

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

December 15, 2024-January 1, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is from *Zephaniah 3:14-18*. It is probable that neither Zephaniah nor his hearers saw the full meaning of the consoling words he uttered and that matters not. But we see their full meaning now in their fulfillment and we have every reason to do what the prophet said: "to shout for joy." God has come to dwell amongst us. He, Christ, is head of the new Israel, the Church. We are its members. "I am the vine, you are the branches" he said; while we remain united with him in grace and love we are producing fruit for eternal life, we are progressing daily towards our perfection.

The **Second Reading** is from *Philippians 4:4-7*. St. Francis of Assisi tried in his daily life to follow Christ as closely as possible. He was one of the happiest and most joyful of men for this very reason. He was often ill, often hungry, often cold and often fatigued but he was but he was never known to have been sad. He had taken this exhortation of St. Paul to his heart. Whenever he saw one of his early followers gloomy and sad—there were some evidently who were as yet only following from afar—he told him go to confession as he must be in mortal sin. There seemed no other true explanation for sadness in a true Christian's life. Is there? We are really pilgrims, exiles on this earth, but every day we live is a day nearer to our true and lasting home which is heaven. Would an exile on his home-journey complain of the few hardships and discomforts he may meet with on his journey? Not if his heart is really set on coming home.

The **Gospel** is from *Luke 3:10-18*. The Baptist's words are still very much to the point for all of us. We are all to a greater or lesser degree tax collectors and sinners. They had the honesty to admit it and asked John what they should do in order to be ready to welcome the Messiah, Christ. Let me ask today too what I should do if I mean to welcome Christ sincerely at Christmas. And the answer is in

the words I have just heard. Am I just and charitable to my fellow-men? If I am an employer am I paying a just wage to those who are producing my wealth for me? If I am an employee am I doing an honest day's work for the pay I am getting? And both employer and employee must in justice and charity think of the consumer—the third party, when fixing or causing the price of what they produce.

If the employers, through desire for excessive profit, or the employee through not earning his pay, cause prices to rise then the third party, the consumer, is treated unjustly. Our world today is full of such injustices and sad to say, the Christian countries whose citizens profess to be followers of Christ not only do nothing to prevent this state of affairs but instead are even worse offenders than those who have not yet heard of Christ. I may shrug my shoulders and say what can I do about the injustice that abounds can I do about the injustice that abounds on all sides? But stop and think, there are things I can do. I can put my own conscience in order, I can put myself right with God and neighbor by acting justly, "giving every man his due" from this day forward. I can thus become an example to lead others to do likewise. —*Excerpt from The Sunday Readings, Cycle C by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.*

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM
+ Alex MacDonald

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

SP 9:00 AM
+ Michael Marshall

Friday, December 20, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM
+ Bernice & Robert P. Sampson

Saturday, December 21, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM
♥Special Intention
SP 5:30 PM
+Eva Landry

Sunday, December 22, 2024

SH 9:00 AM
+ Marilyn Groom-Mac Namara
HGA 11:00 AM
+ Lawrence, Clara, Ralph & James Bona

Tuesday, December 24, 2024
(Christmas Eve)
SJB 4:00 PM
+ *Sharon Digout*
SP 5:30 PM
+ *Marc & Eva Sampson*

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
(Christmas Day)
SH 9:00 AM
+ *Isabel Johnson*
HGA 11:00 AM
+ *Gavin Sampson*

Saturday, December 28, 2024
SJB 4:00 PM
+ *Patrick Bourque*
SP 5:30 PM
+ *Marilyn Groom-Mac Namara*

Sunday, December 29, 2024
SH 9:00 AM
+ *Anna Mombourquette*
HGA 11:00 AM
+ *Harry A. Sampson*

Tuesday, December 31, 2024
(New Year's Eve)
SJB 4:00 PM
+ *Alex Mac Donald*
SP 5:30 PM
+ *Eva Landry*

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
(New Year's Day)
SH 9:00 AM
+ *Jessie Savoie*
HGA 11:00 AM
+ *Rosalie (Sissy) Sampson*

Saturday, January 4, 2025
SJB 4:00 PM
+ *Patrick Bourque*
SP 5:30 PM
+ *Eva Landry*

Sunday, January 5, 2025

SH	9:00 AM
+ <i>Leona Matilda Martell</i>	
HGA	11:00 AM
+ <i>Gerard Taylor</i>	

No Masses from January 6th to January 10th inclusive

Saturday, January 11, 2025

SJB	4:00 PM
+ <i>Marilyn Rose Touesnard</i>	
SP	5:30 PM
+ <i>Faye & Rita MacMillan</i>	

Sunday, January 12, 2025

SH	9:00 AM
+ <i>Anna Mombourquette</i>	
HGA	11:00 AM
+ <i>George & David Sampson</i>	

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

December 7, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	738.00
Memory Tree		955.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,693.00</u>

St. Peter's

December 7, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	993.00
Candles		31.00
Memory Tree		760.00
Cemetery		20.00
Altar Flowers		10.00
Missals		10.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,824.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
December 8, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,008.00
Candles	48.00
Missals	5.00
Total	\$ 1,061.00

Community Notices

SJB: The decoration of the church for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 1 PM. We appreciate your assistance, thank you.

HGA: The family of Cecilia E. Pottie wish to let friends know of her passing on November 30th which occurred at her residence, MacGillivray Guest Home in Sydney. Cecile was the daughter of the late George and Catherine Pottie of L'Ardoise and a former faithful member of Holy Guardian Angels Parish. Her burial will take place in the Spring of 2025.

Tea and Tunes SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 Bonnie Brae Club 2-4 Wayne Bona, Tyrone David and Mannie Bourgeois. Admission 5 dollars Half and Half Tickets sold. Light lunch will be served.

Christmas/New Year's Schedule of Masses

This year the celebration of the solemn feasts: Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day) will simply be according to the regular weekend schedule.

Christmas Eve, The Nativity of the Lord

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 pm

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00pm

No Masses on December 26 and 27.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

World Day of Peace

Wednesday, January 1, 2024

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

No Masses on January 2 and 3.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 4, 2024

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

Sunday, January 5, 2024

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

No weekday Masses from January 6-10, 2025.

Advent Message from Bishop Kirkpatrick

In the Season of Advent, we also prepare for and anticipate the Jubilee Year of Hope, a time that invites us to reflect deeply on the profound gift of hope that sustains us in our daily lives. Advent is a sacred invitation to awaken our hearts to the promise of Christ's coming, both in history and in our personal lives. In the spirit of being "Pilgrims of Hope," as we light the candles on our Advent wreaths we are called to recognize the light that breaks through our darkness, symbolizing the light of Christ illuminating the path towards renewal and transformation. As we journey through this Season, let us embrace the opportunities presented to us, moments of prayer, reflection, and community that can deepen our connection to God and each other. May we support one another as we renew our hope, both as individuals and as a faith community.

Wishing you a blessed Advent Season filled with joy and hope.

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

We Hold in Prayer The Most Rev. Frederick Bernard Henry,

Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Calgary, who passed away on December 3 at the age of 81.