



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46* and concerns the regulations enforced by the priests regarding certain bodily diseases which made a person unclean and a menace to the health of his neighbors.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 10:31, 11:1* and speaks of our imitation of Paul as he imitates Christ for the sake of the Gospel, as well as of the unity of the Church of God.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:40-45*. We see both the divine power and the divine compassion of Jesus in this act of healing. The divine power was necessary in all instantaneous cures. Even if the diseases were curable, the ordinary process of nature took time to fight off the causes and to return to normality. Therefore, where there was an instantaneous recovery some power above nature, some supernatural cause brought it about. But where the disease was incurable, as real leprosy then was, to remove it by a simple word of command was more emphatically still the result of divine power. This divine power Jesus had, for he was himself divine, the Son of God.

His compassion for suffering humanity was, however, co-terminus with his power, it was also divine. It was out of compassion for the sad lot of the human race on earth that he descended to man's level, becoming man, equal to us in all things except sin, in order to suffer with us and for us. By his human sufferings he made an atonement, a satisfaction for all the sins of the world—a satisfaction which all mankind could never make—to his heavenly Father, and so obtained for us God's pardon. At the same time, "by joining our human nature to his divine nature, he brought us into the divine orbit and made us adopted sons of God and heirs of the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity. Because this seems almost too good to be true, there are men who deny it or refuse to accept it. Such men make the mistake of measuring the infinite compassion of God with the limited yardstick of their own finite and puny compassion.

Thanks be to God, for his infinite compassion! Thanks be to God, for Christ his Son, who came and dwelt amongst us! He put heaven and a share in the life of God within our reach; he has shown us how to attain them, giving in his Church and the sacraments, all the necessary aids. But we still need all of Christ's compassion if we are to get there. Because of our inclination to sin and because of the many times we unfortunately give in to that inclination, nothing but the mercy of God can save us from our own folly. However, that mercy is available, if only we ask for it. What we sinners need is the faith and confidence of the leper in today's gospel reading. He believed firmly in the power and the mercy of Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean," was his approach to Jesus.

This should be our approach too, if we have the misfortune to fall into serious sin. Jesus does will and does want our salvation. His incarnation, and death on the cross, proves that. The fact that he left the power to forgive sins to his Church is another proof of both his will and desire to help us. "All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth," he stated. Part of that power which he left to his Church is in the sacrament of penance where the leprosy of sin can be washed away and the sinner restored to new and perfect spiritual health. What folly for any Christian then, to commit sin and isolate himself, like the unclean leper, from God. But it is greater folly still, to remain in this unclean state when the cure for his disease is so easily available to any sincere penitent.

—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

No collection on Feb 4th, no Mass

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: Outdoor Skating Party: CANCELLED

3: 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, February 17, 2024 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at **St. Leonard Pastoral Centre**

Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at **Our Lady Of Fatima Church Hall**

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)

4: Boardmore Playhouse, Cape Breton University

'Murder in the Cathedral'

written by T.S. Eliot, directed by Russell Colman

February 13,14,15,16,17 at 7:00 pm

(February 16 is Pay What You Choose or Food Bank Donation)

February 18 at 2:00 pm

Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot is a play about the martyrdom of Saint Thomas Becket in 1170.

While Murder in the Cathedral is a story of historical martyrdom, it asks us to look more carefully at the idea of martyrdom itself, of sacrifice, and temptation. In our lives, we can ask: What would I give my life for? What sacrifices have I made, or could have made, for a greater good? What in my life tempts me away from my better self? How do we choose the right thing to do and, more importantly, Eliot asks: Did we do the right thing for the right reason?

<https://www.cbu.ca/community/boardmore-playhouse/>

5: TEA and TALK Sydney Tuesday, February 20,2024 1:30 -3:30 pm

An invitation to join with other women to share at Holy Redeemer Convent 24 Neville St. Whitney Pier, just behind the Pier Post Office. This invitation is open to women of all ages. This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with others to simply share a cup of tea and to experience the joy of being together. For further information phone

902 270 4840 or 902 539 6331

6: Jubilee Year 2025: Dec. 24, 2024 through Jan. 6, 2026 To prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis has announced that we begin a Year of Prayer. It will be “a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one’s personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world.”

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2024/documents/20240121-angelus.html>