



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

November 03, 2024

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from *Deuteronomy 6:2-6*. Moses, having received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai, set about teaching them to the Israelites.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews 7:23-28* where he continues to show the superiority of Jesus over the high priests of the Old Testament.

The **Gospel** is from *Mark 12:28-34*. The personal lesson which comes over loud and clear for every sincere Christian from today's gospel, is that the solid foundation of our Christian religion is love of God and neighbor. As our Lord says: "there is no other commandment greater than these." All the other commandments are expansions of these two and indications of how we are to put these two commandments into daily practice. For example: why am I forbidden to murder my neighbor? Simply because he belongs to God; it was God who gave him his life, and God has commanded me to love and respect him. Taking his life is interfering with God's rights, and disobeying him as well. Likewise, the prohibition of idolatry, refraining from insulting God's name, keeping the Sabbath day holy are the principal ways of indicating how we should love God.

One may ask: how can I love God? He is infinitely perfect, he needs nothing from me, what therefore can I do for him? I can understand loving my neighbor—for a neighbor can need help, advice, encouragement and consolation. I can prove my love by giving these to my neighbor, but God has no such needs. It is quite true that true

love is not theoretical but pragmatic, it means doing some good for somebody. While the infinite God has no needs that I can supply, he has claims on my service, on my respect, on my gratitude—claims so basic and so great that I must be ready to suffer persecution and even death rather than deny or dishonor him (Mt. 5: 10; Lk. 6: 23). It was God who gave me existence and every gift that I have. It was God, through the incarnation of his own divine Son, who made me his adopted child and heir to heaven. Everything that I am and have and hope to be, I owe to God's generosity; therefore, he has an unquestionable right to my gratitude, my reverence, my respect—these are the ways in which I can show my love for him.

The keeping of God's commandments, the prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition which daily we offer, the attendance at Mass and other liturgical functions, these are the means God gives us of showing our love, our recognition of total dependence on him and our gratitude for all he has done and is doing for us. God does not need any of these signs of our submission and reverence and respect, but we need them absolutely, for they are the means he has given us of fulfilling his purpose in creating us—to share his eternal glory with him. To love God then, is not an obligation imposed on us by some demanding superior but a privilege granted us so that we can become worthy of the greater gifts he has in store for us.

Loving our neighbor—and in the Christian code this means all men no matter what may be their color, race or religion—is, according to our divine Lord, another most effective way of proving to God that we love him. Because of our common humanity we should be inclined to help our fellowmen, our neighbors, but the Christian law spiritualizes this natural inclination, by commanding us to help our neighbor because he is God's child. We are all fellow-children of God, members of the one family. Our heavenly Father loves each one

of us and wants our salvation. If we love our common Father we will do all we can to help his other children also to attain salvation. It will earn for us God's favor. If we observe these two commandments we are "fulfilling the whole law and the prophets,"; we are serving God and showing our gratitude to him for all his goodness to us. The Christian who is following Christ in love is already active in the earthly kingdom of God and traveling safely toward God's eternal kingdom of peace and happiness.

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

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email 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. A receipt will be provided.

Collection:
October 27, 2024

Envelopes	\$205.00
Loose	\$30.00
	\$235.00

Notices:

1: In remembrance of our loved ones: November is the month of remembering those who have died. It is customary in our parish to remember our loved ones who have died since November of the previous year. Consequently, there will be a candlelight service of remembrance at the Sunday mass on November 3rd. As the names are read, a family member will be invited to come to the candle stand to light a candle. Those to be remembered can include parishioners who have died during the year, relatives of parishioners whose burials took place in other parishes or relatives of people who were buried in Johnstown. Please call or email Louise at 902-535-3107/ louisecampbel@gmail.com

2: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet every Thursday from October 10 to December 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

3: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will resume on November 6th, 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.

4: Christmas Bingo. Our Christmas Bingo will take place on Sunday November 10th, at 2:00 pm at the Parish Hall. We will be drawing for the BBQ at this time. Save the date.

5: Mass for Shut -Ins Fr. Yake will celebrate the Mass for Shut -Ins for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. This Holy Mass will be taped on Saturday, November 9. Any parishioners who wish to do so are invited to attend and we need volunteers to provide the music and lectors. Masses are taped at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Sydney on the Saturday of the week prior to airing at 10:00am. Please arrive no later than 9:30am to give ample time for last minute preparations. Directions to the church: From the highway off #4 take exit 8 to George Street. From there, drive all the way down George St. until you come to a set of lights where you can turn right onto Cottage Rd. Drive on Cottage Rd. until you come to Cabot St. You will see the church on the left.

6: Sunday November 3, at 3PM St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish will sponsor a presentation by Dr. Michael Higgins on his experience as official journalist for Paulist Press covering the recent synod in Rome. He will speak of his experiences at the synod and also his book launch “The Jesuit disruptor” which deals with the impact of Pope Francis has on the church. Free admission, all welcome.

7: The Annual General Meeting of the Johnstown Community Development Co-operative will take place on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Johnstown Parish Hall, Johnstown, NS. **Note:** We will have a discussion **about the Irish Cove walking trail** as part of the 2024 JCDC AGM. **Everyone is welcome to attend and join the discussion.** Feedback, ideas, and comments on the work of JCDC are welcomed as are new members.

8: “Dilexit nos” (“He loved us”), Pope Francis' fourth Encyclical, was released Oct. 24.

With a brief introduction and divided into five chapters, the Encyclical continues the tradition and speaks of the relevance of “the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ,” renewing his authentic devotion: the Heart of Jesus impels us to love and sends us to our brothers and sisters. To learn more and read the Encyclical: <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/dilexit-nos-he-loved-us/>

9: Healing Mass Nov. 30, 2:30 pm Our Lady of Grace Monastery With Fr Albert MacPherson 940 Monastery Rd., Monastery

10: Dec 20th to January 6th 2024/2025

Christmas in Medjugorje

Booking is Now Open

with Group Leader Rhonda-Lynn Cormier-Clarke

Space and time are limited, please book as soon as possible

Package Price: \$4799.00 Canadian per person tax included from Halifax

For More information and to book please call Rhonda-Lynn at:

902 448 3660