

Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish

Mass: 4:00 pm – Saturdays
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

March 19, 2022
Third Sunday of Lent

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of Exodus, 3:1-8, 13-15. The story of the salvation of God's people continues during this Lenten season. Today we hear of Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush.

The **Second Reading** is from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, 10:1-6, 10-12. St. Paul establishes a parallel between the situation of the Israelites in the desert and the Corinthians. "Paul wants to remind us that we are not saved merely because we happen to have been the recipients of God's free grace. We have to demonstrate that we are willing recipients of that free gift. The children of Israel received it, but they proved to be unworthy of it, and so they were not saved." (Origin (*ca. A.D. 240, Commentary on First Corinthians 4, 45, 205*)

The Gospel is from St. Luke, 13:1-9. Our Lord stresses that we need to produce plenty of fruit (cf. Lk 8:11-15) in keeping with the graces we have received (cf. Lk 12:48). But he also tells us that God waits patiently for this fruit to appear; he does not want the death of the sinner; he wants him to be converted and to live (Ezek 33:11) and, as St Peter teaches, he is "forebearing towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Pet 3:9). But God's clemency should not lead us to neglect our duties and become lazy and comfort-seeking, living sterile lives. He is merciful, but he is also just and he will punish failure to respond to his grace.

"There is one case that we should be especially sorry about — that of Christians who could do more and don't; Christians who could live all the consequences of their vocation as children of God, but refuse to do so through lack of generosity. We are partly to blame, for the grace of faith has not been given us to hide but to share with others (cf. Mt 5:151). We cannot forget that the happiness of these people, in this life and in the next, is at stake. The Christian life is a divine wonder with immediate promises of satisfaction and serenity — but on condition that we know how to recognize the gift of God (cf. Jn 4:10) and be generous, not counting the cost" (J. Escriva, Christ is passing by, 147).
—*The Navarre Bible, St. Luke*

Collections:

March 12, 2022

Envelopes	$540.00
Heat	$25.00
Initial Offering	$10.00
Shrine Fund I/M of Kay Grace (Cash)	$25.00
	$600.00

Notices:

1: Yoga with Helen Slade will resume on Monday April 4th, from 10 – 11:30 am, at the Johnstown Parish Hall. Contact information will be in the spring edition of Reflections of Richmond

2: April 3 is Solidarity Sunday. This will be an opportunity to reflect and pray for "People and Planet First".
Read Bishop Kirkpatrick's letter, and follow the links for free resources and ways to support this important campaign:
https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/share-lent-people-and-planet-first/

3: (Tentative) Holy Week Schedule
Chrism Mass –Details TBA

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
SP 9:00am Mass

Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022
There will be no foot-washing.
4:00pm HGA
5:30pm SP
7:00pm SJB

Friday April 15, 2022
Friday April 15, 2022 Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
3:00 PM Service
Fr. Yake will celebrate Good Friday service at Sacred Heart.
Lay persons TBA will lead in the other parishes.
Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) 3:00 PM Service
Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday Service typically consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. When a priest is not available to celebrate the Good Friday Service a Deacon or a lay person may do so. In this exceptional case the service consists of optional readings and the reading of the Passion of the Lord (John 18:1 – 19: 42) followed by the Stations of the Cross. Assuming that some Covid rules are still in place there is no individual procession for the Veneration of the Cross.

Saturday, April 16, 2022 At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night:
8:30pm SH

Easter Sunday April 17, 2022 The Resurrection of the Lord
8:30 AM SJB
10:00 AM SP & Chapel Island
11:30 AM HGA

4: The annual Fishcake and Beans Supper: Friday April 15th, (Good Friday) at 4:45 at the Johnstown Parish Hall. This year we will do both eat in or take out supper. To order a meal please call the following: Cost: $12.00
Louise: 902-535-3107
Barbara: 902-828-2079
Rita: 902-631-0209
Edie: 902-322-6543
Elizabeth: 902-539-2078
or email louise.campbell@stpeterscable.com

5: Info: In January, District 10 Fire Department approached Sacred Heart Parish Council with an idea of obtaining the land that the current Parish Hall is located and then building a new Fire/Community Hall. The Parish Council met a few times and also met with the Fire Department. After much discussion the Parish Council asked for an official proposal from the Fire Department and once this was received they voted that they would approach the Diocese with this proposal.

The Diocese was approached and we are now waiting for a meeting with Bishop Kirkpatrick.

Currently the Fire Department would be looking for the land that the hall is on and the land that is west of the hall, known as the "Ball Field." All or the majority of the Parish Hall would be torn down to build the new hall.

- Sacred Heart Parish Hall
  - The current Parish Hall is approximately 90 years old
  - The hall was inspected by an engineer and some structural issues were noted
  - The hall would require around $200,000 - $300,000 to bring the structure up to current building standards
  - Currently Sacred Heart Ladies Group provides upkeep, but cannot raise the money needed to fix the building (they also provide funding to keep the church running)
- District 10 Fire Hall
  - Can only accommodate a small number of people
  - Cannot expand due to the land and water issues
  - Lack of parking
- Pros of building a new Fire Hall/Community Hall on the current Parish Hall Site
  - Lots of land for building and parking
  - New Fire Hall/Community Hall which would enable community recreational and social interaction, providing a comfort center when necessary

6: March 17, 2022 (Feast of St Patrick)

My Dear Clergy,

On March 17, 2020, I concluded my pastoral letter concerning COVID with: "We will weather this storm through our common prayer and by working together. Keep Calm and Carry On."
It has been two years since I wrote that letter and I think we have been able to 'Keep Calm and Carry On.' We are thankful that so many people in all professions, from the front-line medical personnel to the volunteers in our churches, have worked together to assist us and keep us safe. It has also been a difficult time with people divided over the health measures that were put in place. On March 21, all current Public Health restrictions and mandates will end, but as noted, this does not mean that the pandemic has ended. It will be important to use personal public health measures, both individually and collectively, to help keep each other safe, especially those who are at increased risk of severe disease due to age and/or underlying health issues. Masking and social distancing will no longer be required in most indoor settings including our churches; however, we can still encourage masking and some measure of social distancing. We need time to make the adjustment to the so-called 'new normal' as we learn to live with COVID. Throughout this Season of Lent, we are invited to engage in the Synod. There are so many wonderful online resources available to assist us in engaging our people. If you need some support, just contact Jennifer Hatt, Diocesan Communications Officer: ph/text 902-759-2181 or email Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca. I encourage our parishes to display the Synod poster and offer the Synod Prayer at Sunday Mass, perhaps after the Prayers of Intercession or following the Prayer after Communion. On March 23, our Council of Priests will be meeting, so if you have any issues or concerns to raise, please let me or members know about it.

On April 3, we will celebrate Solidarity Sunday. I support the 2022 Share Lent collection for Development and Peace and Caritas Canada with the theme, "People and Planet First". This year the Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral on Monday, April 11 with further details to be announced.

Concerning the Easter Vigil, the Ordo states clearly the following: “The entire celebration takes place at night. It does not start before nightfall.” For your information, on April 16, sunset occurs at approximately 8:01pm with complete darkness by approximately 8:30pm. You should take this into consideration when setting the time for the Easter Vigil. Pastors do not have permission to change this directive. If you have any concerns, contact me directly. We received the announcement of the upcoming visit of First Nations, Inuit and Métis delegations with Our Holy Father Pope Francis at the Vatican. The Canadian Catholic Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has announced that the delegation, originally planned for December 2021, is now scheduled to take place from March 28 to April 1, 2022. We are encouraged to embrace this historic moment as we stand in prayerful solidarity with all of those who will be meeting with the Holy Father. We pray that this will be a true encounter on our journey toward reconciliation. A prayer card and an invitation to join in a Sacred Fire on March 28 are available on our website, https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation. We pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for her to intercede with her Son to shower abundant graces among and between us, for the conversion and healing of hearts, as we continue our journey of truth and reconciliation.

We can never underestimate the power of prayer. You may recall that on May 1, 2020, we prayed together and consecrated Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary in time of pandemic. Indeed, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church continues to intercede on our behalf, presenting our petitions, prayers and needs to her Son, and encouraging us in our faith journey by her example and maternal mediation.

Amid the massive exodus of people looking for peace and security, we are mindful that our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine need our help and our support as they endure this cruel and senseless war with Russia. We are encouraged to offer our prayers and assistance. During a celebration of Penance on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On this day, let us unite our prayers with our Holy Father.

This Saturday we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary, the patron saint and protector of the universal Church and the principal patron saint of Canada. As we face each day, whether our lives are going smoothly or our plans and expectations are falling apart, like St. Joseph we are encouraged to be open and place our trust in God.
Fraternally,
+ Wayne Kirkpatrick