



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

November 10, 2024

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Kings 17:10-16*. In this reading we have one of the many miracles attributed to Elijah, the great prophet who preached in the northern kingdom between 900 and 850 BC.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter to the Hebrews 9:24-28*. This epistle continues with its description of Christ as the high priest of the New Testament and his superiority over those of the Old Testament.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 12:38-44*. Our Lord's severe condemnation of those Scribes whose exaggerated opinion of their own importance made a mockery of the religion they professed to live, is a serious warning to all his followers not to look for the praise and esteem of their neighbors when doing their good works, but rather to hope for God's praise and esteem in the future world. In another context, he said to his followers: "Because of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven . . . when you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right is doing . . . and your Father who sees in secret will reward you . . . when you pray go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father . . . who sees in secret and will reward you" (Mt. 6: 1-6).

It is hardly necessary to say that our Lord is not referring to community prayers or services here. What he is condemning is the hypocrisy of the Scribes, who lengthened their garments and their prayers not in order to give glory to God but to earn the glory of their fellowmen for themselves. Pride was their predominant vice—the vice which caused the fall of angels and of man. It so

governed their lives that even their best actions were vitiated by it. There is a strong inclination to pride in every one of us. The reason is that we have great gifts from God and great capabilities: but we are tempted to claim the credit for these gifts and capabilities for ourselves—whereas we owe them all to God's generosity.

A proud Christian is surely a contradiction in terms. A Christian is a follower of Christ whose humility can never be equaled. He was God as well as man. While on earth he emptied himself, as St. Paul puts it, of his divine glory so that he could be like one of us. A follower of Christ should not try to make display of gifts which are not his own, nor try to exalt himself above his neighbor because of something he has which was not given to his neighbor. If Christ wanted to be, and indeed was like the least one among us, we must never try to raise ourselves above our neighbor. Love of neighbor is the second of the two essential commandments—there can be no true love of neighbor where there is pride.

The second incident in today's Gospel story highlights true humility and true charity. The poor widow, forgetful of herself and of her own needs gave her all, her last penny, to help others who were in need. She made this sacrifice without publicity and without seeking the praise of her neighbors. It is this deep contrast between her outlook on life and on religion, and that of the Scribes in the first that connects the two incidents. While the Scribes sought to earn the respect and praise of their fellow-Jews—as well as all the financial gain they could come by—from the practice of the externals of their religion, this poor widow's religion was practiced in secret and it was to God alone that she looked for any reward that he might deign to give her.

As we saw in today's first reading we can be sure that she was not left without the reward she deserved. The widow of Zarephath was given a temporal reward. The same generous God did not let the similar act of supreme generosity on the part of the widow in Jerusalem go

unnoticed. Christ's judgment on the Scribes implies this: They will receive the greater condemnation for their pride, and abuse of religion for their own temporal gain. On the other hand the widow's religion was an act of complete self-renunciation: "she has put in everything she had, her whole living."

We may never be called on to share our last morsel with a starving neighbor but if we are, we must remember that Christ gave his very life for us and has asked us to do likewise, if necessary. It may never be necessary for us to make this supreme act of self-renunciation. If, however, we are sincerely practicing our religion, we must be ever-ready to help a neighbor in need even if this cuts into our hard-earned reserves. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the reward.

—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: November 03, 2024

Envelopes	\$495.00
Loose	\$35.00
	\$530.00

Notices:

1: 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.

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: 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.

5: The Annual General Meeting of the Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors club will take place on: **Sunday, November 24th at 2:00 PM at the Red Islands Fire Hall** All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

6: 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 7th, 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 7th.

7: Wanted: Volunteer drivers for Richmond VON Meals on Wheels Program

Route 3 River Bourgeois St Peters Roberta

Route 4 L'ardoise Grand River areas

Route 5 Lynches River – Johnstown.

Mileage is compensated monthly. References, Police/Vulnerable Person Check, Valid License/Insurance needed. ~530 meals were delivered in these areas for the month of October and the program is increasing steadily. But we need drivers to keep this invaluable program going. If you or anyone you know is interested please reach out to; Glenda Richards Program Coordinator, Community Support Services VON Richmond Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM T: 902 345-2900 C: 902 227-8008

8: The Road to Bethlehem

Come and journey with us as Pilgrims experiencing the excitement and anticipation of the Advent Season. The Road to Bethlehem is loosely based on the Mexican Festival of "Las Posadas" (The Inns), which is the reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter as they journey to Bethlehem.

Over five nights the Christian community will gather in song, reflection, and celebration anticipating the Birth of Jesus Christ. Bring your family and especially children! Join us and experience *the true meaning of Christmas!*

The Road to Bethlehem schedule – All start at 7:00 PM

- December 1st Marguerite Bourgeoys Church - Sydney 7:00
- December 8th Our Lady of Fatima Church – Syd River 7:00
- December 11th Immaculate Conception Church – Main-a-Dieu 7:00
- December 15th Holy Rosary Church – Westmount 7:00
- December 22nd Wentworth Park Bandshell 7:00

9: Preparing the Way – John the Baptist is a *live performance* featuring Scripture, famous works of Art, beautiful music sung by a choir, and thoughtful reflection. Preparing the Way brings alive the story of John the Baptist as he urged a return to the Lord and heralded the arrival of Jesus Christ. This is an extraordinary way to experience the true meaning of Christmas.

There will be two performances of **Preparing the Way:**

7:00 PM Wednesday, November 20th at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sydney River

2:00 PM Sunday, November 24th at Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, Sydney.

Join Us! Admission is without charge.

Preparing the Way is Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 9476