

**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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**February 18, 2024**

**First Sunday of Lent**

The scene of the temptation, which opens the public life of Jesus, declares in the Gospels in a very forceful manner the great change in our lives that He introduces into the world by His work of redemption. Where Adam fell, Christ, the new Head of humanity, triumphs over the power of Satan: at the time of His passion "the prince of this world" will be cast out. The Gospel of the temptation heralds Christ's victory.

By appointing this Gospel for the beginning of Lent the Church proclaims that this victory should be ours also. In us, as all around us, it is Christ's temptation, Christ's struggle, Christ's victory which is prolonged; our effort is His and so is our strength; His will be our victory at Easter.

## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of Genesis 9:8-15* and is about the covenant between God and Noah not to destroy the world again by water.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Peter 3:18-22*. In this passage St. Peter is exhorting the newly converted Christians to live according to the Christian faith, no matter what trials they may have to endure because of it.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:12-15*. The very thought of our divine Lord's suffering hunger, loneliness, and humiliation at the hands of his enemy—and that all this was for us—should make us feel ashamed at the little bits of suffering and humiliation we are willing to suffer for our own selves. He had no sin to atone for. He was making atonement for us and for our sins. He was the Son of God and his home was heaven, but he left it for a while to assume human nature, so that he could through his humiliations and sufferings bring us to share his eternal home with him. What is the thanks he gets from us? Ingratitude, forgetfulness, and even worse: insults and disobedience.

While the Church has eased the strict fastings and penances of Lent, we are still expected to do some private fasting and penance. It need not be fasting from food, but we can all do some daily penance which will help to keep our unruly minds and bodies in check while at the same time it will show that we are grateful to our loving Savior for all that he suffered for us. A few extra prayers each day, control of our temper in the home, less talk and especially less uncharitable talk among our neighbors, a little helping hand to a neighbor in need, a fervent prayer and where we can spare it (perhaps by doing without some luxury) a donation toward helping the starving millions in other lands. The sincere Christian will find a hundred such ways in which to thank and honor Christ during this holy season of Lent. We can all keep the last verse of today's reading before our minds with great profit. "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is the essence, the marrow, of Christ's teaching. Turn away from sin and come back to God. Anyone who believes in the gospel, who believes that there is an everlasting life after death prepared by God for all those who do his will while on earth, should not find it hard to give up offending that loving God who thinks so much of him. This life is only a passing shadow, every step we take, every breath we breathe is bringing us nearer to our earthly end and to the grave. But the believing Christian knows the grave is not the end. Rather, is it the beginning of the true life—provided we use this passing shadow, these few years, properly.

Now is the time to take these words of Christ to heart. He is asking each one of us today, to repent and to believe the gospel, that is, to act according to its teaching. Christ, in his mercy, will make this appeal to men again and again, but will we be here to hear it? If we answer his appeal now and start living our Christian faith in all sincerity, we need not care when death calls us. It will find us ready to pass over to the future, happy, unending life.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan,

## **Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

**Please call the office:  
902-535-2053**

## Receipts:

### St. John the Baptist

February 10, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,555.00
Cemetery		510.00
Property Maintenance		400.00

Total \$ 2,465.00

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### St. Peter's

February 10, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	947.00
Altar Society Dues		295.00

Total \$ 1,242.00

### Holy Guardian Angels

February 11, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,362.00
Candles		36.00
Missals		15.00
Share Lent		200.00

Total \$ 1,613.00

# Mass Schedule

## Tuesday, February 20, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+*John Henry Burke*

## Wednesday, February 21, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+*Sarah Burke*

## Friday, February 23, 2024

HGA 11:00 AM

+*Beverly Johnson*

## Saturday, February 24, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+*Scott Fougere*

SP 5:30 PM

+*Sarah Burke*

## Sunday, February 25, 2024

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+*Bernie Middleton*

# From Bishop Kirkpatrick

Season of Lent 2024

My Dear People

Pope Francis says, “In the desert one hears the Word of God, one finds intimacy with God and the love of the Lord,” It is not easy for us to be in the desert when we are surrounded by water. Without any difficulty we can transfer the brown sand of the desert to the white snow of winter. We can walk amid the snow and find the solitude of the desert. We can find a place to dialogue in silence with the Lord. This solitude increases our sensitivity to those who cry out for help. This is why we invite you to become involved with Development and Peace to help such people in the Global South, Stand for the Land. We are invited to share our

solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters, and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history, and identity that defines them.

<https://devp.org/en/?s=Stand+For+the+Land+Campaign>

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2 marked forty days since celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. This day also marks the halfway point of winter. It may not seem likely, but spring is on the way with each passing day, as we notice the lengthening of the daylight. The word Lent comes from the Old English word, *lencten*, which refers to the lengthening daylight hours and to springtime which is a time of renewal and new life.

This year, the secular celebration of Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Although one is temporal, and the other is spiritual; they are complementary since they both focus on love. One focuses on the sentiments of love but the other focuses on the essence of love. This forty-day Season of Lent is a time for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Fasting is an act of self-denial and a way of directing our thoughts away from ourselves and towards our God. Almsgiving is the act by which we give of ourselves in order to assist someone in need. Prayer should be the centre of our Christian lives lifting up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our God who loves us. The exercise of these virtues keeps us close to God and keeps us focused on service to others. We deny ourselves because we love.

May this Season of Lent lead us to renewal in our faith.

Sincerely in Christ,  
+ Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick  
Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick

## **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:** During lent the Way of the Cross will be at 3:30 PM followed by Mass. Please sign up at the church entrance if you are willing to serve by carrying cross/candles.

**HGA:** L'Ardoise Acadian Festival meeting will be held on Sunday February 18 @ 2:00 PM. Planning for this year's festival has just begun and we hope to see you at this meeting.

**HGA:** The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15 AM each Friday during Lent. Welcome all! On Sundays during Lent the church will be opened for visit or private prayer till 3 PM.

***Knights Council Meeting:*** The regular meeting of Council 14280 will be held on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room of St. Peter's Glebe.

**Prayers Requested:** Please keep in your prayers Sister Mary Dolores Sogz, 90, a Sister of St. Martha of Antigonish who died at Mary's Court, Parkland, Antigonish, on Saturday February 10, 2024, in the 71st year of her Religious Life.

<https://www.clcurry.com/obituaries/175787>

**Community Hub for 55-plus  
at NSCC Strait Area Campus, Port Hawkesbury**

Funded through the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and Long-term Care, CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health) is a community hub and active living centre that promotes health and wellbeing for people 55 years of age plus through social, cultural, learning and recreational programs. CORAH at Strait Area Campus serves the quad county area: Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness and Richmond counties.

**For activity schedules and more information:**

[corah-strait@nscc.ca](mailto:corah-strait@nscc.ca), phone Monica at 902-625-4252 or find them on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CORAHNSCCStrait](https://www.facebook.com/CORAHNSCCStrait)