

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes

(902) 535-2053

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January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time has been designated as the "Sunday of the Word of God" (the Sunday usually falls between January 21-27). See [Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*](#) which instituted this observation, and [the USCCB page](#) with ideas for Catechetical, Ecumenical, Liturgical and Prayer Material.

Mass Readings:

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Jonah 3:1-5, 10* and tells the story of Jonah's call from God to go to a pagan city and preach repentance to the sinful people there.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians*. St. Paul admonishes his converts to do what our Lord himself advised his follower—always to be ready for the judgment.

The **Gospel** is from the *Gospel of Mark 1:14-20*. Jesus came to announce to all men the good news of God's eternal plan for them. He spent his public life convincing the Jews of Palestine of the truth of this message, and he died on the cross because he claimed to be that he was God's divine Son, who had come in human nature to raise all men to the standing and status of adopted sons of God. That very death, cruel and unjust though it was, was part of the divine plan. He conquered death and was raised from the grave to prove that we too, if we accept his divine gospel and live by it, will be raised from the dead and reign with Christ in the kingdom of his Father forever. Christ preached this doctrine in Palestine. It is the doctrine for which he gave his human life and which he gave to his Apostles to hand down to all future generations. This is the self-same doctrine preached by Christ's Church to all men today. It is the good news of God's mercy and love toward us weak, mortal creatures. To some it seems too good to be true; it would indeed be so if God were a limited, finite being like us, but he is Being itself. He is without limit, his goodness and love are limitless as is his nature. What God can see in creatures has ever been a puzzle to thinking man. One of the psalm-writers said centuries ago: "What is man that you should spare a thought for him, the son of man that you should care for him" (Ps. 8 :4)? Many a saint too, has repeated this remark ever since.

We cannot hope to fathom the mind of God, nor do we need to. He has gone to such a length as the humiliation of his divine Son in the incarnation in order to give us a new standing in relation to himself and a new mode of eternal living after death. We are still God's creatures, "the work of his hands," but through accepting Christ and his gospel—his message of divine truth—we are no longer mere mortals. We shall die, but death is the beginning of the true life which God has

arranged for us. It is no wonder that St. Paul could cry out: "O death where is your victory, O death, where is your sting?"

We Christians should be the happiest people on earth. We know why we are here, we know where we are going and we know how to get there. There are trials and troubles which beset us on our journey; there are rough parts of the road and weaknesses in our human nature which often lead us off the right road, but we are not left to our own human resources. We have help from above to strengthen and comfort us on our journey. We have divine aids in the Church which Christ set us and we have the guarantee of our Good Shepherd that he will keep us in his fold or bring us back should we foolishly wander from it (Jn. 10: 14; Lk. 1.5:4-7).

We Christians can indeed be the happiest people on earth, if we live according to the divine good news revealed to us through Christ. "Repent and believe in the gospel," Christ told the people of Galilee. The same call goes out from our loving Savior to each of us today: repent—change your outlook on life— and see it as God sees it to be for us, a short journey toward heaven. If we really believe in the gospel of Christ, the revelation of God's plan for our eternal happiness, our earthly troubles will look small, our trials and temptations will appear to us as they really are—a means of earning the eternal victory. Christ, the innocent victim for our salvation, has gone before us, carrying his heavy cross; can we refuse to carry the relatively lighter cross which he places on our shoulders as our means of making atonement for our own failings and for those of our fellowmen? God forbid that we should! If we have failed in the past, let us repent today and show our belief in the truth of the Christian gospel, by living as true Christians who are on their way to heaven.—*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

January 14, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	877.00
Fuel		325.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,202.00</u>

St. Peter's

January 14, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$	902.00
Candles		24.00

Parish Dues	10.00
Truth & Reconciliation	10.00
New Year's Day	85.00
Initial Offering	74.00
Cemetery	20.00
Total	\$ 1,125.00

Holy Guardian Angels

January 14, 2024

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 908.00
Candles	34.55
Missals	5.00
Total	\$ 947.55

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

SP 9:00 AM

+ *Sarah Burke*

Friday, January 26, 2024

HGA: 11:00 PM

Saturday, January 27, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Joseph McPhee*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Willie A. & Gertie Landry*

Sunday, January 28, 2024

SH 9:00 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Mark Mombourquette*

Community News

HGA: This Sunday, Jan 21, the mid-point of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, HGA will be open for both guided and personal prayer from 2-3 PM. All are welcome.

January 21

Sunday of the Word of God

This year marks the fifth Sunday of the Word of God. The theme this year: “Remain in my Word.” The Dicastery for Evangelization has developed a pastoral and liturgical handbook offering helpful suggestions for experiencing the Sunday of the Word of God in parishes, in families, and with young people.

The resource is available:

in English

http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/dam/pcpne/image/DomenicadellaParola/2024/ENG_V%20DOMENICA-SUSSIDIO.PDF

in French

http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/dam/pcpne/image/DomenicadellaParola/2024/FR_V%20DOMENICA-SUSSIDIO.PDF