



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18*. Abraham had promptly obeyed the true God and come to Canaan. Now God tests him by asking him to offer his son, Isaac, in sacrifice. Abraham obeyed promptly once more, but God intervened as Abraham got ready to slay his son. He renewed His promise of a great race, through which the whole world would receive the blessing of God — divine adoption through the Incarnation.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:31-34*. St. Paul is emphasizing the indwelling of the Spirit in Christians and their freedom from sin, eternal death and the Jewish law. The liberating act of Christ had made them children of God, destined for glory.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 9:2-10*. This vision of Christ glorified, given to these Apostles on Mount Tabor (the traditional site of Transfiguration) was surely a very special privilege, and it was one they did not forget. "We saw his glory," St. John says in his gospel, written over sixty years later. In his epistles John also refers to this privilege (1 Jn. 1:1-4). St. Peter, writing from Rome to the churches in Asia Minor about thirty years later, mentions this outstanding

experience: "For we were not following fictitious tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when from out the majestic glory a voice came down to him saying: 'this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' And this voice we ourselves heard borne from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain" (2 Pt. 1:16-18).

Yes, the three Apostles were privileged and we too are sharers in their privilege. The Transfiguration of Christ is but one among many of the incontrovertible proofs of the divine Sonship of Christ which we have in the gospel narratives and in the twenty centuries-long history of the Church which he founded. Were he not divine, that Church would long since have crumbled and fallen under the many vicious assaults from outside which it has undergone, as well as from the many human weaknesses which have beset it from within. But Christ is God and the Church has his divine protection and assistance. Therefore, it will go on to the end of time to continue his work of elevating and redeeming mankind.

This enlightening glimpse of Christ's future glory—a glory in which they would share—was given to these Apostles to strengthen and encourage them in the terrible test of their faith which the passion and death of Jesus would be for them very soon. It is for a similar reason that the Church orders this story of the Transfiguration to be read to us during this season of Lent. We are or should be mortifying ourselves during this season. This mortification can earn for us a glorious and unending future life. To encourage us to continue

it, we are reminded that the One we are following, the One whose voice we listen to, is none other than the Son of God. There are the voices of many false prophets shouting around us, telling us to enjoy ourselves in this life, to "eat, sleep, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die," but there is the rub—tomorrow we shall die, but where shall we go then?

Let us thank our divine Lord today, for giving this consoling and encouraging vision of his glory to his Apostles and through them to us. It was for them, and it is for us, a guarantee and a foretaste of the joys and the glory that will be ours for eternity, if we but persevere in our struggles against the world, the flesh and the devil. This struggle is not easy for our weak nature, but our loving Savior is ever beside us to "raise us up and tell us not to fear" if we but rely on him. When we are tempted to give way to our human weaknesses, or to give way under the weight of the crosses that sometimes are about to crush us, let us think of Mount Tabor, and the glorified Jesus, who a few weeks later faced his own real passion and cross cheerfully for our sakes. This thought will help us to carry our crosses as the thought of the future glory which will be ours should make us thank God that we have been created and thank his beloved Son for setting us on the road to that future glory.

—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

February 18th

Envelopes	\$220.00
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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: St. Patrick's Event: Planning is underway for a St. Patrick's Day event. More details will be provided next week. Irish Stew could be on the menu.

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, 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 (juliatt@eastlink.ca) (902-562-8423)

4: Development & Peace -Share Lent Today, February 25, is your last chance to sign the Stand for the Land petition that was circulated earlier asking the Honduran ambassador to Canada to protect those who are fighting to defend the forests and rivers in a Honduran national park against the pollution created by a mining company that has been in operation there. A recent report states that the land in 156 municipalities is in danger due to 540 mining licenses, and rivers are threatened in 100 municipalities due to 307 permits for power generation. In addition, at least 165 extractive projects threatening the territories of indigenous peoples. The letter is part of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's last fall campaign. Over 28,000 Canadians have signed it in solidarity with these struggling communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. Our goal was to collect 30,000 signatures – 1000 for each of the three peaceful defenders who were murdered for Standing Up For The Land. Please join the effort and add weight to our demands. You could also sign on-line at devp.org/act On behalf of the people of Honduras, I offer a huge thank you for your solidarity! Your Antigonish Diocesan Council for Development & Peace Caritas Canada

Sign the Campaign Letter: <https://devp.org/en/campaign/stand-for-the-land/act/>

5: Prayers Requested : The Rev. Ora McManus who died around 10 pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Father Ora was born on September 18, 1930, in Sydney and he was ordained on June 15, 1957 at St. Francis Xavier Chapel by Bishop John R. MacDonald for the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Funeral arrangements will be shared when completed. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Father Ora sometime in May when family will be able to travel. Father Ora is survived by his sister, Carol in Mexico, and his niece Carolyne in Toronto.