

Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

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

September 1, 2024

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8* in which the chosen people are urged to carry out the laws God gave them. If they do, they will give good example to the pagan peoples among whom they live, and will make these pagans see how good God is to His chosen people.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27*. St. James exhorts us to be Christians in practice, not in theory; to "do", to live according to the law laid down for us.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*. When Christ came on earth the Scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders of the Jews. The Scribes, so called because of their knowledge of the Mosaic Law and the traditions added on to it, were the elite among the Pharisees who prided themselves on their strict, rigorous observance of the Law and the human traditions. The Pharisees had no time or no understanding for their fellow-Jews who often violated the scribal traditions — and even the Law of Moses itself sometimes. For this reason they kept themselves apart from the ordinary people and developed a proud superiority complex. They performed many acts of virtue but their pride and sense of self-sufficiency vitiated their good deeds (see the description of the Pharisee and the tax-gatherer in the temple, in Lk. 18: 10-14). The opposition of the Pharisees and Scribes to Jesus began very early in his public life. It grew in strength daily until, with the help of the Sadducees, their arch-opponents, they finally nailed him to the cross.

The main reason why they opposed him so bitterly was his mercy, kindness and understanding for sinners. He ate with tax-gatherers and made one of them, Levi, an Apostle. He forgave the adultress and many, many others. While he certainly did not approve of sin, he never uttered a hard word against any sinner. He had come, as he said, to call sinners to himself and to repentance. This he did all through his public life. He objected to the Pharisees, not because of their strict observance of the Mosaic Law nor of their insistence on human traditions — although they sometimes carried this to an intolerable extreme. He objected because they despised the lowly people, the uneducated in the law and traditions — those, in other words, who did not belong to their own exclusive class. To the Pharisees all these were "sinners," while they themselves had the worst sin of all — the original sin of mankind, the sin of pride.

In today's encounter with the Pharisees, Jesus tells them that they are hypocrites: "they honor God with their lips but their heart is far from God"; they obey the Law and the traditions, not to please God, but to be seen and admired by men; their motive, self-glorification, vitiates every otherwise good act they perform. Christ then addresses the people — the crowds who most likely had overheard his dialog with the Pharisees — and he tells them that it is not legal or cultic uncleanliness that matters, but cleanliness of the heart before God. Eating with unwashed hands, or using unwashed vessels for drinking, does not defile a man, this does not make him less worthy before God. It is not from things outside him that a man incurs defilement but from his own innermost self. Every serious sin against God and neighbor has its beginning within a man, in his intellect and will; the evil design is the forerunner and instigator of the evil deed.

The Pharisees should have known all this. They did know it. They knew very well that before a man breaks any of the commandments of God he must first plan and decide to break it; it was not their theology that was defective but their practice. They despised their neighbors and called fellowmen "sinners," because through ignorance they violated many of the man-made precepts the Pharisees had added to the Law of Moses. There were also fellow-Jews of theirs who violated the law itself, but it was not their right to judge or condemn much less excommunicate them, as they so often did in practice.

Christ condemned the Pharisees by word and deed. He was merciful, kind and understanding to all sinners. He forgave sin and promised forgiveness to all who would repent of their past misdeeds. Not only that: for he left to his followers for all time his sacrament of mercy and forgiveness, by means of which they could have their sins forgiven by his minister, acting in his name. Should we ever forget all he has done for us and disobey in a serious way any of his commandments, let us remember that we are not excluded from his company as the sinners were excluded by the Pharisees: we have banged the door on ourselves but he has given us the key with which to reopen it. Let us never be so foolish as to fail to use that key.

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

Collection
August 25, 2024

No collection last week.

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: The Market will take place on Sunday September 01, 2024, from 10:30am – 1:00 pm. See you there. This is the second last market.

2: Thank You: Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped make the Milling Frolic a great success, see below for breakdown

Income	$5,568.91
Expenses	$1,421.74
Profit	$4,147.17

3: A DATE TO REMEMBER: A Fundraiser Concert for Stella Maris Church, Creignish will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Creignish Recreation Centre, 2123 Highway 19, from 7pm to 9pm. Performers to be announced at a later date! More details to follow! Admission: By Donation

4: Comfort Tea ….. Come For Tea : Throughout our lives we experience many types of losses. We wish to promote awareness of the impact of grief on our lives. All are invited for a beverage and sweets in a supportive setting. You may wish to bring along a friend, memento, photo, or experience to share. You may have words of support to offer or sit quietly in the company of those who understand.

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024 1:30 - 4:00 pm
Isle Madame New Horizons Senior Citizens Club, 2373 Route 206, Arichat, N.S.

Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society celebrating our 30 th anniversary and Grief Gatherings 2024 srpalliativecaresociety.com
griefmatters.ca

5: The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou, Cape Breton Island invites you to attend our Annual Feast Day / Pioneer Remembrance Celebration
Date: Sunday September 8th
The Continuous Rosary starts at 1:00 pm at the Shrine until 3:30.
Mass will be offered at 4:00 pm at St. Mary's Church by Father Andrew Gillies.
Lunch to follow Mass in the Parish Hall.
Compliments of St. Mary's CWL
Everyone Welcome
Many prayers will be said 🙏
Inquiries - 902-945-2221

6: Seniors' Meals on Wheels: I was hoping you could help me out. I am the VON Coordinator for Frozen Meals on Wheels in Richmond County. I was wondering if I could place a small ad in your weekly bulletin. We are looking for a volunteer driver to deliver meals to those who are in need in the St Peter's/L'Ardoise and surrounding areas. The mileage is reimbursed and it's a great way to bring a smile to everyone