

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes  
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## September 22, 2024

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Wisdom* 2:12, 17-20. Against the background of Egyptian worship of animals and mockery of Jewish trust in God, the author devotes much of chapters 1 - 5 to the ineffectiveness of such mockery when God has promised immortality to those who remain faithful.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. James* 3:16, 4:3. "Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask." In this reading St. James tells us to recognize the source of our disagreements.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark* 9:30-37. The Apostles were still very worldly-minded. They were full of the hope that Christ would establish an earthly messianic kingdom, that he would not only free their holy land from the hated pagan rulers but that he would set up a worldwide empire for the people of God. Many of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament spoke of a worldwide kingdom; all nations would submit to the descendant of David; Jerusalem would be the magnet which would attract all peoples. The prophets, however, were speaking of the true messianic kingdom, the spiritual kingdom that Christ would establish. The Apostles were as yet unable to see the true meaning of these prophecies. They took them as referring to a worldly kingdom. They had come to believe that Christ was the promised Messiah, therefore, he would overcome all enemies and all opposition and set up this kingdom. How, therefore, could his enemies overpower him much less put him to death before he had accomplished his task? Thus they refused to believe his prophecies concerning his coming tortures and death.

Now, either in trying to understand what he had so plainly told them, or maybe in putting this disturbing thought far from their minds, they began disputing with one another as to which of them would have the highest post of honor in the earthly messianic kingdom which they had envisaged. How worldly but how human they were! We must not forget though, that they were not yet really Christians — they needed the death and resurrection of Christ to make them what they became — His true followers and loyal disciples.

There was in the unformed Apostles a desire to turn Christ's kingdom into an earthly welfare state, rather than into a preparation for heaven. All Christians know that Christ suffered and died for their salvation, and that he asked his followers to take up their cross and follow him if they wished to be his disciples. The first generations of Christians fully understood this and faithfully followed him even to martyrdom. However, as time went on and opposition to the Christian faith disappeared, so too did the zeal and fervor of many Christians. For centuries we have had nominal Christians in Christ's Church -- men and women who tried to make their paradise in this world, and forgot the everlasting heaven.

Our own age has seen an unprecedented increase in this falling away of Christians. Leaving aside the parts of Europe which are professedly atheist -- but where in spite of the leaders there are many sincere and devout Christians -- the number of lapsed and nominal Christians in the other Western countries is frightening. These non-practicing Christians, unwilling to carry their crosses, have decided to make this earth their paradise. They want prosperity, comfort and happiness in this world. The vast majority of them, of course, refuse to look to the future; it could be an unpleasant thought, yet they must see that in every town and village there is a mortician, an undertaker who makes a good living disposing of human "remains." Die they must; "and what then?" should be a question which overshadows their lives.

Many of these people who in practice have abandoned Christianity, try to salve their consciences by devoting any time they can spare to making this planet a better place in which to live. It is an excellent aim with a possibility of success — if the Fatherhood of God and the true brotherhood of man are upheld. But otherwise it is a vain Utopia. If God, and Christ's teaching are left out of our reckoning, we shall ever have jealousies, enmities, hatred and wars. Christians have made war on Christians because neither side in the struggle was truly Christian. What chance then has the world when Christ and Christianity are banished from it?

Today's thought for each one of us is this: Christ became man, suffered and died as man, for our sakes. By his resurrection He conquered death and opened heaven for us. Heaven is our true destiny. Loving God and our neighbor and carrying our cross is the only way to reach heaven. Forget this "heaven on earth" doctrine; it does not and never will exist! Accept Christ and you are accepting the Father who sent Him. He in turn will accept you.

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

# Mass Schedule

<u>Monday, September 23, 2024</u>	
HGA	1:00 PM
<i>Mass of Christian Burial</i>	
<i>+Leona Martel</i>	
<u>Tuesday, September 24, 2024</u>	
SH	11:00 AM
<i>Mass of Christian Burial</i>	
<i>+ Isabel Johnston</i>	
<u>Wednesday, September 25, 2024</u>	
SP	9:00 AM
<i>+ Bridget Goodwin</i>	
<u>Friday, September 27, 2024</u>	
HGA	11:00 AM
<i>+ Casilda Parago</i>	
<u>Saturday, September 28, 2024</u>	
SJB	4:00 PM
<i>+ Marilyn Ann Groom-MacNamara</i>	
SP	5:30 PM
<i>+Eva Landry</i>	
<u>Sunday, September 29, 2024</u>	
SH	9:30 AM
<i>+ Madeline Libbus</i>	
HGA	11:00 AM
<i>+ Donald Boudreau</i>	

# Receipts

<u>St. John the Baptist</u>	
<u>September 14, 2024</u>	
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 935.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 935.00</u>

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<u>St. Peter's</u>	
<u>September 14, 2024</u>	
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 885.00
Candles	29.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 914.00</u>

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**Holy Guardian Angels**

**September 15, 2024**

<b><u>Envelopes &amp; Loose</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>823.00</b>
<b><u>Candles</u></b>		<b>57.75</b>
<b><u>Candidates for Priesthood</u></b>		<b>10.00</b>

<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>890.75</u></b>
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**Community Notices:**

**SJB CWL:** Members are asked to meet at the Richmond Villa on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 1:30 PM to assist with the monthly birthday party for the residents. Thank You

**CHALICE Child Sponsorship**

Founded in 1992 by Fr. Pat Cosgrove in Nova Scotia. CHALICE supports almost 50,000 children and elders in 13 developing countries.

CHALICE is Canada’s largest Catholic child sponsorship organization.

Sponsoring with Chalice enables parishioners to help families struggling with poverty through an organisation which is faithful to the Church and obedient to her bishops. Sponsorship calls parishioners to greater holiness and participation in the mission of the Church.

CHALICE’S sponsor sites work with communities that lack the essentials, including food, medicine, and clean water. When families live in these circumstances, educating their children becomes a luxury they cannot afford. Sadly, many children drop out to join the workforce and help support their families. This continues the ‘cycle of poverty.’

Your sponsorship of \$42 per month changes all that. When you become a sponsor, you connect directly with a child and show him or her that their future matters and that key to a bright future is education. CHALICE sponsorship is focused on giving children all the support they need to finish school – be that secondary, post-secondary, or vocational training.

Sponsored children each have unique experiences of poverty, depending on their community and family circumstances. That’s why CHALICE’S sponsorship model gives financial decision-making power to the people who know what the child needs best: their parents and guardians. Parents choose how to spend or save sponsorship funds. They know what to do: they educate their children and uplift their whole family.

Their local CHALICE sponsor site also supports the families with other building-blocks for success, including nutrition, community infrastructure, skills development, healthcare, water, sustainable agriculture, and small-business development.

You will receive correspondence from your child every year, and you can write to your child at any time.

CHALICE has an A rating with Charity Intelligence and ranked in the Charity Intelligence Top 100 charities. For every dollar donated, after overhead costs of fundraising and administration, CHALICE commits more than 90% of its spending in support of programs.

Donors receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of your sponsorship. For those joining Mass online, go to [Chalice.ca](https://Chalice.ca) and click “sponsor.”

Bolivia Chile Guatemala Ghana  
Haiti India Kenya Ukraine  
Paraguay Peru Philippines Tanzania Zambia

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Parish Coordinator,  
Andrew Hachey [andrewhachey@chalice.ca](mailto:andrewhachey@chalice.ca) or 902. 707. 0711 ext. 101  
Chalice Corpus Christi Sponsorship Weekends | Poured Out. For You. For Many.  
[chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca)

**Now Available!**

**Witness to Hope, our seasonal diocesan newsletter, Autumn 2024**

In this issue: Truth and Reconciliation; Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of  
Assisi; Dates of Note and more.

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WitnessToHopeAutumn2024.pdf>

**September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

**October is Mi'kmaw History Month.**

**October 5-6 is the annual collection for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.**

How can we journey in Truth and Reconciliation?

Pray for reconciliation and healing.

Read letters and documents important to the journey of reconciliation.

Support the annual collection, with a parish envelope or a donation online.

Visit our website:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/>