

Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Samuel 3:3-10; 19* and gives an account of Samuel's vocation to take over the leadership of the Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** s from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20* in which St. Paul makes it crystal clear that justifying fornication as part of Christian liberty is an incorrect interpretation of his preaching and that the body must be preserved from all immorality.

The **Gospel** is from the Gospel of *St. John 1:35-42* and gives an account of the vocation of the first four Apostles who followed Jesus. It was a momentous event in the history of salvation. It was the beginning of a stream of vocations that would grow and spread down through the ages until the end of the world. It was momentous, firstly, in that Christ, who had come to open heaven for all men and who could find means of bringing them all to that eternal home without help from any man, decided instead to let men co-operate with him in this divine task. He decreed to set up a kingdom in this world—his Church—which would be run by mere mortals for their fellow-mortals, but which would be under his protection and assisted by his divine aid until the end of time. Christ chose this very human way, in order to make his Church more acceptable to our limited, human understanding and more approachable for sinful, human nature.

Christ, as God, could deal directly with every human being on earth. He could teach the infallible truth; he could pardon sins; he could give all the graces needed to travel successfully to heaven. There would then be no need for a Church with its teaching magisterium, no need for the sacrament of Baptism, or of Penance, nor of the Holy Eucharist itself or of any other such aids. Christ could do all that his Church does for the salvation of mankind, and more successfully, of course, but yet he chose the way which divine wisdom saw was best.

We mortals know that God can speak directly to our hearts, and actually has done so to many men in the past. We know that he can do directly all that is done by his Church, to whom he gave the power, with its teaching magisterium and sacraments. If he were to act in this way we should be open to continuous doubts about the source of our inspirations and the objectivity of the graces we thought we were receiving. It was to remove such doubts, and the possibility of self-deception that Christ left to us the external visible kingdom to which he gave all the powers necessary for men's salvation. It was for the security and peace of men's consciences that he set up a visible Church founded on the Apostles, men like ourselves, but transformed by his assisting grace.

Another momentous fact in Christ's choice of the Apostles on whom he was to build his Church, is that he "chose the lowly and the humble to confound the wise." The first four Apostles, as well as the other eight, were simple, lowly fishermen from Galilee. They may possibly have been able to read and write a little, but they were certainly not men of education or any social standing in their communities. He could have converted and chosen some of the more highly educated scribes of Jerusalem, or some of the Roman centurions then in Palestine, or some of the many philosophers in Greece, or even Roman senators whose influence as Christian teachers would carry such weight with the educated elite of the empire. But he did not. The instrument he chose to carry his message to all men was not dependent on human ingenuity or on the educational or social standing of his witnesses. Rather it was to stand on the power of God, of which it was the expression and proof.

We can see clearly the divine wisdom governing Christ's choice of Apostles! Had his message of salvation been spread and promulgated by men of learning and social standing, the cry would soon go up on all sides: "This religion is the invention of philosophers; it is a clever plan of the upper classes to keep the poor and humble workers in subjection." But it was the poor and working classes who spread Christ's message, and who suffered imprisonment and death itself at the hands of the educated and upper classes for so doing.

Today, let us thank our blessed Lord who provided so humanly—and yet so divinely for our eternal welfare. In the Church, which he founded on the lowly but solid foundation of simple fishermen of Galilee, he erected an institution against which the gates of hell, the power of all the enemies of our salvation, cannot prevail, for his divine guidance and help will be with it forever. It has had enemies and opposition from the beginning; they may be more numerous and more destructive than evertoday. But the promise of Christ still holds good, his word cannot fail. Therefore, neither the opposition of materialistic enemies from without, nor the even more insidious attacks from faint-hearted and worldly-minded members from within, can affect the safety and permanence of the building which Christ built on the Rock. "If God is with us," it matters not "who is against us."
—Adapted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Support: If you want to support Sacred Heart Parish, through your envelopes or just a donation, we are now set up for e-transfer: Please e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. Please include your envelope number. If you do not currently have a church envelope, please include your civic address. Receipts will be issued.

Bulletin: If you want to add a notice to the bulletin, please send an email to louisecampbel@gmail.com

Collection

January 07, 2024

Envelopes	**$175.00**
Initial Offering	**$15.00**
January 1st	**$10.00**
	$200.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This weekly group will run from January 11 to April 4, 2024. It meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm at the District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands. This is an informal group where everyone brings their projects and creates with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. For further information: Rita Campbell, 902-631-0209.

2: Community Drop-in All are welcome on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am - 11:30 am at the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department for a social gathering. The coffee pots will be hot and the conversation will be flowing. Sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lakers Club. The Drop-in's will start again on Wednesday January 10th.

3: Beginner Gaelic Lessons Learn Gaelic in a relaxed environment through story and song-like lessons. These lessons are supported by the Office of Gaelic Affairs. All are welcome! Red Island Fire Hall, Red Islands Tuesdays, for 8 weeks beginning January 16 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Fee: $40 and Big Pond Fire Hall Starting: Thursday, January 11 6:30 - 9pm $40 Contact Cathy for more info at 902-217-2088.

4: TEA and TALK at Holy Redeemer Convent
24 Neville Street, Whitney Pier, just behind the Pier Post Office.
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 1:30 -3:30 pm
This invitation is open to women of all ages to join with other women to share.
This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with
others to simply share a cup of tea and to experience the joy of being together. For further information phone 902 270 4840 or 902 539 6331.

5: The Week of Prayer for all denominations is being held at the St. Marguerite Bourgeoys church Monday to Friday Jan. 15-19, 12:10 -1:00 pm .
Rev. Bill Burke, Parish Priest St. Marguerite Bourgeoys and Rev. Dana Feltmate, Minister of the United Protestant Church of Sydney River will conduct the liturgies during the week. Everyone welcome