



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

July 07, 2024

**NOTE: No 9:30 am
mass. Mass will be at
2:00 pm for the Our
Lady of Guadalupe
Mass**

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel* 2:2-5 and treats of the Exekiel's appointment as prophet among the exiles in Babylon.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians* 12:7-10. St Paul feels forced to prove that he was a true Apostle — who suffered much for Christ and his Gospel and who also had been given the privilege of special visions and revelations. He goes on to describe some weakness he had which troubled him very much. He concludes that he is content with weakness and sufferings because the power and strength of Christ, working through a weak instrument, will be all the more visible and convincing.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark* 6:1-6. What happened in Nazareth was a foretaste of the later reaction of the scribes and Pharisees, the leaders of the people, to Christ's claim to be the promised Messiah. What the people of Nazareth tried to do (Lk. 4:29-30), the religious authorities in Jerusalem succeeded in doing, because they were able to threaten the Roman governor with blackmail. Even in their wickedness and unknown to themselves, they were putting into action God's plan for mankind. It was necessary that Christ should die so that all men could live forever with God. Christ's death, followed by his resurrection, was the key that opened the door of eternity for the human race.

Unfortunately for the leaders of the Jews, the good end did not justify the evil intentions and evil means which they used. It is hard to understand the irrational opposition of the Nazarites on

this occasion, and of the Pharisees of Jerusalem later. The people of Nazareth had heard nothing but marvelous reports of his wonderful preaching and outstanding miracles. One would therefore expect that if they were at all reasonable, they would rejoice on having one of their fellow-citizens admired by thousands and looked upon by so many as the long-promised Messiah. Instead, they turned against him in bitter hatred and there and then decided to put an end to his career (Lk. 4:29). Why? Because the demon of envy, a daughter of pride, laid hold of their hearts and minds. Why should a neighbor's son, and one of a lower status than many of them—a mere carpenter, be given this privilege while their sons were passed over? This could not be, their envy told them, and so they shut their minds against any proof to the contrary.

It was the same later in the case of the Pharisees. The same vices, pride and envy, darkened their intellects and prevented them from seeing the truth. They were the religious leaders of the people, or so they thought themselves to be. If the Messiah had come they felt that he should have come through them and with their approval. This impostor Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah. Not only was he not keeping the law as strictly as they kept it, but he was friendly with sinners and tax-gatherers. Furthermore, he was talking of some faraway kingdom in heaven and not of the earthly empire which they decided the real Messiah would establish. They had not only heard of his extraordinary miracles but had seen some of those who were cured. In Bethany only a few miles from Jerusalem Lazarus had been raised to life after four days in the grave. They tried very hard to deny these miracles (see Jn. 9: the man born blind), and they even thought of killing Lazarus to make the people forget the miracle! (Jn. 12:11). Thus their pride and envy made them irrational. Nothing but the cruelest possible death of the one hated could satisfy their hatred. But that very death was Christ's road to glory. Lifted up on the cross he drew all men to himself as he had foretold (Jn. 12:32). Those on Calvary beheld the triumph of failure. Lazarus to make the people forget the miracle! (Jn. 12:11). Thus their pride and envy made them irrational. Nothing but the cruelest possible

death of the one hated could satisfy their hatred. But that very death was Christ's road to glory. Lifted up on the cross he drew all men to himself as he had foretold (Jn. 12:32). Those on Calvary beheld the triumph of failure.

Would that all the opposition to Christ and his teaching, caused by human pride and envy, had ended with the Nazarites and Pharisees! Far from it. Pride and envy are still rife among us. All through the twenty centuries of Christianity, there have been proud men, men high in their own esteem. Not only would they not have Christ to reign over them, but they have tried to prevent his reign over even those who are gladly and proudly his subjects. Not content with dethroning Christ in their own hearts and minds, they have devoted all their energies to abolishing him and his Church from the face of our earth. Such enemies of Christ are still among us. They are more numerous than ever today but just as their predecessors failed in the past, so will these fail today. Christ will continue to reign and his Church will continue its mission of leading to heaven all men whose minds are free from sinful pride and therefore open to the truth.

Let us renew our loyalty to Christ today. He humbled himself so that we might be raised to the standing of sons of God. He shared our human nature with us so that we could share his divine nature. He died a cruel death on Calvary so that we could have an eternal life in heaven. We pray for light for those whose foolish pride has left them groping in darkness. Let us also ask the good God to keep us ever on the road of truth, the road of Christian humility which leads to the eternal home which Christ has won for us by his incarnation.

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

Collection

June 30, 2024

Envelopes	\$462.00
Loose	\$30.00
Initial Offering	\$20.00
Cemetery Fund	\$20.00
	\$532.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: The Market will take place on Sunday July 7th, from 10:30am – 1:00 pm. See you there.

2: Strawberry Festival: The Strawberry Festival is here, July 7th, and we will need bakers of biscuits, bonnach and oatcakes, and help with hulling the berries and workers serving the berries. If you can help, please call Louise at 902-535-3107 or email lcampbell1@bellaliant.net

3: Strawberry Festival Help: Anyone who can help with the hulling of the berries, we will be at the hall at 8:00 am on Sunday July 7th. For people who are also helping with the serving of the berries, please be at the hall by 1:30 pm.

4: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass: Note: Fr. Yake will be away that weekend, Fr. Dan Doucet has graciously agreed to celebrate the Outdoor Mass.

5: Music Royal Concert – Tentative: more information to follow: Friday August 9 at 7 pm - Sacred Heart Church, Johnstown - Ensemble Urmawi Lamia Yared (vocals and oud), Nizar Tabcharani (qanun), Showan Tavakol (kamanche), Ziya Tabassian (percussion). The musicians will interpret songs from Syrian traditions (Muwashahat) as well as sacred chants from the early Christians of the Orient in Aramaic, and finally some pieces of traditional Persian music will also be included. This tour provides a rare opportunity for Nova Scotian audiences to hear these three traditions of music, which intersect both geographically and historically.

6: The Cape Breton Chorale is searching for an Assistant Director for the 2024-2025 season. There is financial compensation for this position. Potential applicants can visit our website for full details and application information. Deadline for applications is July 9, 2024.

7: The Cape Breton Chorale is holding a Song Arrangement Competition and is accepting submissions. There is a monetary prize. Please visit our website for full details and contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!

<https://www.capebretonchorale.com/>

8: The gift shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou, Cape Breton is now open seven days a week as follows:

Mon to Sat - 10am to 4pm

Sunday - 11am to 5pm

The Shrine is open daily for visitation as it has been all winter.

For inquiries 902-945-2221

9: List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall

Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am

Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am

Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am