

Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

July 21, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 23:1-6.* In these seven verses, Jeremiah utters dire threats against the shepherds, the leaders of the people of Judah. Their neglect of the flock given into their care and their neglect of God was bringing exile on their people. God would avenge his people bring back the "remnant" of his flock and set trustworthy shepherds over them.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-18*. St. Paul reminds his Ephesian converts that Christ has brought unity of brotherhood to Jews and Gentiles.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 6:30-34*. In these few verses St. Mark very strongly brings out the compassion, the human understanding of Jesus for man. He first planned to give his Apostles a well-earned rest. They had evidently worked hard while out on their mission and a few days rest would restore their lost energy. He himself, too, must have been hard pressed, preaching and dealing with the crowds. In the absence of the Apostles he had no one to help him—he too needed a rest. He, therefore, planned that he and they should go to a quiet corner of the Sea of Galilee where there was no village and where, therefore, they would not be disturbed.

The desire of the crowds, however, to see him and to hear him speak upset these plans. The people got to the quiet spot first. There they were waiting when the boat pulled to shore. He could have sent them away, but again his human compassion took over. Seeing these simple people of Galilee so anxious to hear about God and his mercy, he let them stay and began to preach the good news of forgiveness and hope to them. For the most part they were simple, unlettered villagers, shepherds and fishermen. They knew a little about the Law of Moses but only a little. There was no one but the local rabbi to teach them and the local rabbis were not very educated at the time. The doctors of the law, the great theologians were all in Jerusalem where they got the respect and the financial reward which they felt they merited. Hence the people of the country were more or less forgotten and neglected. They were, as our Lord described them, "like sheep without a shepherd," wandering about half-lost.

They were certainly fortunate, however, in finding the true shepherd who would lead them to the eternal pastures. Not only would he now sacrifice his rest to come to their aid but he would, later on, lay down his life for them and for all of us. We, like those poor people of Galilee, have so much to be grateful for. The compassionate Christ has had pity on us too, and has brought us into his fold. He knows all our infirmities and all our human weaknesses, and he is ever-ready to have pity on us and pardon us. Those people of Galilee were not saints, they were ordinary, run-of-the mill, not over religious people. They cheated one another; they were often uncharitable to one another; they were not always chaste and pure; they prayed very little and perhaps only when they wanted some material benefit. Yet our Lord had compassion on them.

This should give us great confidence, great encouragement. Christ has not changed: he is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has the same compassion for us that he had for those Galileans; we too are often like sheep without a shepherd wandering half-lost through life. He is ever calling us to come to himself so that he will lead us to safe pastures. If only we would listen to his merciful call! Today's Gospel is one such call — it goes out to every member of this congregation who has been lax in his or her religious life up to now. Christ wants us back on the high-road to heaven. All we have to do is to break with the past, with the earthly things that kept us from God. We can set out as freemen to follow Christ. He has left to his Church the holy sacrament of penance in which he guarantees us complete and entire remission of all past sins if we confess them with true sorrow. Let us not think that our sins are too big to be forgiven, that Christ could not have compassion on us because of our dreadful past. We can remember those Galileans; many of them were sinners as we are and he had compassion on them. He came to call sinners, he tells us. Let us answer his call today—tomorrow might be too late.

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

Collection

July 14, 2024

Envelopes	**$160.00**
Loose	**$77.75**
	$237.75

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: The Market will take place on Sunday July 21st, from 10:30am – 1:00 pm. See you there.

2: Music Royal Concert –Friday August 9 at 7 pm - Sacred Heart Church, Johnstown - Ensemble Urmawi Lamia Yared (vocals and oud), Nizar Tabcharani (qanun), Showan Tavakol (kamanche), Ziya Tabassian (percussion). The musicians will interpret songs from Syrian traditions (Muwashahat) as well as sacred chants from the early Christians of the Orient in Aramaic, and finally some pieces of traditional Persian music will also be included. This tour provides a rare opportunity for Nova Scotian audiences to hear these three traditions of music, which intersect both geographically and historically.
$25 at the door, $20 advanced rate, students $10. Email lcampbell1@bellaliant.net for advance reservation.
https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/musique-royale-a-treasury-of-music-from-our-historic-past/events/ensemble-urmawi-in-johnstown/
If you would like an advanced rate, just send me you name and I will put you on the list. Do not send me any money.

3: Cemetery Mass: The annual cemetery mass will take place on Sunday August 11th, at 9:30 in the Old Graveyard. Please bring your own chair

4: Milling Frolic: The Milling Frolic is only a month away. Donations will be needed for the Bake Sale, Lunch, Fancy Booth, and the County Store. Workers will be needed for parking cars, bingo, lunch, fancy booth, selling tickets and at the door.

5: The gift shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou, Cape Breton is now open seven days a week as follows:
Mon to Sat - 10am to 4pm
Sunday - 11am to 5pm
The Shrine is open daily for visitation as it has been all winter.
For inquiries 902-945-2221

6: Medicine Walk The Diocese of Antigonish is organizing a Mi'kmaq Medicine walk on August 11, 2024, from 1 pm onwards. The walk includes walking, learning and interactions. The three-hour experience includes a short community tour, medicine walk, dreamcatcher workshop and a taste of blueberry tea with traditional bread made fresh. Register for the event: https://forms.gle/NNqU2Z5thzr1Np6t6 Registration ends on July 30th, limited spots available!!

7: Holy Guardian Angles Festival Holy Mass on Saturday, July 27, 2024, will be at 6:30 PM with the Richmond Men's Choir in attendance. The change of the time of Mass will be for this date only due to the festival. St. John the Baptist will be at regular time of 4:00 PM and Sacred Heart will be at regular time of 9:30 AM on Sunday, 28th with St. Peter's at 11:00 AM.

8: List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall and Church

Friday August 09 - Music Royal Concert – 7:00 pm
Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am
Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am
Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am