



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

September 15, 2024

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 50:5-9*. The prophet Isaiah describes some of the sufferings which the Messiah will endure.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. James 2:14-18* and is a continuation of the practical guidance we heard two Sundays ago. Christians must be "doers of the word not hearers only."

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 8:27-35*. We need not be surprised at the slowness of the Apostles in grasping the messiahship of Jesus. He did not want the crowds who flocked to him to know this until later — after his resurrection — because they had the idea that the Messiah would be a political leader who would set them free from their subjection to pagan Rome. It was not until this occasion, near Caesarea Philippi, somewhat over a year after he had called them, that he admitted to his Apostles that he was the Messiah. He charged them not to make this fact known outside of their own limited circle. To forestall and erase any wrong ideas of a political leader which some of the Apostles might have, he immediately foretold the sufferings and death he would have to endure at the hands of the leaders of the Jews. He would be conquered and humiliated by his enemies but their victory would be short-lived -- death would not hold him -- he would rise triumphant on the third day.

To the Apostles this seemed incredible and Peter, their spokesman, told him so. This outlook of the Apostles is also very understandable. They had seen him work many miracles, God was evidently very near to him: how could God let his enemies humiliate and kill him? They did not know God's plan, they were fishermen and knew little if anything of the Old Testament messianic prophecies. Had they read of the Suffering Servant in second-Isaiah they would not have disbelieved the prophecy of his forthcoming sufferings, death and resurrection. And his mention of his resurrection after three days, which would prove that it was he and not his enemies who conquered, fell on deaf ears, because the idea of a resurrection of that kind was incomprehensible to them. We know how slow they were to accept his resurrection even after it had happened.

Although the message was only vaguely and dubiously grasped, Christ had forewarned his Apostles (he repeated this twice later: Mk. 9: 9-10; 31-32 and 10: 32-34), so as to prepare them for the scandal of the cross. While it did not really prepare them because they were still too worldly-minded, it did help to strengthen their faith once the facts convinced them of the resurrection. They then realized that their beloved Master was more than Messiah, that he was in fact the Son of God, who with knowledge aforethought freely accepted his humiliations and shameful death for their sakes and ours. They gladly gave their lives to bringing this news of God's great love for men to all nations. From being a scandal the cross became the emblem and the proud standard of God's love for mankind.

We are in the happy position of the Apostles after the resurrection of Jesus. We know how much God loves us; we appreciate the humiliation that the incarnation brought on his beloved Son and the sufferings and cruel death which the sins of the world, ours included, brought on the Son of God. All of this took place because God wished to make us his adopted sons and worthy of the inheritance he had planned for us. For a faithful and grateful Christian, however, theoretical appreciation is not enough. Atonement has been made for our sins,

but we have still a very important part to play. Our sins can be forgiven but we must truly repent of them before God will forgive them.

St. Mark adds some words of Christ which illustrate what practical form our appreciation and gratitude for Christ's sufferings should take. We must be ready to follow him on the road to Calvary. We must deny ourselves — deprive ourselves not only of sinful pleasure or gain, but even of lawful things at times, in order to be Christ-like. We must take up our cross and follow him. This does not mean that we must search for crosses — there are plenty of them in any good Christian's life — but we must gladly accept the crosses life brings us and see in them God's means of keeping us close to him.

Life on earth is very short, eternal life is endless. No thinking man, and certainly no true Christian, would risk losing the eternal life for the sake of a few paltry gains or a few extra years here below.

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

Collection

September 08, 2024

Envelopes	\$256.00
Loose	\$17.00
Cemetery Fund	\$40.00
	\$313.00

Notices:

1: Funeral: The funeral service for Isabel Johnston will be held on Tuesday September 24th, at 11:00 am, with lunch to follow in the hall.

2: Eucharist Minister – Part Time: We are looking for people to serve as Eucharist Minister on an as needed basis. Mostly in the summer or at funerals, anytime that the church has a crowd. Please think about this.

3: Comfort Tea Come For Tea : Throughout our lives we experience many types of losses. We wish to promote awareness of the impact of grief on our lives. All are invited for a beverage and sweets in a supportive setting. You may wish to bring along a friend, memento, photo, or experience to share. You may have words of support to offer or sit quietly in the company of those who understand.

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Isle Madame New Horizons Senior Citizens Club, 2373 Route 206, Arichat, N.S.

Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society celebrating our 30 th anniversary and Grief Gatherings 2024 srpalliativecaresociety.com griefmatters.ca

4: Visit of A Representative from CHALICE Betty Jane Cameron will visit our parishes to inform us about the mission of CHALICE according to the following schedule:

4:00PM Mass at SJB, River Bourgeois, on Saturday, Sept. 21.

9:30 AM Mass at SH, Johnstown, on Sunday, Sept. 22.

5:30PM Mass at SP, on Saturday, Sept 28.

11:00AM Mass at HGA, L'Ardoise, on Sunday, Sept. 29

CHALICE is a child sponsorship program begun by Nova Scotia priest, Rev. Patrick Cosgrove. The sponsored children typically face extreme poverty and need healthcare and financial support for an education to enable them to achieve their potential for the future. Public education in North America may be taken for granted but for children from impoverished families education is an unattainable luxury. CHALICE also provides healthcare, nutrition, and proper hygiene to ensure that children are healthy and strong so they may attend the educational task. Betty Jane Cameron will offer information about CHALICE while inviting sponsors for specific needy children.

5: Baptism: The baptism of our newest community member will take place on Sunday September 29th, at 9:00 am. A half-hour before the regular mass at 9:30. All are welcome

6: Richmond County Programs: Registering & Payment Options Class sizes vary resulting in classes filling up prior to start date. Pre-registration is recommended

Register online by visiting <http://www.richmondcounty.ca>; Register by phoning 902.226.0663; Pay online via credit card or hybrid card; Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office; Pay via credit card over the phone

7: Chair Yoga | 55 + Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, for 10 weeks, beginning October 9
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm, Fee: \$25 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

8: Gentle Yoga 55+ Red Island Fire Hall, Red Islands Fridays, for 10 weeks, beginning October 11 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Fee: \$30 Instructor: Lynne Doucette

9: 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.

10: New Beginner Gaelic class Red Islands Fire Hall 8 weeks, \$40.00, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm October 2 - November 20 Ages: Teenage and Adult Contact: Cathy Campbell at 902-217-2088

11: Beginner Gaelic Lessons at the Big Pond Firehall this year on Thursday evenings 6:30-9pm and the cost will be \$40 for 8 weeks. Beginning October 10th. For more information contact Cathy Campbell @ 902 217 2088.

12: 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.