

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 27, 2025

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

Today is the fifth annual [World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly](#).

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Genesis*, 18:20-32. Last week we heard of Abraham's encounter with the three visitors and the promise of a son. Today we hear of Abraham's bargaining with God over the fate of Sodom.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of Paul to the *Colossians*, 2:12-14. To better understand today's reading, it is necessary to back up one verse: "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ." The "circumcision of Christ" to which Paul refers is baptism. In the Old Covenant, the rite of initiation into God's family was circumcision. In the New Covenant, this same rite of initiation is baptism. In the Old Covenant, the mark was on the physical body but under the New Covenant, the mark is placed on the soul.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke*, 11:1-13 in which we hear Luke's rendition of the "Our Father" and Jesus' teaching on prayer.

The Our Father is certainly the most sublime formula possible and contains the whole essence of the most elevated mental prayer. However, Jesus gave it as a formula for vocal prayer: "When you pray, say. . . ." (ibid. 11:2). This is enough to make us understand the value and importance of vocal prayer, which is within the reach of everyone even children, the uneducated, the sick, the weary.... But we must realize that vocal prayer does not consist only in the repetition of a certain formula. If this were true, we should have a recitation but not a prayer, for prayer always requires a movement, an elevation of the soul toward God. In this sense, Jesus instructed His disciples: "When thou shalt pray, enter into thy chamber, and having shut the door, pray to thy Father in secret.... And when you are praying, speak not much as the heathens" (Mt 6:6-7). It is interesting to note that in *St. Matthew* these prescriptions concerning the exterior and interior dispositions necessary for well-made prayer immediately precede the teaching of the *Our Father*.

Therefore, in order that our vocal prayer be real prayer, we must first recollect ourselves in the presence of God, approach Him, and make contact with Him. Only when we have such dispositions will the words we pronounce with our lips express our interior devotion and be able to sustain and nourish it. Unfortunately, inclined as we are to grasp the material part of things instead of the spiritual, it is only too

easy in our vocal prayer to content ourselves with a mechanical recitation, without taking care to direct our heart to God; hence we should always be vigilant and alert. Vocal prayer made only by the lips dissipates and wearies the soul instead of recollecting it in God; it cannot be said that this is a means of uniting us more closely to Him. —*Divine Intimacy Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D*

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

July 19, 2025

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Envelopes & Loose	\$ 843.00
Property Maintenance	70.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 913.00</u>

St. Peter's

July 19, 2025

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,031.00
Candles	12.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,043.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

July 20, 2025

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 932.30
Candles	36.50
Education of Priests	5.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 973.80</u>

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, July 29, 2025 1:00 PM
 SJB
Mass of Christian Burial
+ Annie Loretta Burke

Wednesday, July 30, 2025 9:00 AM
 SP
+ Clem Burke

Friday, August 1, 2025 1:00 PM
 HGA
Mass of Christian Burial
Phillip Boudreau

Saturday, August 2, 2025

SJB

4:00 PM

+*Fraser, Vernon, Monica (Hannes) Boyd*

SP

5:30 PM

+ *Sutherland Family*

Sunday, August 3, 2025

SH

9:00 AM

+ *George MacCuish*

HGA

11:00 AM

+ *Craig Briand*

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and Church Teaching

The Catholic Church teaches that life is sacred as it is God's gift. From conception to natural death every human life will find its meaning in reference to the divine plan. The Holy Scriptures are founded upon this truth and Church teaching simply mirrors Jesus' teaching that affirms the fifth commandment, "Thou shall not kill." No human agency has the authority to interfere with the Divine Will as life is the Creator's project.

MAiD, and the abortion of the preborn, may be viewed as a symptom of growing atheism that, denying God's existence, makes persons feel justified to choose death whenever it seems convenient. The current situation presents a crisis as the Culture of Death, as St. John Paul called our faithless time, is visibly opposed to Jesus who is life eternal. *Crisis* has two dimensions, danger and opportunity. The danger is that Christians will be formed by secular atheistic culture and the opportunity is an occasion to witness to Christ, to trust in God's compassionate care.

Catholics who choose to identify with the Culture of Death are reminded that they are denied a church funeral. Canon law #1184 reads, "Church funeral rites are to be denied to the following unless they gave some signs of repentance before death:

1. Notorious apostates, heretics and schismatics;
2. those who for anti-Christian motives chose that their bodies be cremated;
3. other manifest sinners to whom a church funeral could not be granted without public scandal to the faithful."

MAiD has been added to this list because 'repentance before death' does not happen with MAiD. We need to note that the basis of Church teaching, besides the obvious defence of life, is the public scandal where a sinful practice can be so common that it will be universally accepted.

A Catholic funeral does not magically result in eternal salvation but, as scripture attests, that which is vital is that Christians express their faith by witnessing to Christ. Culture pretends to offer freedom, but its beliefs enslave. Sr. Simona Brambilla wrote of obedience, "Obedience is not merely a rule to follow. It is a gift—one that liberates us from the chains of ego, self-will, and isolation. We did not choose this path on our own. We were chosen. And in that choosing, God invites us into a relationship that is not forced, but free; not hierarchical, but fraternal; not oppressive, but evangelical. True obedience corresponds to our capacity to listen—to listen deeply to the voice of God, to discern the movement of the Spirit, and to respond with love. It is the journey of freedom and communion. It is the art of moving within ourselves, toward God, and toward others."

Sister Mary Irene Chisholm

Born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, formerly Sister Ann Therese, 93, a Sister of St. Martha of Antigonish, died in Mary's Court, Parkland, Antigonish, on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the 72nd year of her Religious Life.

Sister Mary entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St Martha on August 15, 1951. She pronounced her first vows on February 15, 1953, and her perpetual vows on August 15, 1956. Sister Mary generously ministered in several institutions owned or operated by the Congregation, as well as in the local convents and communities. Her ministries ranged from care of children, pastoral assistant, sacristan, library, as well as homemaking. She cared deeply for all with and for whom she ministered. True to her vocation as a Sister of St. Martha, Sr. Mary went wherever there was a need. In Antigonish, Nova Scotia, she served at Bethany, the former Motherhouse, St. Martha's Hospital and in various local communities. In Cape Breton, Sister Mary ministered in Sydney, Bras D'Or, and Eskasoni, as well as serving on the mainland in Trenton, Nova Scotia. For several years, she lived and ministered in Boston, Massachusetts. Within the Congregation Sr. Mary was called to serve as a Local Leader, and Assistant to the Novice Director. Gospel Hospitality was at the core of all that she did. She had a dry wit and a kind heart, both of which endeared her to many.

Community News

HGA

The 2842 Cadet 50th Reunion was a wonderful success, filled with memories, laughter, and reconnections. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the organizations and individuals who supported us—through generous donations, ticket purchases, and kind words. A special thank you to Branch 110 Legion for providing the perfect venue for our celebration.

We are truly grateful for your support in making this milestone event so memorable. —*The Reunion Committee*