

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

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Genesis 12:1-4*. In due time God began the remote preparation for the Incarnation. Almost 2,000 years before Christ was to come he selected Abram to be the father of a people who would be his special friends, his "Chosen People," and through them, the fullness of his revelation. Christ, would come to all men. This is the divine event read for us today.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to Timothy 2 Tim 1:8-10*. Timothy, son a pagan father and a Jewish mother, became a Christian, together with his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois, on his first visit to Lystra. Later, Paul appointed him head of the church at Ephesus. This epistle is principally concerned with the pastoral duties of pastors or shepherds of the communities.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 17:1-9*. This momentary vision of Christ, in his glory, was given in order to strengthen the three principal Apostles to face the trials to their faith, which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. For the very same reason it is retold to us today, in the early part of Lent, to encourage us to persevere in our Lenten mortification. It reminds us that, very soon, the Easter bells will be ringing out their message of joy once more. If we are sharers with Christ in his sufferings, we shall be sharers with him in his glory as St. Paul reminds us.

This is a truth we all too easily forget, namely, that we cannot and do not get to heaven in a limousine. Our spell on earth is the chance given us by our heavenly Father to earn an eternal reward. This reward surpasses even the wildest imagination of man. We could never earn it, but God accepts the little we can do and provides the balance of his infinite mercy. And yet there are many, far too many, who refuse even that little bit that is asked of them, and are thus running the risk of not partaking in God's scheme for their eternal happiness.

And are they any happier during their few years on this earth by acting thus towards the God of mercy? Can they, by ignoring God and their duties towards him, remove all pain, all sorrow, all sufferings, from their daily lives? Death, which means a total separation from all we possessed and cherished in this world, is waiting around the corner for all of us. Who can face it more calmly and confidently —he man who is firmly convinced that it is the gateway to a new life, and who has done his best to earn admission through that gateway, or the man who has acted all his life as if death did not exist for him, and who has done everything to have the gate to the new life shut forever in his face?

Illnesses and troubles and disappointments are the lot of all men. They respect neither wealth, nor power, nor position. The man who knows his purpose in life, and is ever striving to reach the goal God's goodness has planned for him, can and will see in these trials of life the hand of a kind father who is preparing him for greater things. His sufferings become understandable and more bearable because of his attitude to life and its meaning. The man who ignores God and tries to close the eyes of his mind to the real facts of life has nothing to uphold him or console him in his hours of sorrow and pain. Yet, sorrow and pain will dog his footsteps, strive as he will to avoid them, and he can see no value, no divine purpose in these, for him, misfortunes.

Christ has asked us to follow him, carrying our daily cross, and the end of our journey is not Calvary but resurrection, the entrance to a life of glory with our risen Savior. The Christian who grasps his cross closely and willingly, knowing its value for his real life, will find it becomes lighter and often not a burden but a pleasure. The man who tries xto shuffle off his cross, and who curses and rebels against him who sent it, will find it doubles its weight and loses all the value it was intended to have for his true welfare.

Let the thought of the Transfiguration encourage each one of us today, to do the little God demands of us, so that when we pass out of this life we may be assured of seeing Christ in his glory, ready to welcome us into his everlasting, glorious kingdom.

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

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM
Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3:30 PM
* For the Sick of the parish

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

SP 9:00 AM
+ Alva MacNeil

Friday, March 6, 2026

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15.
HGA 11:00 AM

Saturday, March 7, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM
+ Warren Burke
SP 5:30 PM
+ Rose Sutherland

Sunday, March 8, 2026

SH 9:00 AM
HGA 11:00 AM
+ Robert P. & Bernice Sampson

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

February 21, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,678.00
Property Maintenance		25.00
Total	\$	<u>1,703.00</u>

St. Peter's

February 22, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	608.85
Candles		26.00
Altar Society		10.00
Total	\$	<u>644.85</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

February 22, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	835.00
Candles		63.00
Share Lent		325.00
Total	\$	<u>1,223.00</u>

Fasting for lent?

Traditionally the Lenten season emphasises a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Fasting is usually interpreted in reference to eating habits. Pope Francis suggested the deeper meaning of fasting with the following suggestions.

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Community News

St John the Baptist CWL wishes to send a special thank you to all parishioners for supporting our fundraisers as well as assisting with funeral receptions. Special thanks to bereaved families for their generous donations thus enabling us to sustain our services of providing luncheons following funerals and/or committal services. You are all very much appreciated. Thank you "

L'Ardoise Jolly Club St. Patrick's Day Jigs Dinner on Saturday, March 14th @ 5:00 PM at L'Ardoise Community Centre-Lower Level. Tickets \$25.00 Music supplied by Dave & Linda Murphy.

Embracing Synodality

through Faith, Discipleship, and Transfiguration

Just as Abram responded to God's call with faith and obedience, and Jesus was transfigured to reveal God's glory, we too are called to be transfigured through our participation in the Church's mission.

Synodality calls us to be a community that listens deeply to the needs, charisms, and voices of all the baptized, especially those on the margins.

We are called to foster a synodal Church that encourages more lay ministries, supports community discernment, and responds creatively and courageously to the needs of our people.

May our journey through Lent prepare us to be more receptive and courageous as we walk together on this mission.

Synod Reports and Resources are available online:

www.antigonishdiocese.com/listening-church