

Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

September 29, 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Numbers 11:25-29.* The book of Numbers is a narrative of the 39 years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness. Today's reading comes from the account of the journey through the wilderness.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Epistle of St. James 5:1-6.* The main purpose of this epistle is the teaching of morality and self-discipline. The sacred writer speaks with great severity, not mincing his words, in order to make people see that actions of the kind he condemns are incompatible with the profession of the Christian faith.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48.* There are two very practical lessons we must learn from today's Gospel: the grave obligation we have of not causing scandal to our fellow-Christians or indeed to any man or woman and secondly, the willingness we should have to sacrifice any earthly possession which is a cause of sin to us.

Scandal, the sin of being a cause or an occasion of another's sin, is doubly sinful involving one's own sin and the sin of the person scandalized. Scandal can be caused by word—that is, by teaching or propagating wrong doctrine or by giving sinful advice, and it can be caused by one's own sinful deeds which may be imitated by others. Those in positions of authority such as parents whose duty it is to bring up their children in the Christian faith, are especially liable to give scandal if they fail to live truly Christian lives. Christian parents who fail to live according to their faith will be held accountable not only for their own sins, but for the sins of their children and perhaps their children's children for generations to come.

Much, if not all of today's moral laxity and permissiveness can be blamed on parents who have failed to give the example of true Christian living in the home and in dealings with their neighbors. To children of such parents, Christianity is only a label; it does not inform or inspire their lives, hence they are only nominal Christians. It is true that there may be "black sheep" in the best of Christian homes. When, however, all the children of a home are "black sheep" the whiteness, the sincerity, of the parents of such a home must certainly be called into question. There may be many bad influences at work outside the home but the good example of truly Christian parents can counteract these influences. Let parents see to it that they will not be a cause of scandal and a cause of eternal loss to the children God put into their charge.

The second lesson for all of us in today's Gospel is that we should ever realize that eternal life is worth any sacrifice which we may be called on to make. The road we have to travel in life is not an easy one. As our Lord says in another place: "Enter by the narrow gate for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. But the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Mt. 7: 13). We wish to reach heaven, therefore we must be prepared to follow Christ; we must not allow others to lead us astray but be prepared and determined to conquer and resist our own evil inclinations also.

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

Collection:

September 22, 2024

Envelopes	**$355.00**
Loose	**$35.00**
Needs of the Canadian Church	**$70.00**
Cemetery Fund	**$50.00**
Shrine Fund	**$100.00**
	$460.00

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email louisecampbel@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to the parish, but do not have an envelope you can e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. A receipt will be provided.

Notices:

1: Baptism: The baptism of our newest community member "Charlotte Louise" will take place on Sunday September 29th, at 9:00 am. A half-hour before the regular mass at 9:30. All are welcome

2: Parish Council: Sacred Heart Parish Council met this week, and we are looking for new members to join. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please let me know. Technically Sacred Heart Parish boundaries go from the bottom of Middle Cape Hill, in Cape Breton County, to MacNabs Cove but over the last number of years we have welcomed new parishioners from Soldiers Cove and beyond. We welcome new Parish Council members from all areas of our Parish.

3: Richmond County Programs: Registering & Payment Options Class sizes vary resulting in classes filling up prior to start date. Pre-registration is recommended Register online by visiting http://www.richmondcounty.ca; Register by phoning 902.226.0663; Pay online via credit card or hybrid card; Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office; Pay via credit card over the phone

4: Chair Yoga | 55 + Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, for 10 weeks, beginning October 9 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm, Fee: $25 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

5: Gentle Yoga 55+ Red Island Fire Hall, Red Islands Fridays, for 10 weeks, beginning October 11 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Fee: $30 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

6: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet every Thursday from October 10 to December 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

7: New beginner Gaelic for those with little or no Gaelic; Ages 13 to adult; Wednesday evenings, starting October 2, 6:30-9 Red Islands firehall 8 weeks, $40 Contact Cathy Campbell for more info 902-217-2088

8: Beginner Gaelic Lessons at the Big Pond Firehall this year on Thursday evenings 6:30-9pm and the cost will be $40 for 8 weeks. Beginning October 10th. For more information contact Cathy Campbell @ 902 217 2088.

9: Christmas Bingo. Our Christmas Bingo will take place on Sunday November 10th, at 2:00 pm at the Parish Hall. We will be drawing for the BBQ at this time. Save the date.

10: September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. October is Mi'kmaw History Month. October 5-6 is the annual collection for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. How can we journey in Truth and Reconciliation? Pray for reconciliation and healing. Read letters and documents important to the journey of reconciliation. Support the annual collection, with a parish envelope or a donation online. Visit our website: https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/

11 The Cape Breton Chordsmen Present an Afternoon of Song & Praise in support of Holy Rosary Church, Westmount. Concert will be held at Holy Rosary on Sunday, October 6th at 2:30 p.m. Joining the Chordsmen as special guests will be Keltic Gospel Chorus, Misty Creek, Holy Rosary Choir, Class Act Quartet, Mike Finigan. Admission is $ 20.00 and tickets are available by calling Evie O'Rourke at 902-539-2970, from any Chordsman or at the door.

12: Living with Grief support Tuesday mornings; 10 am to 11:30 am starting October 8th, October 15th, October 22nd, October 29th, November 5th & November 12th. Holy Family Parish, Sydney Mines Bereaved Families of Cape Breton in partnership with the Diocese of Antigonish and Holy Family Parish in Sydney Mines is offering a six-week grief program to those who have lost a loved one. Each week, a grief-related topic is covered to help participants move through the grief process. Participants can attend alone or bring a support person. To register contact Norma Blinkhorn at (902) 202 2972 or Bereaved Families of Cape Breton (902) 564-6795

13: In remembrance of our loved ones: November is the month of remembering those who have died. It is customary in our parish to remember our loved ones who have died since November of the previous year. Consequently, there will be a candlelight service of remembrance at the Sunday mass on November 3rd. As the names are read, a family member will be invited to come to the candle stand to light a candle. Those to be remembered can include parishioners who have died during the year, relatives of parishioners whose burials took place in other parishes or relatives of people who were buried in Johnstown. Please call or email Louise at 902-535-3107/ louisecampbel@gmail.com