



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

**December 01, 2024**

**The new missals for 2024/2025 are at the front of the church. Missals are \$5.00. You can add that to your envelope and note on the envelope that you are paying for a missal.**

### First Sunday of Advent

The **First Reading** is taken from *Jeremiah 33:14-16*. On this the first Sunday of Advent the Church wishes to remind us of what Advent means—a period of preparation for the Advent—the Coming—of Christ our Savior. This prophecy of Jeremiah intended to encourage the Jews to trust in God in spite of all their present difficulties, can and should encourage us, too. The fulfillment of the ancient prophecies in Christ (this particular one was made six centuries before he came on earth) are a guarantee for us of the truth of his claims—he was the Messiah promised to Abraham, David and the Chosen People. In the Christmas festival each year we commemorate his coming on earth. What the Jews of old looked forward to, we can see fulfilled. The great central hope of their religion and of their history—their expectancy of One who was to come, has taken place in our history.

The **Second Reading** is *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*. The teaching of Christ, the Christian faith, is for all races, all places and all times. St. Paul is telling us today what he told the Thessalonians nineteen centuries ago, to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ—the great day of judgement, by living each day as God wants us to live it, namely by living in love and peace in God and our neighbor. Some of the Thessalonians at that time were expecting the Second Coming—the general judgement—in their own day. It didn't come then, it hasn't come yet, but the particular judgement came to them, and it will come to us, in our day and sooner, rather than later, than we expect it. And that particular judgement, when we draw our last earthly breath, will decide our eternal fate. Advent—the preparation for Christmas, Christ's First Coming, is a most suitable occasion to prepare ourselves for that day.

Today's Gospel is *Luke 21:25-28; 34-36*. In these verses St. Luke gives our Lord's prophecy concerning the end of the world and how we should prepare ourselves to meet it. That this earth is not our permanent home nobody denies, yet many people live and act as if it were. They see funerals and read of the death of friends and fellow men every day, yet they try to persuade themselves that somehow they will not have to go the same road. But go they must and render an account they must, to the "Son of Man coming with power and in great glory." We have been forewarned and the words of Christ read in today's gospel should awaken us to the true facts of life and of death. He does not ask us to ignore or despise this earth or this life but he does ask us to estimate it for what it is—a period of transit which properly used will earn for us our eternal home. If we judge ourselves daily we need not fear the day of judgement. If we are loyal and faithful to our Christian vocation, our end on earth will not be an end but the beginning of our true life.

What better occasion could we have for taking a serious, sincere look at ourselves and at our attitude to life and the things of this life, than this Advent period. If we can welcome the humble Babe of Bethlehem at Christmas with a sincere and open heart—a heart grateful for all the gifts already given us, and sorrowful for all the meanness and thanklessness we have shown in the past, we can trust and hope that the second and glorious coming of Christ will not be for us a catastrophe but rather the culmination of all our dearest hopes and desires—the beginning of a never-ending Christmas of happiness and joy.

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

The First Sunday of Advent marks the new Liturgical Year, and the Church shifts into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2024-25 from Year C, the Gospel of St. Luke. In the Sunday Gospel (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36) Jesus invites us to recognize the signs of the last days. This is a reminder that Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

The traditional Collect (or Opening Prayer) of the last Sunday of the Church year began "Stir up the wills of Thy faithful people, we beseech Thee, O Lord..." With this request to God to "stir up" our wills, the last Sunday of the Church year was traditionally called [Stir-Up Sunday](#). Because we now celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the year, "Stir-Up Sunday" can now be the First Sunday of Advent. The traditional Collect of the First Sunday is asking God to stir up His might: "Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come." Many families create a traditional plum pudding or fruit cake or some other recipe that all the family and guests can "stir-up." This activity of stirring-up the ingredients symbolizes our hearts that must be stirred in preparation for Christ's birth.

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email [louisecampbel@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com). A receipt will be provided.

**Collection:**  
**November 24, 2024**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Heat</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>
<b>Missals</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
	<b>\$390.00</b>

**Notices:**

**1: St. Mary's Parish, Frenchvale.** Ticket draw on 4 Cords of Firewood, or \$500.00. Tickets: \$1.00 each: Draw Date: Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Contact Cathy Johnston: 902-535-2774

**2: Christmas Toy Drive:** It's time for our annual collection of toys and children's clothing to be donated to the St. Peters Food bank, for distribution to their client families in time for Christmas. We are requesting unwrapped new toys and new children's clothing to be dropped off at the Red Islands Fire Hall, on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. We will have tea and light snacks. We hope you can support this effort again this year. On behalf of their client families, the Food Bank management have expressed great appreciation for our efforts in past years. So please mark your calendars. We will see you at the Red Islands fire hall on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**3: The Annual General Meeting for District 10 Volunteer Fire Department,** Red Islands, will take place Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 1 pm at the fire hall. Nominations for Election of Officers can be sent to Julie Jesso, Vice Chair - 902-535-3387.

**4: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee** get togethers will resume on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.cx

**5: Pancake Breakfast** - Wednesday, December 11, 2024 - 9:00 to 11:30 – District 10 Fire Hall in Red Islands All are welcome. Small donations are appreciated but certainly not necessary. No need to reserve a spot, just show up.

**6: Classical Christmas Concert** will be held Dec. 15, 2024 at St. Mary's Church, East Bay at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature Katheryn Gordon on piano and Barbel Albert on violin and special guest Geoffrey Lee-Dadswell on cello. Admission donation at the door for St Mary's Parish and Loaves and Fishes.

**7: Advent Mission with Father Bill Burke, OSA - Dec. 9-11**

Our Lady of Grace Monastery

Mission will begin with Holy Mass at 7 pm each evening.

Father Burke, a native of Main-a-Dieu, has an MA in liturgical theology from the University of Notre Dame. After 29 years in the diocese, he was appointed director of the National Liturgy Office for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2006. In September 2013, he returned to become pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys parish in Sydney. Light refreshments available in the Retreat House Dining Room following each presentation. Anyone wishing accommodations may contact Lucille Fougere at (902) 623-0075 or by e-mail: ladyofgracemonastery@gmail.com

**8: JUBILEE YEAR 2025** The Jubilee Year 2025 will commence on Sunday, December 29, 2024. The theme is Spes Non Confundit (Pilgrims of Hope). Pope Francis decreed that diocesan bishops celebrate Mass in their Cathedrals. It may happen that there will be Holy Doors in St. Ninian's and throughout several churches in the diocese. A jubilee Prayer will be made available and, scripture workshops, youth ministry and other activities are encouraged.

**9: Breath of Heaven**

**A Concert of Sacred Christmas Music**

Dec. 14, 7 pm, St. Ninian Cathedral, Antigonish

Experience the magic of the season with the St. Ninian's Cathedral choir, alongside the Antigonish Choral Ensemble, directed by Janice Alcorn.

Also featured performances by Mary Beth Carty, John Pellerine, and Heather MacIsaac, and members of Antigonish's own Rose Quartet. Artistic Director, Emery van de Wiel

This year's concert promises to be an enchanting evening filled with beautiful, traditional, and emotional choral music that will uplift your spirits.