

Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

November 08, 2026

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The First Reading is taken from the *Book of Wisdom 6:12-16* and cites watchfulness as the key to a faithful religion and understanding of wisdom.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18* where he addresses a practical and doctrinal problem faced by the community. Paul had preached to them and left them with the impression that the second coming of Christ was imminent. Some died before the *paruosia* and their concern is what has happened to them. Paul states firmly and categorically that what matters is that they interpret these events because of their faith and hope in the Lord.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 25:1-13*. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him.* This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the helps they needed, will never reach heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him. Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation, and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: *Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him*. It will be too late then to do anything; even their best friends cannot help them. Each one must stand before the judge just as he is: there can be no borrowing of the oil of merit from others and there will be no time to buy any.

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.
—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection
November 01, 2026

Envelopes	$505.00
Loose	$58.25
	$563.25

Notices:

1: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft group will meet every Thursday at 1 pm, starting October 8th. Bring a project or idea and sew, knit and/or craft with others. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Department, Red Islands. Contact: Rita Campbell 902 631 0209

2: Weekly Wednesday morning coffee starts again on October 14, 2026, at the Red Islands District 10 Fire Hall: 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome.

3: Thank You. Thank you to all witches, warlocks, wizards and other Halloween creatures that came to the Johnstown Parish Hall Saturday October 31st. It was a great time and everyone looked great.

4: Christmas Bingo: Sunday November 8th, at the Johnstown Hall. Lots of great prizes, door prizes and a canteen. See you there.

5: The **Johnstown Community Development Cooperative** (JCDC) is holding the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 15th at 7:00 pm in Johnstown Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome **to** attend the AGM, although only JCDC members can vote. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Rita Campbell, Chair, camprita@gmail.com, 902-631-0209 or another member of the Board (Barbara MacIntyre, Howard MacIntyre, Dave Pearson, Rhonda Walker, or Kathleen Perchaluk)

6: Prepare Your Heart for Advent with Handel's Messiah As we begin the season of waiting and hope, you are warmly invited to a live performance of Handel's sacred masterpiece, Messiah, on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM at Marguerite Bourgeoys Church. Written over 280 years ago, Messiah continues to inspire millions with its powerful proclamation of faith, features the famous "Hallelujah" chorus, and brings the Scriptures to vivid life. Performed by full choir and orchestra. Admission is free (freewill offerings appreciated). Bring your family and neighbors to share in this glorious musical tradition.

7: Fall into Harmony 'The Cape Breton Chordsmen present 'Fall into Harmony', a concert featuring special guests Class Act, Quattro, The Accidentals, Misty Creek, and The Guitar Guys. Date: Saturday, November 7. Time: 2 pm. Place: NSCC Theatre on the Esplanade in Downtown Sydney. (New building across the street from the main campus.) Tickets $25, available from any Chordsmen or by calling Mike at 902-371-3048.'

8: The Diocesan Pastoral Center in Sydney will be hosting two workshops on November 24th (Port Hawkesbury) and November 25th (Sydney) to discuss pertinent information on insurance, financial Reporting, Canada Revenue Agency and Responsible Ministry. Anyone you feel would benefit from this information is invited to attend. More details with an agenda will follow closer to the date of the workshops.

9: FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH!
We warmly invite seniors and those approaching their senior years from Big Pond and our neighbouring communities to join us!
Join us for a delicious FREE lunch, some friendly conversation, and an opportunity to learn about Homeward Bound NS, an initiative focused on helping seniors age in the communities they know and love.
Sunday, November 29th 11 AM – 1 PM Big Pond Volunteer Fire Department
Please RSVP by November 24th at 4 PM.
Call or text Brooke at 902-574-5390 or see the poster for more details.
Come enjoy a meal, bring a friend, and have your voice heard!

10: Tea &Tunes will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2026 from 2:00 PM till 4:00 PM Admission $ 5.00 with 50/50 tickets sold and light lunch served. Come and enjoy an afternoon with music and social.

11: Holy Guardian Angels Parish Social Action Events 2026
Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026 Men's Club Breakfast 8-10 AM Adults $13/ Children under 11- $8
Sally Anne's Pantry Food Drop In -10 AM till 12 Noon
Sunday, Nov. 29, 2026 Bake Sale 11-1 PM Ham & Turkey Bingo 2:00 PM (Costco Spiral Ham)