

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

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: [bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com)

**September 29, 2024**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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## Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Numbers 11:25-29*. The book of Numbers is a narrative of the 39 years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness. Today's reading comes from the account of the journey through the wilderness.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Epistle of St. James 5:1-6*. The main purpose of this epistle is the teaching of morality and self-discipline. The sacred writer speaks with great severity, not mincing his words, in order to make people see that actions of the kind he condemns are incompatible with the profession of the Christian faith.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48*. There are two very practical lessons we must learn from today's Gospel: the grave obligation we have of not causing scandal to our fellow-Christians or indeed to any man or woman and secondly, the willingness we should have to sacrifice any earthly possession which is a cause of sin to us.

Scandal, the sin of being a cause or an occasion of another's sin, is doubly sinful involving one's own sin and the sin of the person scandalized. Scandal can be caused by word—that is, by teaching or propagating wrong doctrine or by giving sinful advice, and it can be caused by one's own sinful deeds which may be imitated by others. Those in positions of authority such as parents whose duty it is to bring up their children in the Christian faith, are especially liable to give scandal if they fail to live truly Christian lives. Christian parents who fail to live according to their faith will be held accountable not only for their own sins, but for the sins of their children and perhaps their children's children for generations to come.

Much, if not all of today's moral laxity and permissiveness can be blamed on parents who have failed to give the example of true Christian living in the home and in dealings with their neighbors. To children of such parents, Christianity is only a label; it does not inform or inspire their lives, hence they are only nominal Christians. It is true that there may be "black sheep" in the best of Christian homes. When, however, all the children of a home are "black sheep" the whiteness, the sincerity, of the parents of such a home must certainly be called into question. There may be many bad influences at work outside the home but the good example of truly Christian parents can counteract these influences. Let parents see to it that they will not be a cause of scandal and a cause of eternal loss to the children God put into their charge.

The second lesson for all of us in today's Gospel is that we should ever realize that eternal life is worth any sacrifice which we may be called on to make. The road we have to travel in life is not an easy one. As our Lord says in another place: "Enter by the narrow gate for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. But the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Mt. 7: 13). We wish to reach heaven, therefore we must be prepared to follow Christ; we must not allow

others to lead us astray but be prepared and determined to conquer and resist our own evil inclinations also. —Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

## Mass Schedule

<u>Tuesday, October 1, 2024</u>	
SJB	4:00 PM
+ <i>Harold Stevens</i>	
<u>Wednesday, October 2, 2024</u>	
SP	9:00 AM
+ <i>Bridget Goodwin</i>	
<u>Friday, October 4, 2024</u>	
HGA	11:00 AM
+ <i>Lawrence, Clara, Ralph &amp; James Bona</i>	
<u>Saturday, October 5, 2024</u>	
SJB	4:00 PM
+ <i>Stephen Charles Landry</i>	
SP	5:30 PM
+ <i>Eva Landry</i>	
<u>Sunday, October 6, 2024</u>	
SH	9:30 AM
+ <i>Bridget Goodwin</i>	
HGA	11:00 AM
+ <i>Danny &amp; Maude Bona</i>	

## Receipts

<u>St. John the Baptist</u>	
<u>September 21, 2024</u>	
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 953.00
Cemetery	150.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,103.00</u>
 <u>St. Peter's</u>	
<u>September 21, 2024</u>	
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 932.25
Candles	26.00
Parish Dues	20.00
Cemetery	200.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,178.25</u>

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**Holy Guardian Angels**

**September 22, 2024**

**Envelopes & Loose                      \$     1,069.00**

**Candles    47.70**

**Estate of William Gould                      200.00**  
**(cemetery donation)**

**Total    \$     1,316.70**

**HGA Correction for Sept. 15, 2024 Receipts**

**Envelopes & Loose    \$1,423.00**

**Candles    29.00**

**Dues    60.00**

**Initial Offering    5.00**

**Total    \$1,517.00**

## **Community Notices**

**SJB CWL:** Will be selling BLOCKS after mass next weekend October 5<sup>th</sup> on 2 pk of snow crabs (3 lb each) donated by William Coleman from Premium Seafood. \$10 a block, only 100 will be sold.

**SJB Liturgy Committee:** Is asking for volunteers to assist in helping bereaved families with funeral Mass preparations. This is a very important and rewarding ministry. If interested, please call Mary F. (902) 535-2699 or Deidre (902) 535-2827. Our thanks in advance.

**SP:** Call for Nominations to Council: The three-year term is up for two members of Council as of the first meeting in September. These two positions are now vacant. If you would like to fill either of these positions, or nominate someone, please do so by end of the day, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please verify with the intended nominees that they are willing to allow their name to stand.

**RTO:** In October we are looking at going over to **Martinique Provincial Park** to hike the park, spend time with one another, hold a short meeting to prepare for our other meetings to end 2024, and have a very simple outdoor picnic for lunch. This will be held on the **8th of October**. I am told that the culvert work that was being done is completed so I am thinking it will be done, weather permitting. Once again, we are looking to meet at 11:00 AM at the park. This activity coincides with our provincial keeping seniors active initiative.

**HGA:** Effective immediately, *Gord Eakins* has accepted the part-time position of Our Community Centre maintenance and general cleaning support. For anyone wishing to book the Centre and discuss protocol in preparation for an event, you can contact Gord @ 902-587-2100. With the new arrangement for Community Centre bookings, we would like to acknowledge the volunteer commitment of Vernon and Raymonde Burke, who handled these requests for many years. We continue to appreciate their support of community events.

**HGA:** With the fall season upon us the regular maintenance of our Cemetery and Parish grounds will conclude. Aside from the general care and maintenance of our property we were successful in repairing many broken family headstones including having eighteen of them reattached to their proper location. Approximately sixty existing graves and plots required leveling along with the attention to the one hundred thirty-five new crosses that were installed in 2022-2023. We are most grateful to our seasonal grounds keeper, Billy Pottie, for his continued attention to our Cemetery, Church and Community Centre property over the past ten years. Taking pride in our Parish Cemetery is a fitting tribute to the memory of our loved ones as we show respect for their resting place. The Cemetery committee is most grateful to those members of our community who assist in clean up and small maintenance. Just recently Clarence, Helen and Wilfred Martell kindly donated hours of service, whipper snipping and cleaning monuments. Royal Canadian Legion members continue to honour fallen veterans by placing flags on their graves. Looking forward to next year, it is our plan to continue maintaining our Cemetery property with any necessary improvements and investigating the purchase of a Wrought Iron Gateway Entrance.

### **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/>

The Cape Breton Chordsmen Present an *Afternoon of Song & Praise* in support of Holy Rosary Church, Westmount. Concert will be held at Holy Rosary on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Joining the Chordsmen as special guests will be Keltic Gospel Chorus, Misty Creek, Holy Rosary Choir, Class Act Quartet, Mike Finigan. Admission is \$ 20.00 and tickets are available by calling Evie O'Rourke at 902-539-2970, from any Chordsman or at the door.

### **Living with Grief support**

Tuesday mornings; 10 am to 11:30 am starting October 8th, October 15th, October 22nd, October 29th, November 5th & November 12th.

Holy Family Parish, Sydney Mines

Bereaved Families of Cape Breton in partnership with the Diocese of Antigonish and Holy Family Parish in Sydney Mines is offering a six-week grief program to those who have lost a loved one. Each week, a grief-related topic is covered to help participants move through the grief process. Participants can attend alone or bring a support person.

To register contact Norma Blinkhorn at (902) 202 2972 or Bereaved Families of Cape Breton (902) 564-6795