

Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

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

March 03, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Exodus 20:1-17.* When God had freed the Chosen People from the slavery of Egypt, He led them to Mount Sinai. There he made a Covenant with the Israelites through which He promised to make them His own people, to lead them into the Promised Land, and to protect them from their enemies there. The Israelites were to reverence Him and Him only as their Lord, and they were to obey the moral and cultic laws which He laid down for them.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1:22-25.* In these few sentences St. Paul gives us the basic reasons which motivated opposition to the gospel message on the part of Jews and Gentiles. The Jews because Christ did not fit the preconceived ideas they had formed of the Messiah and the Gentiles because they looked to philosophy or human "wisdom" for the solution of man's problems.

The **Gospel** s from *St. John 2:13-25.* If we had only the Synoptic gospels (Mt., Mk., Lk.) we could easily conclude that Jesus spent almost all his public life and did all his preaching in Galilee and its neighborhood. St. John who wrote his gospel several years later corrects this false impression by mentioning visits made by our Lord to Jerusalem, He gave the "leaders of the people" in Jerusalem plenty of opportunity of hearing his message and his claims. He also worked some astounding miracles in or near the city. For instance, the man crippled for thirty-eight years (Jn. 5); the man born blind (Jn. 9), the raising of Lazarus; who had been four days buried (Jn. 11). St. John makes it very clear that the leaders (the priests and Pharisees) in Jerusalem were given every opportunity to learn who Jesus was, and every help to believe in him, but they would not. The fault was theirs, therefore, and the loss.

On this particular visit he made it clear to them that he was someone special, someone close to God whose house they were desecrating, and whom he even called his Father. In hidden language he told them that they would put him to death but that that would not be the end, for he would rise again. Some of them seem to have remembered this saying of his after they had put him to death, for they asked Pilate to place a guard on his tomb lest his disciples should remove the body and pretend he had risen for: "we recall," they said, "that this impostor said while he was still living, 'after three days I shall rise again"' (Mt. 27 : 63). But even the miracle of his resurrection did not affect the majority of them. They had made up their minds and "there are none so blind as those who will not see."

The reasons for their blindness were the same as those that keep millions of the neo-pagans of today from accepting and living the Christian faith. These, like the priests and Pharisees of Jerusalem in the year 28, are so immersed in the affairs of this world that they can give no thought to their own future. Their eyes are so fixed on the earthly objectives that they have set themselves, that they can see nothing else. The priests and Pharisees wanted more than political freedom from Rome. They had hopes that their Messiah would give them a great world empire, and with it wealth and power without limit. Our contemporaries' aims may not go so far, but worldly aims are important enough in their eyes to make them exclude from their minds the thought of anything higher. Yet, they have more than enough reminders whichever way they turn to recall their minds to the historical facts of Christianity. This is 2006 A.D., that is 2006 years since the birth of Christ. Who was he, why was he born, why does the world divide its history into before he came, B.C., and after he came, A.D.? In every town and village of our once Christian western world there is a church or two with steeples pointing to the sky. Why? What do churches mean to men? Near every town there are cemeteries or "sleeping places," according to the meaning of that Greek word. Are those buried there only sleeping and waiting to be called, if not already called, or are they finished forever just like the ox or the unthinking cow that may be buried in the next field.

The agnostics and free-thinkers of our day should start to think about the real facts of life—the central ones of which are that Christ, who was the Son of God, took our human nature and lived for some time on this earth, so that he would raise us up to sonship with God. He suffered crucifixion, because the world was full of sin when he came. But his death made atonement to the heavenly Father for all the sins of the world. His resurrection from the dead was the prelude and the guarantee that we shall all rise to a life of glory in heaven, if only we have followed him faithfully during our years on earth.

—Excerpted 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

February 25th

Envelopes	**$345.00**
Loose	**$5.00**
	$350.00

Notices:

1: 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.

2: Breakfast: The Bras d'Or Lakers will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Wednesday March 6th, at the District 10 Fire Hall. Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am.

3: St. Patrick's Lunch: St. Patrick's Day Lunch: Homemade Irish Stew, Rolls, Dessert, Tea.
Where: District 10 Fire Hall Red Islands
When: Sunday March 17th
Time: 11:30 am
Cost: $13.00 per person
Please email or call Howard MacIntrye if you plan on attending, so that we can make sure we have enough Irish Stew: howarddmacintyre@gmail.com, 902-631-5643

4: Fish Cake Supper - Friday March 29th, 3:45 pm Eat In or Take Out - Fish Cakes, Homemade Beans, Chow, Biscuits, Cost $12.00, Johnstown Parish Hall. If you would like to donate a package of salted cod bits, or would like to order a meal please contact the following:
Louise: 902-535-3107
Barbara: 902-828-2079
Rita: 902-631-0209
Edie: 902-322-6543
or email louisecampbel@gmail.com

5: A Lenten Parish Mission at St. Joseph Parish, Port Hawkesbury 118 Granville Street, Port Hawkesbury Sunday, March 17 to Wednesday March 20 inclusive With Fr. Bill Burke, pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Sydney 7-8pm Each evening, with tea and coffee reception following Monday – Wednesday 2-4PM Confessional/Drop in chat On Wednesday, the final evening, Mass at 7PM, with the talk as part of the Mass

6: Lenten session: You are invited to join us for a Lenten session on prayer and exploring spiritual conversation as a way to deepen our relationship with God, and with each other. You may choose any of the following:
Saturday, March 16 from 10:00am until 1:00pm at Bethel Presbyterian Church Hall, Brookland St, Sydney. Sessions are facilitated by members of the Cape Breton Local of the Atlantic Association of Spiritual Directors. There is no fee, but registration is required. To register, please contact: Winnie Odo (twinnieodo@seaside.ns.ca) (902-862-2330) or Gary Fancey (gafancey@netscape.net) (902-862-7580) or Julia Townsend (juliat@eastlink.ca) (902-562-8423)