

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 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Exodus 17:3-7*. The Israelites, the Chosen People of God, were suffering slavery and the threat of total extermination in Egypt; God miraculously set them free and, with Moses as their leader, he led them towards the promised land of Canaan. But they soon forgot what God had done for them and began to murmur and rebel because of the difficulties of the long desert journey. One of these rebellious murmurings is put before us today.

The **Second Reading** is from the *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-2; 5-8*. This brief section is an encouragement to all who have been given the gift of the Christian faith to persevere in spite of adversity.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 4:5-42*. This gospel, about the Samaritan woman, is exceptionally rich. Every time we read it we are passionately moved by that intense conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, recalling the great teaching of Saint Augustine, with regard to Christ's request to the woman, "give me something to drink", said: "Yes, God thirsts for our faith and our love. As a good and merciful father, he wants our total, possible good, and this good is he himself. The Samaritan woman, on the other hand, represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks. She had "five husbands" and now she lives with another man; her going to and from the well to draw water expresses a repetitive and resigned life. However, everything changes for her that day, thanks to the conversation with the Lord Jesus....." (Benedict XVI, Angelus 24 February 2008).

To recognize that if we entrust ourselves to God, we receive every "possible good" which, as the Pope reminds us, is God himself, means living the dynamic of conversion to God: renouncing a self-centered mentality, which deceives self-sufficient man, in order to receive the gift of God. Man without God is inevitably destined to dissatisfaction, limited in everything by his own limits as a creature, even in "giving himself" or "obtaining for himself" joy, love, happiness... Man without God cannot think to reach boundless joy, unlimited and eternal love, the living water of which, precisely, Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman.

Happiness, another word for the living water, can only be given by the One who possesses it, and man does not possess it. God alone can share it with those who place their trust in Him and follow Him.

The living water, the gift of the Holy Spirit, can only be given by the Lord Jesus whom the Father sent into the world to give to all men and women eternal life, that is, never ending happiness. As the Pope reminds us "only the water that Jesus offers, the living water of the Spirit, can quench" man's "thirst for the infinite" (Benedict XVI, homily 24 February 2008). Man is able to give his fellow humans, affection, money, power, human glory, honor, career ... but not endless happiness which, since it is an unlimited good, belongs to the divine, infinite sphere!

The living water flows only from the divine source. The Samaritan woman went to a well which was deep, but limited, whereas unlimited was her thirst for happiness and love. The woman, the Holy Father tells us, "Represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks". How often man seeks the infinite, the eternal, well-being...but sadly continues to seek it in a well, in a reality, the earthly reality, which is unable to contain it. How many wells, deep but empty, how many wells of stagnant water, we have met on our way! We carry within us immense desires and easily deceive ourselves that we can meet them.

On our path of conversion, what a great grace it is to find the Lord Jesus waiting patiently for us beside our senseless wells. When, like the Samaritan woman, we are tired of the things of this world, of almost empty wells, then the Divine Master is especially close to us. He asks us to give him something to drink, he asks us to trust Him to satiate our heart and if we trust in Him we discover the joy of finding the true well, the source of crystal-clear water.

Then, as if in a dream, as it was for the Samaritan woman, everything which before was important, no longer counts, true reality is something else, it becomes that Man-God who begs to give Himself! The secret of happiness is to invert the process of selfishness: to forget self in order to make room for Another Person, the Lord of life and happiness. Give up self and find God! If I renounce sin, I find grace, if I renounce myself, I find God and my brothers and sisters. "If you only knew what God is offering," happiness is what He wants to give you! How often a priest

should ask himself this question, or a woman who wonders “shall I have a child or not”, “am I thinking of myself, or of the child who cannot come into the world without my help?” If you knew what gift of Life, you would throw yourself into that well and there you would find the strength to renounce self.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, with wisdom typical of saints, explained why we should give ourselves to God: “Why should we give ourselves completely to God? Because God has given Himself to us. If God who owes us nothing is ready to give us nothing less than Himself, can we respond with only a small part of ourselves? Giving ourselves totally to God is a way of receiving God. I am for God and God is for me. I live for God and renounce myself, in this way I allow God to live for me. To possess God we must allow Him to possess our souls. (St. Teresa di Calcutta).

—Mgr Luciano Alimandi, *Ave Maria*, Agenzia Fides 27/2/2008

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

SJB

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3:30 PM

+ Everette Doary & daughter, Stephanie **4:00PM**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

SP

9:00 AM

+ Warren Burke

Friday, March 13, 2026

HGA

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:15.

+ Gerry Martell **11:00 AM**

Saturday, March 14, 2026

SJB

4:00 PM

+ Lucille Boudreau

SP

5:30 PM

+ Willie A. & Gertie Landry

+ Mary M. Fougere

Sunday, March 15, 2026

SH

9:00 AM

HGA

11:00 AM

+ Wilfred Berrette

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

February 28, 2026

Envelopes & Loose **\$ 1,251.00**

Total **\$ 1,251.00**

St. Peter's

February 28, 2026

Envelopes & Loose **\$ 730.00**

Candles **10.00**

Total **\$ 740.00**

.Holy Guardian Angels
March 1, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	960.00
Candles		44.10
Share Lent		140.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,144.10</u>

Holy Week Celebrations

Note:

Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations. The Sacred Triduum is one liturgy and should be celebrated in one parish church. This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's.

Chrism Mass

Monday, March 30, 2026, at 2:00 pm
Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Thursday, April 2, 2026

SP **4:00 PM**

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, April 3, 2026

SP **3:00 PM**

Note: Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

The Resurrection of the Lord

At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Saturday, April 4, 2026

SP **8:00 PM**

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026

SH **9:00 AM**

HGA **11:00 AM**

Note: There will not be weekday Masses from Monday, April 6 – Friday, April 10.

Community News

HGA: If anyone wishes to donate money for Easter flowers in the church, we would certainly appreciate it. Thank you in advance.

Richmond RTO Regular Meeting -- March 10th — NOON Luncheon
“The Island Nest Restaurant” -- Arichat -- ALL RTO Members WELCOME!

Embracing Synodality through the Lens of Scripture

The story of the Samaritan woman at the well reveals Jesus as the source of "living water," a symbol of the grace that quenches our spiritual thirst and calls us into authentic encounter and conversion. The Scriptures remind us that life-giving water—God's grace—flows through community. Just as Jesus offered the Samaritan woman a new way of seeing and living, we are called to create spaces where all members of the Church can encounter Christ, be heard, and participate fully in the decision-making processes. This includes revitalizing our participatory bodies—diocesan councils, parish councils, and other structures—ensuring they reflect the diversity and richness of our communities.

Let us be inspired by the Gospel's call to renewal and conversion. By doing so, we help build a Church that is truly alive, vibrant, and missionary.

Synod Reports and Resources are available online:

www.antigonishdiocese.com/listening-church