

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

July 20, 2025

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Genesis, 18:1-10a*. For today's reading we join Abraham shortly after his name change. It was with Abram becoming Abraham, the father of all nations, at the making of the second covenant, that men and women began to rely upon God in faith and are changed by it. God promises Abraham that within the year his aged wife, Sarah, will have a son. Abraham's reaction is to laugh. Immediately following today's reading, Sarah laughs at the news (Gen 18:12). The child born was named Isaac, which means "laughter".

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of Paul to the *Colossians, 1:24-28*. Last week Paul used the occasion to answer the Judaizers and remind them of the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ. Today Paul tells us his role in proclaiming the gospel. "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church."

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke, 10:38-42* and recounts the familiar story of Martha and Mary. St Augustine comments on this scene as follows: "Martha, who was arranging and preparing the Lord's meal, was busy doing many things, whereas Mary preferred to find her meal in what the Lord was saying. In a way she deserted her sister, who was very busy, and sat herself down at Jesus' feet and just listened to his words. She was faithfully obeying what the Psalm said: 'Be still, and know that I am God' (Ps 46:10). Martha was getting annoyed, Mary was feasting; the former coping with many things, the latter concentrating on one. Both occupations were good" (*Sermon 103*).

Martha has come to be, as it were, the symbol of the active life, and Mary that of the contemplative life. However, for most Christians, called as they are to sanctify themselves in the middle of the world, action and contemplation cannot be regarded as two opposite ways of practicing the Christian faith: an active life forgetful of union with God is useless and barren; but an apparent life of prayer which shows no concern for apostolate and the sanctification of ordinary things also fails to please God. The key lies in being able to combine these two lives, without either harming the other. Close union between action and contemplation can be achieved in very different ways, depending on the specific vocation each person is given by God. —**Excerpted from *The Navarre Bible—St. Luke***

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

SJB

4:00 PM

**Healing Mass*

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

SP

9:00 AM

Friday, July 25, 2025

HGA

11:00 AM

+ *Bernice & Robert P. Sampson*

Saturday, July 26, 2025

SJB

4:00 PM

+ *Clem Burke*

HGA

7:00 PM

+ *Wilfred Patrick Martell*

Fifth World Day For Grandparents and the Elderly

This year's theme chosen by Pope Francis, 'Blessed are those who have not lost hope' (cf. Sir 14:2), fits into the context of the Jubilee of Hope, and invites us to recognize in the elderly not only recipients of pastoral attention, but witnesses of hope and active protagonists of ecclesial life. Their life and faith experience is a valuable heritage, capable of enriching new generations and strengthening the community fabric.

To read the Message of Pope Leo XIV and learn more:

<https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/eventi/2025/fifth-world-day-for-granparents-and-the-elderly.html>

Sunday, July 27, 2025

SH

9:00 AM

♥*For Grandparents and the Elderly*

SP

11:00 AM

♥*For Grandparents and the Elderly*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

July 12, 2025

-	
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,428.00
Property Maintenance	65.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,493.00</u>

St. Peter's
July 12, 2025

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 941.15
Candles	21.00
Cemetery	150.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,112.15</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
July 13, 2025

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,036.60
Candles	32.65
Education of Priests	210.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,279.25</u>

Community Notes

Sister Isabel Chiasson

Formerly Sister Ann Stephen, 92, a Sister of St. Martha of Antigonish, died at Mary's Court, Parkland, Antigonish, on Friday, July 11, 2025, in the 67th year of her Religious Life. Born in Margaree Forks, Nova Scotia, Sr. Isabel was one of thirteen children born to the late Didace and Sarah (Miller) Chiasson.

Sr. Isabel entered the Sisters of St. Martha on August 15, 1956. She pronounced her First Vows on August 15, 1958, and her Perpetual Commitment on August 15, 1962. She began her Martha life of Ministry in our pioneering field of Homemaking. Serving in the kitchen, mostly as pastry cook, at Bethany, our former Motherhouse; St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay; and St. Rita's Hospital, Sydney. She was also missioned to the Teachers Residence, Eskasoni, and served as Kitchen Supervisor at St. Mary's Hospital, Inverness, and the RK MacDonald Nursing Home, Antigonish. Interspersed in these years Sr. Isabel consistently sought to upgrade her knowledge and skills, providing opportunities for her to do internships in different institutions. Prior to transitioning to another ministry, Sr. served again at the RK MacDonald, and at Martha Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, in both places as Dietary Supervisor.

Following a time of renewal and volunteering, Sr. Isabel embarked on a completely different service. She attended a program of Addiction Counselling at Boston College, and at Rutgers, in NJ. She ministered at Harbour Lights Mission in Boston, for several years. Upon returning to Antigonish she served as Supervisor at the main switchboard at Bethany, which included many other tasks along the way, among them looking after Fatima, a summer place for the Sisters of St. Martha.

A deeply private person, she valued her time in quiet and solitude. She was faithful to her daily walks, until her health made that difficult. Sr. Isabel cared deeply for those who lived on the margins, spending countless hours creating or

gathering gloves, scarves, hats, etc., to be given to those who had little. A generosity that was demonstrated quietly and with great dedication.

Note: July 16 is the Feast of the arrival of the first Sisters of St. Martha in Antigonish.

This year, 2025, is the 125th Anniversary of the congregation.

From the Catholic Register. July 14, 2025

The Spirit helps us in our weakness’: Bishops release Jubilee prayer reflection

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued **Note on Prayer** for the Jubilee of Hope. The note, written by the bishops’ Commission for Doctrine, outlines characteristics and forms of Christian prayer compiled by the bishops’ Ad hoc Committee for the Jubilee. Published as part of the CCCB’s ongoing efforts to encourage spiritual renewal during the jubilee year, the document invites the faithful to rediscover the heart of Christian life through prayer. It offers a reflection on how prayer connects believers more deeply with God and one another and emphasizes that prayer is rooted in trust and hope. This resource forms part of a wider national initiative to encourage participation in the jubilee, proclaimed by Pope Francis for 2025.

A Note on Prayer

Prayer is a universal human activity. It can be found in every country, in every period of human history, at every age of life. It expresses the awareness of a relationship with a Being greater than oneself, distinct from oneself, present within oneself.

Christian prayer is clearly marked by faith in God who has made himself known, not only as the Creator of the universe, but as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The faithful pray to the Father through the Son in the Spirit.

We learn to pray, just as we learn to speak, walk or sing. The Gospel offers a profound insight into this. Impressed by Jesus’ prayer, the disciples ask him to teach them how to pray: he teaches them the “Our Father,” with its two poles: God and humanity. Several other Gospel passages show Jesus at prayer, in close contact with his Father (abba = dad), jubilant under the action of the Holy Spirit (Mt 11:25–27), in anguish before death (Lk 22:39–46), and confident on the Cross (Mt 27:46; Lk 23:46). The great prayer recounted in chapter 17 of St. John’s Gospel reveals the heart of Christ.

Prayer is personal, that is, it expresses and enriches the faith of each person, unique and precious in God’s eyes. It is also communal, since it is lived in union with others, whether physically or spiritually present, those living in this world and those who have already entered eternity. It is spiritual: “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” (Rom 8:26)

Prayer takes on different hues: **adoration** before God’s unfathomable mystery, **thanksgiving** for his countless and unceasing benefits, **petition** in the face of daily difficulties, intercession for our sisters and brothers in humanity. It can be vocal (out loud), mental (in the mind through meditation); the body participates (seated to listen; kneeling to adore and implore), eyes closed and recollected. It has a daily rhythm: morning or evening prayer, the Lord’s Day...

Prayer is nourished by the word of God, the Old and New Testaments, in particular the book of Psalms that Jesus himself used; it is also nourished by the liturgy, the privileged place of God's presence; by the teaching of the Church's Magisterium—for example, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which devotes its entire fourth part to prayer (nn. 2558–2865); and by the life and experience of the saints, who are inspiring models and privileged intercessors, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prayer is connected to daily life, with its ups and downs. Jesus himself showed this when he rejoiced at the Holy Spirit's action in the humble (Lk 10:21) and when he trusted in his Father after the death of his friend Lazarus (Jn 11:41–42). We can pray in different places: in nature, in the bedroom, in a church; alone, as a couple, as a family, as a Church.

The cycle of the liturgical year colours Christian prayer—from Advent to Christmas, from Lent to Easter and Ordinary Time—with the great mysteries of the faith (Creation, Incarnation, Redemption, Eternal Life) and the figures of the saints. The sacraments, lived out in prayer, are all essential places for this, with the celebration of the Eucharist and its extension, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, at the forefront.

The official prayer of the Church (the Liturgy of the Hours), the recitation of the holy rosary, the stations of the Cross or other devotions remain important sources for the life of prayer. Gazing at the Cross of Christ, statues of the Blessed Virgin or other saints is a great help in fixing the mind. Sacred music can also inspire us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 2650) states: "In order to pray, one must have the will to pray." "Looking to Jesus" (Heb 12:2), the faithful can have their faces radiant and be transformed in him, as the experience of the Transfiguration (Lk 9:29) reminds us.

Join us in celebrating the United Church of Canada's Centennial Anniversary, Friday, August 1st, 2025 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Bonnie Brae Seniors Club, 14 Toulouse St., St. Peter's, NS Cost: Free. Drop in for live music by Jason MacDonald, games, refreshments, hot dogs, cake and historical milestones from the past century. Bring a friend, share a laugh, and be part of this joyful day. Whether you are a longtime member or new to the community, it is a chance to connect and celebrate together.

K of C: A great big thank you for the great support given to Council 14280 during our recent yard sale. The total revenue collected amounted to **\$1025,70**. Please be assured it will be used to help the needy. Once again, many thanks.

HGA. Our Acadian Festival begins Thursday, July 24 and we are once again asking if you are able to donate rolls, squares or pies and or frozen vegetables. If so, please deliver them starting on Thursday. Also, anyone who can donate an hour or two of their time in the kitchen on Saturday and/or Sunday, your help will be greatly appreciated. Thanks once again.