

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

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Second Book of Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23*. It refers to the edict of Cyrus, the king of Persia, permitting the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, which had been burned by the Chaldeans as a punishment from God for the infidelities of the Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10*. In today's extract St. Paul is emphasizing the gratuitousness of the gift of faith which the Ephesian converts have received. This gift which God gave them, *even when they were sinners*, had united them to Christ, and has given them the right to share in His glorious resurrection and inherit heaven with Him and through Him.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 3:14-21. This man Nicodemus had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that he had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word, "believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, are not many of us often like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to our following of Christ? There are Catholic men who would like to, and should, go much more often to Holy Communion but are afraid of what their fellow-parishioners, who receive but rarely, would think of them. There are many, far too many, Christians who will not defend or stand up for their religion when it is insulted and attacked in their place of work or in a saloon. There are Christians who stand idly by, and give at least tacit approval, when grave injustices are being carried out by individuals or by local or national groups. These and many more like them are Christian types of Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval, the worthless esteem, of their

sinful associates, are prepared to forfeit the esteem of God and their own eternal welfare.

Nicodemus probably thought he had made reparation for his lack of openness to Jesus when he assisted at his burial. What value, however, had that work of mercy for one of his frame of mind? There are amongst us today, humanists, most of them ex-Christians, men and women who make assisting their neighbor, while excluding Christ and God, the essence of religion. While the assistance the neighbor receives will benefit him materially, what spiritual or religious value can it have for the humanist who excluded God and our Savior Jesus Christ? Humanism or concentrating on our neighbor to the exclusion of God, is an imitation of religion and a very false imitation at that. Helping our neighbor because he is a son of God is part of our true religion, and the second of the two great commandments of love; but helping a neighbor from whom we have effaced the image of God has not and cannot have any religious value or significance whatever. It is as meaningless as lighting a candle before the photograph of a wife one has deliberately deserted.

Thank God, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole mind. It is through him that we have been made sons of God. It is through him that we have learned to love God and learned of God's infinite love for us. Because all men are God's sons also, and our brothers in Christ, we will gladly help them whenever and wherever we can because God has commanded us to do so. This is true humanism which sees in the neighbor the workmanship of the almighty Creator, and what is more important still, the elevating effects of the divine Savior, as well. —
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**

Receipts:

St. John the Baptist

March 2, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,358.00
Cemetery	100.00
Lenten Project	
“Operation Smile”	360.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,818.00</u>

St. Peter's

March 2, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,303.00
Candles	36.00
Altar Society	10.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,349.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

March 3, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	567.00
Candles		34.35
Share Lent		40.00
Church flowers		70.00
Total	\$	711.35

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Beverly Johnson*

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Peggy Collet*

Friday, March 15, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Bernice & Robert P. Sampson*

Saturday, March 16, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *John Henry Burke*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Willie A. & Gertie Landry*

+ *Mary M. Fougere*

Sunday, March 17, 2024

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Fr. Russell Sampson*

Community Notices

SJB: Our Lenten Project is financial support for “**Operation Smile**” providing surgical repair for children with hair lip/pallet in Libya, Syria & Yemen. Please place your donation in the envelope attached to bulletin and put in collection basket. Thanks for your generosity.

SJB: Any donations towards the cost of Easter flowers would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the weekly collection in an envelope marked "Easter flowers". Thanking you in advance, St John the Baptist CWL.

SJB: The family of the late Stella Doutaz and Helen Poirier would like to thank everyone for their prayers, words of condolences, Masses, donations of food and monetary donations on behalf of our sisters. Also thanks to all who attended the wake for Stella and the Celebration of Life and Mass for Helen. It was greatly appreciated. The LeBlanc family.

HGA: VOLUNTEER(S) WANTED:

As you know, HGA has not had an organist since Jane Martell died in June, 2017, and we have not had regular music/choir since the summer of 2021 when our floppy disk player stopped working. Is there anyone who would have free time and be willing to play our organ for Sunday morning Masses? We would certainly appreciate music. If you or anyone you know is available, please contact Sheila Pottie 902-587-2594 or Maureen Sampson 902-587-2517. **Please call René Samson (902) 227-7776**

HGA: Showing We Care Through Prayer.

We have a few sets of three eVena Prayer Cards. An eVena is a devotion prayed three times asking for a special grace or petition. Then you send a card to the person for whom you are praying. (Instructions are with the cards.) Feel free to pick up a set of cards at the entrance of the church.

The St. Peter's and Area Food Bank Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the basement of the Glebe House at 9785 Grenville Street, St. Peter's, Nova Scotia.

TEA & Tunes Sunday, March 17 Bonnie Brae Club 2-4 Evelyn MacRae and Friends Admission 5.00 dollars Half & Half Tickets sold Light Lunch will be served Please support the seniors

Knights' meetings for March: The regular meetings for Council 14280 will be as follows:

Officers meeting will be held on Friday March 15th at Louis Cosy Corner beginning at 10:00 am.

The regular Council meeting will be held on Thursday March 21st beginning at 6:30 pm. in the meeting room of the St. Peter's Glebe House.

Holy Week Celebrations

Chrism Mass

Monday, March 25, 2024, at 3:00 pm

Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral

Notes: Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations. : Following the instructions on the Sacred Triduum from the Clergy Days, November, 2023, and with the Bishop's permission, the following schedule is close to the ideal.

This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at St. John the Baptist Church.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Thursday, March 28, 2024

SJB **4:00 PM**

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, March 29, 2024

SJB **3:00 PM**

Note: Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

The Resurrection of the Lord

At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Saturday, March 30, 2024

SJB: **8:00 PM**

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024

SH **9:30 AM**

HGA **11:00 AM**

No weekday Masses Monday, April 1 – Friday, April 5, 2024.

US Senators ask Pfizer about donation to Dying with Dignity Canada, Canada's pro-euthanasia group.

Alex Schadenberg

Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

On February 28, Marco Rubio (US Senator for Florida) questioned Pfizer's position on assisted suicide and euthanasia considering the fact that Pfizer has received millions of dollars from the US tax payer.

A recent report exposed Pfizer's financial assistance to Dying with Dignity Canada (DWDC), raising questions about its stance on assisted suicide. DWDC has pushed to expand the eligibility for "medically assisted death" to children as young as 12 years old. Pfizer's support for DWDC raises concerns that it is complicit in prematurely ending lives.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and colleagues sent a letter to Pfizer CEO Dr. Albert Bourla regarding Pfizer's donations to DWDC, and the company's stance on "medically assisted death."

- "The practice of 'medically assisted death' contradicts Pfizer's stated purpose of 'delivering breakthroughs to change patients' lives.'
- "As Pfizer has received millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to develop treatments and conduct medical research, Pfizer must be

completely transparent to the federal government, and the American public, about where the company stands on medically assisted death.”

Joining Rubio were Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX), J.D. Vance (R-OH), Josh Hawley (R-MO), and Mike Braun (R-IN) and Representatives Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and Chris Smith (R-NJ).

The Senators asked Pfizer to provide specific answers to the following questions:

1. Were U.S. taxpayer funds used to make the donation to DWDC? If not, from which source did the donation come from? Why was such a donation made by Pfizer and not its individual shareholders?
2. What is Pfizer’s official position on “medically assisted death?”
 1. If Pfizer supports “medically assisted death,” does Pfizer support DWDC’s position that minors have the mental capacity to consent to “medically assisted death?”
 1. If so, has Pfizer disclosed this to shareholders?
 2. If Pfizer does not support “medically assisted death,” will Pfizer publicly commit to cease donations to DWDC and similar groups that support “medically assisted death?”
3. Does Pfizer currently manufacture and/or sell products that are used (regardless of whether prescribed off-label) for “medically assisted death” in the United States or elsewhere?
 1. If so, does Pfizer support groups like DWDC in order to increase market demand for its products?
4. Which criteria does Pfizer use to determine to whom they donate?
5. How much, in total, has Pfizer donated to “medically assisted death” advocacy groups over the past ten years?
6. Will Pfizer continue to donate to DWDC, or other “medically assisted death” advocacy groups, this year?
7. Has Pfizer ever utilized its donations to DWDC, or similar groups, as a justification for a positive Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) rating?
 1. If so, does Pfizer consider “medically assisted death” to be a legitimate method for addressing climate change, environmental challenges, or social issues?

We thank Senator Rubio, and the other Senators and EPC has asked them to share the response from Pfizer, if Pfizer responds.

Canada’s euthanasia lobby is receiving significant money from Canada’s federal government and it is clearly not appropriate for Pfizer, that produces end-of-life drugs to be donating to the euthanasia lobby and as stated by the Senators, it would be even more inappropriate if Pfizer is donating money obtained from the US government to donate to Canada’s euthanasia lobby.

March 17 is Solidarity Sunday

Development and Peace’s partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation or HOMEF defends farmer’s rights and helps protect their lands. This could not be possible if it weren’t for what you offer each year at our Share Lent collections that will take place on Solidarity Sunday in all our Diocesan Churches on March 17th. There is an envelope in most of our church collection boxes and there are D & P envelopes in many of our parish churches. You may also choose to mail a personal donation

to 555 Rene’-Le’vesque Blvd., West, 8th Floor, Montreal QC. H2Z 1B1. Or use the link below to donate online.

Solidarity virtual calendar with daily activities, videos, and more:

<https://devp.org/en/campaign/reaping-our-rights/solidarity-calendar/>

Solidarity calendar is available to print, along with Solidarity Snakes and Ladders board game, Way of the Cross, reflections and other resources.

<https://devp.org/en/campaign/reaping-our-rights/resources-lent-2024/>