick
Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick
Bishop of Antigonish

Visit of A Representative from CHALICE

Betty Jane Cameron will visit our parishes to inform us about the mission of CHALICE according to the following schedule:

4:00PM Mass at SJB, River Bourgeois, on Saturday, Sept. 21.

9:30 AM Mass at SH, Johnstown, on Sunday, Sept. 22.

5:30PM Mass at SP, on Saturday, Sept 28.

11:00AM Mass at HGA, L'Ardoise, on Sunday, Sept. 29

CHALICE is a child sponsorship program begun by Nova Scotia priest, Rev. Patrick Cosgrove. The sponsored children typically face extreme poverty and need healthcare and financial support for an education to enable them to achieve their potential for the future. Public education in North America may be taken for granted but for children from impoverished families education is an unattainable luxury. CHALICE also provides healthcare, nutrition, and proper hygiene to ensure that children are healthy and strong so they may attend the educational task. Betty Jane Cameron will offer information about CHALICE while inviting sponsors for specific needy children.

The Knights of Columbus Officers' Meeting will take place on Thursday, Sept. 12th at 9:30am at Louie's Cosy Corner. The regular Council Meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, Sept 19th at the glebe.

On September 19th, Steve and Nicole from CNIB will be having a public meeting at the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society Hall starting @ 2pm. They will be discussing new technology as well as having the latest devices on display for clients. Everyone welcome!

Comfort Tea Come For Tea : Throughout our lives we experience many types of losses. We wish to promote awareness of the impact of grief on our lives. All are invited for a beverage and sweets in a supportive setting. You may wish to

bring along a friend, memento, photo, or experience to share. You may have words of support to offer or sit quietly in the company of those who understand.

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

1:30 - 4:00 pm

Isle Madame New Horizons Senior Citizens Club, 2373 Route 206, Arichat, N.S.

Come visit Richmond River Roots on Friday, Sept. 20th for our Open House between 3pm - 7pm. There will be music, snacks, garden tours and games. Musicians include Leona Burkey, Donna Marie DeWolfe, Yvette Rogers, Wayne Bona and friends, Neil MacPhee, Paul Zinck and Norma Jean MacPhee Zinck.

Richmond River Roots is a social enterprise that grows great food, plants food knowledge and harvests community connections. A social enterprise means that any profit we make all goes directly back into the many River Roots community food and gardening projects.

Hope to see you on Friday, Sept. 20th at the Open House. All are welcome!

Sister Genevieve MacDonald

Sr. Genevieve MacDonald, formerly Sister Ann Ronald, 91, a Sister of St. Martha of Antigonish, died at Mary's Court, on Saturday August 24, 2024, in the 66th year of her Religious Life.

Born in Little Judique Ponds, Nova Scotia, Sister Genevieve was the daughter of the late Alexander D. and Mary Janet (MacDonald) MacDonald. At the age of 6, after her mother's death, she and her younger brother Ronnie moved to Harbour View where they were raised by Alex P. and Annie May (MacDonald) MacEachern. Sister Genevieve is survived by brother Ronnie (Josephine) MacDonald and many devoted nieces and nephews and their families. Besides her parents she was predeceased by brothers Angus B (Pauline), Neil (Edna), and Frank; and sisters Isabel, Florence, Margaret, and Janet (Frank)Taylor.

Sister Genevieve entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha on August 15, 1956. She pronounced her first vows on August 15, 1958, and her perpetual vows on August 15, 1961.

Sr. Genevieve was a lifelong educator and learner. She entered the congregation as a teacher and continued in that ministry for most of her religious life. She received her BA/BEd from St. Francis Xavier University. In Cape Breton, NS she taught in Main-a-Dieu; Dominion; South West Margaree; and Eskasoni. She was principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kamloops, BC; and taught in Basse Terre, St. Kitts,

in the West Indies. Sr. Genevieve completed her time in the classroom volunteering in the school in Eskasoni, a community she loved.

Sr. Gen's leadership skills were often called upon within the congregation and she served as local leader in many of the communities in which she lived, including a term as leader of the community at Bethany, the Motherhouse. She served in congregation leadership as an Apostolic Director for a term and was a member of several committees.

Card playing was a favourite activity, not only for the love of the game but the opportunity it provided for laughter, conversation and some fierce competition. Sr. Genevieve loved to laugh and always had a good story, memory, or anecdote for any occasion.